Visual Spoofing

What is the difference between:

1) https : // WWW . MyWebPage .com
2) https: // WWW . MyWebPage . com

At first glance, nothing, however to your computer they are quite different; look at the following codes that were generated by converting the above human readable text into computer readable code. The difference between the two is highlighted.

1) Converted to computer code : \u 068\u 074\u 074\u 070\u 073\u 03A\u 02F\u 02F\u 057\u 057\u 057\u 02E\u 04D\u 079\u 057\u 065\u 062\u
050\u 061\u 067\u 065\u 02E\u 063\u 06F\u 06D

2) Converted to computer code : \u 068\u 074\u 074\u 070\u 073\u 03A\u 02F\u 02F\u 057\u 057\u 057\u 02E\u 04D\u 079\u 057\u 065\u 062\u
050\u 061\u 067\u 435\u 02E\u 063\u 06F\u 06D

The difference is called “Visual Spoofing”, where the terrorists use similar looking “letters” to replace those found in our normal everyday language with another. Since the two are different to your computer they will take you to two different places. From Wikipedia: “**Unicode** is an information technology standard for the consistent encoding, representation, and handling of text expressed in most of the world's writing systems.” In other words, how do computers translate a human readable character to computer code.

A real life scenario that can happen, is that you will receive an email from a company you trust, but is actually from a terrorist. If you click on the bad web link you will be taken to their website and the scam begins.

So, how do you protect yourself? While your web browser, email provider or antivirus might protect you, it us usually best to physically type in the website into your browser and not clicking on it. That will help ensure that you will be directed to the website you really want.