

Phishing

In an effort to further enhance our company's cyber defenses, we want to highlight a common cyber-attack that everyone should be aware of – phishing.

"Phishing" is the most common type of cyber-attack that affects institutions like ours. Phishing attacks can take many forms, but they all share a common goal – getting you to share sensitive information such as login credentials, credit card information, or bank account details.

Although we maintain controls to help protect our networks and computers from cyber threats, we rely on you to be our first line of defense.

We've outlined a few different types of phishing attacks to watch out for:

- **Phishing:** In this type of attack, hackers impersonate a real company to obtain your login credentials. You may receive an e-mail asking you to verify your account details with a link that takes you to an imposter login screen that delivers your information directly to the attackers.
- **Spear Phishing:** Spear phishing is a more sophisticated phishing attack that includes customized information that makes the attacker seem like a legitimate source. They may use your name and phone number and refer to Thiel College in the e-mail to trick you into thinking they have a connection to you, making you more likely to click a link or attachment that they provide.
- **Whaling:** Whaling is a popular ploy aimed at getting you to transfer money or send sensitive information to an attacker via email by impersonating a real company executive. Using a fake domain that appears similar to ours, they look like normal emails from a high-level official of the institution, typically the President or VP/PM, and ask you for sensitive information (including usernames and passwords).
- **Shared Document Phishing:** You may receive an e-mail that appears to come from file-sharing sites like OneDrive or Google Drive alerting you that a document has been shared with you. The link provided in these e-mails will take you to a fake login page that mimics the real login page and will steal your account credentials.

What You Can Do

To avoid these phishing schemes, please observe the following email best practices:

- Do not click on links or attachments from senders that you do not recognize. Be especially wary of .zip or other compressed or executable file types.
- Do not provide sensitive personal information (like usernames and passwords) over email.
- Watch for email senders that use suspicious or misleading domain names.
- Inspect URLs carefully to make sure they're legitimate and not imposter sites.
- Do not try to open any shared document that you're not expecting to receive.
- If you can't tell if an email is legitimate or not, please contact the Solution Center.
- Be especially cautious when opening attachments or clicking links if you receive an email containing a warning banner indicating that it originated from an external source.

Thanks again for helping to keep our network, and our people, safe from these cyber threats. Please let us know if you have any questions.