

Quick Security Tips

What is phishing? Phishing is an attempt to obtain sensitive information (e.g., username, password) from a user generally by email. Hackers use emails that look legitimate with addresses that look legitimate. They use content that create a sense of urgency in order to entice users to click the embedded links. Below is a sample phishing attack.

From: "USPS" <support@trionix.kz>
Date: October 3, 2014 11:00:54 AM
Subject: Postal Notification Service
To: kkothari123@aol.com

USPS.COM



Notification

Our companys courier could not make the delivery of parcel to you address at 2nd October.

Print your label and show it in the nearest post office to get a parcel.

[Print Shipping Label](#)

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Notice the "From:" section. Often time, the actual address will not appear in an email.

Tip #1: As a general practice, users should expand the "From:" section to view the actual email address from where this email came. In this case, "support@trionix.kz" is clearly not a valid USPS email address.

Remember, emails can be spoofed, so even seeing the actual address might not be enough – it could still have been sent by a hacker.

Also, notice the content. The "Notification" is meant to create a sense of urgency in order to generate a response, getting the user to click the "Print Shipping Label" link. Clicking the link could download malware, which could then be used to capture your actions and ultimately online banking credentials.

Tip #2: Always be weary of emails that create a sense of urgency.

Tip #3: Never click on links embedded in emails. Instead, always navigate directly to the website in question, in this case, USPS.com. This ensures you are always on a legitimate website.

What if I click the link and it looks like it's taking me to a legitimate site?

Tip #4: As a rule, don't click the link. But if you do, always look for the address bar to indicate that you are on a secure website when asked for sensitive information. Notice the lock symbol below, or the "https" before the website name.

