

## Spam, Scams and Phishing

Be sceptical and avoid phishing scams

Always be sceptical! Chances are, you didn't just win a lottery without buying a ticket and a Nigerian prince isn't going to donate millions of dollars for helping to move his money. These types of phishing scams are more frequent and becoming more intelligent.

Phishing emails can now claim to be from the IT Service Desk, a bank or some other trusted online organisation. These emails manipulate persons into giving away passwords, PINs and account numbers. They can even include links to web pages that look exactly like the real thing. If you ever receive a message like this, **do not:**

- **click on the link**
- **respond to the email with your password, account number or PIN**

If you have doubts about the veracity of the email, contact the organisation for verification.

Below are examples of phishing scams.

-----Original Message-----

From: DiClemente, Ann [mailto:[adiclemente@otterbein.edu](mailto:adiclemente@otterbein.edu)]

1) Not a valid cavehill.uwi.edu email address

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:47 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: Final Notification

Attention All

We have received recent phishing emails and most of our email accounts have been accessed by spammers and have been used to send unsolicited bulk email messages, hence posing a problem on our email server. We are trying to increase the spam guard and also block further emails from reaching our email account users.

Hence all account users are to click the link below and follow the instruction. If you are unable to click the link copy and paste in on your browser.

<http://emailupgrade0007.mywebcommunity.org/upgrade.php>

2) Link to a non-cavehill.uwi.edu web address

To upgrade to our new spam guard system

We are deeply sorry for any inconveniences caused and crave your utmost co-operation

IT Help Desk

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3) Incorrect Signature - Notification emails are signed Campus I.T. Services or one of the known Campus I.T. Services managers

The sender is not from our organization.

From: Anderson, Shelby [[ande9223@vandals.uidaho.edu](mailto:ande9223@vandals.uidaho.edu)]  
Sent: Tuesday 4/30/2013 1:19 PM  
Subject: E-Mail Verification On Spring Semester

Generic department names are often used in phishing attempts.

There are grammatical errors.

This E-Mail is sent from the university IT system Admin, We are conducting a verification and registration of all active student/staff before our final spring semester vacation so all email users are to verify his/her account for security reasons, [CLICK HERE:](#) to go to verification page.

Resting the mouse over the link shows that it would take you to an unrelated (and probably malicious) URL.