HWS Information Technology Services Bulletin

Number: 2014-52

Date: December 17, 2014

Title: Security Alert – Phishing Email Virus

Description:

IT Services has detected a phishing message that is being sent to many HWS email accounts. Already, a number of users have fallen victim to this phishing attempt. The phishing attempt is characterized by the attacker masquerading as members of the HWS community and tricks users into opening an attachment. Once the attachment is opened, a virus runs and the user’s email account is hijacked and used to generate thousands of spam email messages. Below is a representative example of the text in the phishing email Please keep in mind that you may see several different variants based on this same theme.

Payment has been made for amount 21,287.00. Check the attachment for details.

If you receive this email, forward it to spam@hws.spam and immediately delete it. Do not open the attachment.

If you already opened it, contact the IT Services Help Desk at 315-781-4357 for remediation.

While many of these types of messages are filtered out before they ever reach a user’s inbox, some of these messages do get through. Therefore, it is important to double check the validity of an email if it looks like it may be suspicious. You can always forward it to the Help Desk (helpdesk@hws.edu), and we will check for you. If you ever feel your password may have been compromised contact the Help Desk or reset your password at http://password.hws.edu.

Contact: Current information about this bulletin may be found at http://web.hws.edu/administration/itservices/alerts.asp. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact IT Services at helpdesk@hws.edu or call 315-781-HELP.
Type:

Unscheduled

Category:

Alert

Distribution:

HWS Network Accounts
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