

Security Awareness Training and Phishing Emails

6/11/2018

Good morning,

As you all know, increasing our university's security awareness is an important pillar to the safety of UTRGV and its data. While some institutions view employees as the weakest link in protection, the UTRGV Information Security Office (ISO) believes that our employees are our most under-utilized asset in helping safeguard our data. As such, the ISO has been working hard to develop and implement new Security Awareness Training curriculum. This state-of-the-art program consists of training campaigns paired with simulated phishing exercises that everyone in the organization will take part in. To make sure employees are comfortable with the material, we are offering the training in English, Spanish, Chinese, and a few other languages. Our end goal is to increase overall employee security awareness and ability to spot malicious emails.

Security Awareness Training

The new training is more engaging than what was required previously, and it does not need to be completed in one sitting. There are various courses on security topics that our organization will be assigned, but everyone will be automatically registered to take at least the following modules:

- Security Awareness Fundamentals (*10 minutes*)
- Phishing Awareness (*15-35 minutes*)

Additionally, throughout the year, certain departments will have available different training courses based on their areas of specialization. For example:

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
 - Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS)
 - Protected Health Information (PHI)
 - Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
 - Data Classification
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Many more...

Identifying and Reporting Phishing Emails

Phishing is defined as the fraudulent practice of sending emails claiming to be from a reputable or known source in order to convince individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords, or to use an action to install a type of malicious software. **Research estimates that 91% of cyber attacks start with a phishing email.**

To combat phishing and build on the knowledge gained from the modules, our office will send out simulated phishing emails in the near future in order to get an accurate measure of our organization's vulnerability to phishing attacks.

Our office has also worked with Information Technology in order to streamline the reporting process and make it as easy and unobtrusive as possible. We will communicate details on the new way to report suspicious emails in the coming days.

For more information, you may visit our website at <http://www.utrgv.edu/is/en-us/resources/training/security-awareness/index.htm> We are excited to have this new program in place and welcome any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

The Information Security Office



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