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Spam

Spam has been around so long that today it accounts for more than half of the world's email traffic. There are ways you can prevent yourself or your company from being victimized by malicious spammers,

- Spam is any unsolicited email that arrives in your inbox. You didn't request it, but through the efforts of organizations that specialize in collecting and curating email addresses, it found its way to you.

- Those who send spam, known as spammers, aren't concerned about cluttering your inbox. They know that even if just a few people respond to the millions of emails they send the numbers will add up in their favor.

- Cybercriminals who use spam target millions of inboxes with phishing emails that look just like normal spam. But the links and attachments in these emails are always malicious. Responding to one could lead to identity theft, email fraud, a ransomware attack on your business or any number of other devastating consequences.

- One of the simplest ways to detect malicious spam is to look closely at the email characteristics. If the sender's address is unfamiliar or the email comes from a place you don't recognize, it's likely a scam. Typos, a sense of urgency and offers that seem too good to be true are also signs that the spam is malicious.

- A send time outside of normal office hours is also a red flag, as well as an empty field of recipients or one that's filled with several names you don't know.

- If you suspect the spam is a phish, don't click on any links in the email, download any attachments, engage or respond or fall for any emotional traps, like promises of rewards or threats for not acting. Instead, report the email to your supervisor, IT or Security.

- The sheer volume of spam can also present a problem for individuals or businesses. That's because spam can overwhelm email servers with traffic, crippling networks and creating problems for users.

- Technical solutions, like gateways and filters, can protect against spam, eliminating much of the threat before it arrives in your inbox. A skilled information security firm can help you choose the best solution for your company.

- By being vigilant, employees can also play an important role in an overall spam defense strategy.

For the Spam module, see your manager or information security contact.