6 Tips To Guard Against Phishing While You Work From Home

The CDC isn't the only group happy that you’re working from home. Phishing attackers are licking their chops at the thought of people distracted by barking dogs, bored kids, and the complexities of the remote office. These tips can keep you safer as phishers try to bypass your Secure Email Gateway (SEG) and deliver the badness to your inbox.

1. 'Click to view our remote work policies.' Maybe, maybe not.
   Even if an email seems to come from someone at your company, remember the email address could be spoofed. While viewing the policy "feels" like a good idea, think twice before clicking. If you’re unsure, reach out to HR—after telling your child for the umpteenth time, "In a minute, I’m trying to work."

2. Report anything suspicious to your security team.
   Good advice wherever you’re working. An email you’re unsure about may be perfectly okay. Or it could contain malware. If there’s a real threat, your security team won’t know unless you notify them. That’s true wherever your office is.

3. 'Click to renew your password.' Again, slow your roll.
   Sounds innocent, right? The whole working from home thing has turned everything upside down, so why would login credentials be different—even if you just changed yours? Once again, reach out to your IT team for confirmation.
   Bonus tip: try not to spill mayo on your phone.

4. Be extra-careful with emails about virtual meeting platforms.
   With millions of people suddenly using online meeting platforms, phishers may abuse them. For example, the Cofense Phishing Defense Center recently blogged about a phish disguised as a WebEx security warning. It never hurts to check with IT—or to turn off the TV.

5. When you’re feeling distracted, remember that’s when you’re vulnerable.
   How do you focus on email threats when you’re dealing with chaos? Well, try to cultivate a little self-awareness. Remember to be super-cautious when looking at emails, period. Read carefully. Breathe. Power nap, anyone?

6. Be extra-careful with emails about the Coronavirus.
   Phishing attackers are preying on fear to induce people to click. If you don’t recognize the sender, find misspellings and grammar mistakes, or detect an urgent tone, beware. Get more details at our Coronavirus Phishing Infocenter. And remember to keep washing your hands!

Unite to Fight Phishing with our free security awareness resources.