

Avoiding Scams During the Upcoming Cyber Holidays

Phishing emails are a primary tactic for scammers during the holidays. Here are some tips on how to spot them and a list of upcoming online holidays.

16 signs it may be a phishing email

- Sender address or domain is different or not what you'd expect.
- Email is from an organization you're unfamiliar with or don't recognize.
- Email includes a request that seems out of the ordinary or uncharacteristic.
- List of addressees is empty or filled with names you don't recognize.
- Email includes a suspicious link or attachment.
- Attachment file type is one you don't typically receive or don't recognize.
- Link, when hovered over, reveals a web address that's different.
- Hyperlink spelling is different than the expected spelling.
- Email includes nothing but long hyperlinks and no message.
- Email arrives outside of business hours or late in the day or on weekends.
- Subject line has nothing to do with the content of the email.
- Email addresses a request you never made or has nothing to do with you.
- Message has a sense of urgency or an alarming tone.
- Message hints at negative consequences or unrealistic rewards for acting.
- Email is poorly written, grammatically off or filled with typos or mistakes.
- Email as a whole feels off or your instincts tell you something isn't quite right.

Singles Day Thursday November 11

Catfishers lure unsuspecting targets into online relationships and extort money.

Black Friday Friday November 26

Beware of phishing emails promising deals too good to be true.

Small Business Saturday Saturday November 27

Scammers use 'buy local' lures to entice targets to click malicious links or downloads.

Cyber Monday Monday November 29

Beware of phishing emails using fake discounts and exceptional deals as lures to make you click.

Giving Tuesday Tuesday November 30

Scammers use fake emails from charitable organizations to target unsuspecting donors.

Green Monday Monday December 13

Watch for emails mimicking green organizations seeking money or personal information.

Free Shipping Day Tuesday December 14

Scammers use fake shipping updates to deploy links that download ransomware.