

# 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](http://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



**The University of Texas at El Paso**

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Phone: 915-747-5611 • Fax: 915-747-5636 • [www.utep.edu/police](http://www.utep.edu/police)