

Cyber Hygiene: Real vs fake emails

Most cyber scams impersonate a well known brand to lure you into trusting them. Be vigilant and follow these steps to avoid losing your data privacy.

Check if it's legit before you click:



Check the sender's email address

Look at the sender's actual email address, not just the display name.

Example: You see support@apple.com.
The actual email address in the sender line is:
<no-reply-dhejkasnuie@gmail.com>.



Check grammar and spelling

Large companies use professional copywriters. Look for transposed letters, sentences that don't read correctly and lack of punctuation. Bank of America would not send you an unprofessionally sounding email.



Hover over hyperlinks

Hold your mouse over the link they are asking you to click on. If it is not the company's main website, do not click. Example: Link preview shows account-access.wellsfargo.com: actual website is wells Fargo.com



Don't get hooked with a threat or a deal too good to be true

Most phishing scams create a sense of urgency and use an undertone of a threat to move you into clicking. Don't react. Ask yourself 'why am I getting this?'. Did you really order from this company? Is your account really locked if you can still log in?

Steps to take to verify email:



Login to your account from the main website

Do not follow the link. Once in your account, look for messages or the supposed suspicious activity.



Check your method of payment

For many accounts, you probably have a preferred method of payment. If an email claims a fraudulent purchase, go to the bank or credit card site to see if the purchase shows up there.



Call the company directly

If you still can't determine if something is wrong, call the company and have them check.



Change your password if you clicked on a link

If you made the mistake of clicking the link or entering information on a false site, change your password for that account and any others that use the same password.



Report it!

If it came to your work email, forward it to your IT department. Send it to the impersonated company as well.



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SECURITY

CyberCompass navigates businesses to cyber resilience across their business ecosystem of their people, processes, technology and vendors. We are a one-stop solution for a cybersecurity, compliance and privacy program.

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