Phishing Scams

What is Phishing?
• It is a form of identity theft.
• It involves obtaining someone’s financial information for illegal purposes by sending a fraudulent e-mail.
• It can appear to be a legitimate e-mail with a reasonable request– usually to verify your personal information or account details.

How Does Phishing Work?
• Scam artists send legitimate-looking requests posing as representatives of a trusted financial institution or business.
• The e-mail asks for verification of an account number or password via e-mail or directs you to a Web site where you are asked to update or confirm personal information.
• Scam artists create fake Web sites that may look like those of the company they are impersonating and use “masks” to hide the real URL.
• Scam artists also use pop-up windows that contain false or misleading messages.

How Can I Spot a Phishing Scam?
• The e-mail may contain logos or images taken from the Web site of the company the scam artist is impersonating.
• The “from” field appears to be from the legitimate company.
• The e-mail will contain a clickable link with text suggesting you use it to validate your information.
• Look for misspelled domain names like www.yohoo.com or www.paypol.com
• Never trust e-mails that direct you to a Web site whose URL is only an IP address, like 102.199.60.250.

How Can I Protect Myself?
• Don’t reply to e-mails or pop-ups requesting personal or financial information.
• Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software and update them regularly.
• Use a firewall.
• Don’t share personal or financial information by e-mail.
• Review all credit card and bank statements as soon as you receive them.
• Be cautious about opening attachments or downloading any files from e-mails.
• If you believe you have been a victim of phishing, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.ftc.gov or calling 1-877-FTC-Help (1-877-382-4357).

Who to Call for Help

UTEP Information & Technology Office
security@utep.edu.
747-6324

UTEP Police Department
747-5611

UTEP Office of Student Life
747-5648

Federal Trade Commission
1-877-FTC-Help (1-877-382-4357)

El Paso Police Department
911 (for emergencies)
832-4400 (for non-emergency assistance)

El Paso County Sheriff’s Department
546-2280