Twitter Thread by That Harvard Professor



That Harvard Professor
@ThatHappyDudee



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In light of this serious cyber attack and this being the second in a row that I've heard in the past few weeks, I'd like to take this moment to talk about the cyber attack known as #phishing so that others do not fall prey to it and stay safe online.

Thread starts:

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Phishing is usually a means of contacting you by impersonation to gather data, oversimplifying it. This can happen in several ways:
1. URL similarities: Usually when people visit a webpage, most people never check the URL (Uniform Resource Locator). For example, a fake URL of

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https://t.co/x0brAMyKgF would be https://t.co/HrdE9hklv1. Seem the same, right? No. I've replaced one single character of "L" in @Google with "I". Therefore, your entire data would be redirected to the server that is hosting GOOGIE, instead of GOOGLE. This is commonly

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hackers perform cyber attacks. However this is only one of many.
Many people might forward you genuine links with small "add-ons" which enter your system like a Trojan Horse. A beautiful meme of keyboard cat on the outside but a vicious data-mining link on the inside.
Plus

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There's also other means of doing this. And you might think "But dude, who's stupid enough to fall for it?"
LOTS of UNINFORMED people are.

2020 was a record breaking year for phishing websites and attacks as per @techradar. It's not just through email https://t.co/IsQnTGPqr0

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however, this happens even through other means such as text messaging, emails claiming to be genuine organizations, text messages from people who claim to know your contacts. That's why most companies give a disclaimer that they NEVER ask for your details.
So how do you trust

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which one's a safe link to open?
1. Don't open third party links which promise you offers to jobs you haven't applied for, get rich quick schemes, enhancement in a quick time schemes etc.
2. Open links ONLY if you trust the person(s).
3. Checking through a third party.

Thread ends.

Also take a look the update from @ANI below. Even Twitter sec wasn't immune to it:

If you think people can benefit from this, spread this thread.
Tagging people who'd be interested in knowledge of this.
https://t.co/d17qfExlX2

> The attack on July 15, 2020, targeted a small number of employees through a phone spear phishing attack. This attack relied on a significant and concerted attempt to mislead certain employees and exploit human vulnerabilities to gain access to our internal systems:Twitter Support pic.twitter.com/UNnNZr4YHI
>
> — ANI (@ANI) July 31, 2020

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Here's a cool observation by @Science_z_truth regarding phishing:
https://t.co/4kVQEievxS

> There is still a very popular notion that if the URL contains 'HTTPS' then it is good. Maybe a few years ago, not now. Now almost every phishing attacks use HTTPS. So the URL being served on secured HTTPS is not enough. Use USB security key, app based 2nd factor as much as possi
>
> — Science,Logic,Evidence & Proof are truth itself. (@Science_z_truth) January 15, 2021

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Here's how you can make sure you are safer, another contribution by @Science_z_truth:

https://t.co/cJQgxVKtRi

> Just to add. That doesn't mean you shouldn't trust or use https as much as possible. Keep using EFF's @HTTPSEverywhere. It is just that it is not enough to secure yourself against phishing. One needs to be more vigilant and take extra measures.
>
> — Science,Logic,Evidence & Proof are truth itself. (@Science_z_truth) January 15, 2021

Here's how you can protect yourself from phishing online:
https://t.co/g03D6BzZUR

> Checking the URL is the most difficult one. Here is a phishing test by the Jigsaw of Google. Take the test.
> https://t.co/IuBKWPX3EB
>
> — Science,Logic,Evidence & Proof are truth itself. (@Science_z_truth) January 15, 2021

ADDENDUM: @Harvard has NO school of journalism! @UnSubtleDesi take a look!
https://t.co/1ckL1UfjYA

> Wow \u2014 this is awful.
>
> For the record, @Harvard has no school of journalism, no department of journalism, and no professors of journalism.
>
> (It does have @niemanfdn! But we have no faculty and no classes. And it does have @ShorensteinCtr, but no journalism-specific faculty.) https://t.co/AiMYkcrB6Q
>
> — Joshua Benton (@jbenton) January 15, 2021