# Phishing Email Analysis Report

## 1. Sample Email Overview

Subject Line: Your PayPal Access Blocked!

Sender Name: PayPal

Sender Email Address: paypalaccounts@mailbox.com

Date Received: February 17, 2019

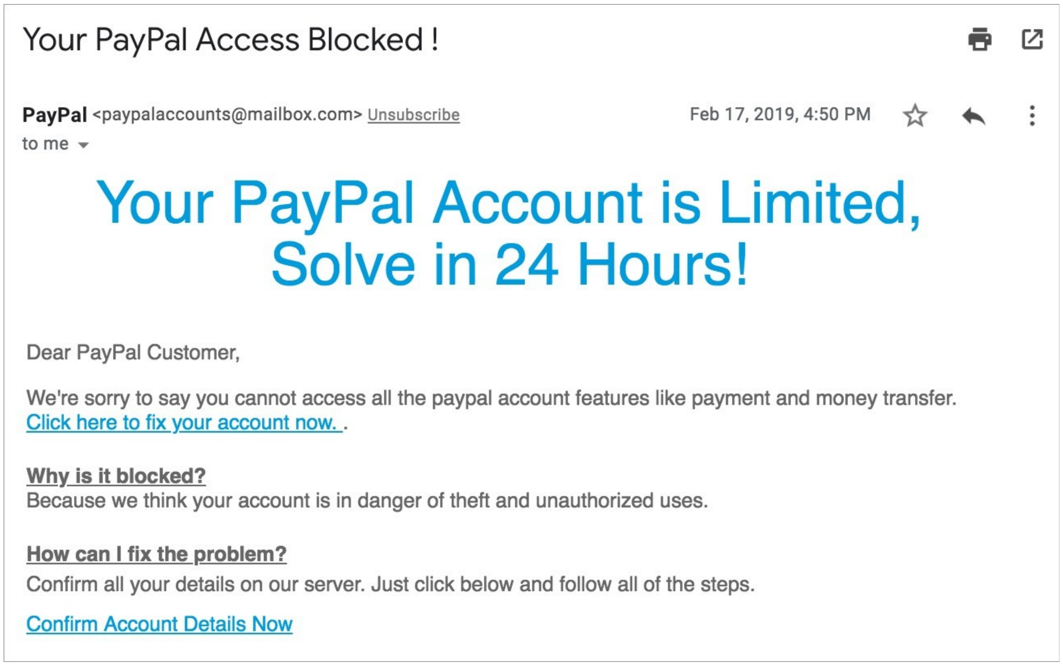
Email Body Highlights:

- "Your PayPal Account is Limited, Solve in 24 Hours!"

- "Click here to fix your account now."

- "Confirm Account Details Now."

Screenshot of the Email:



Your PayPal Access Blocked !

**PayPal** <paypalaccounts@mailbox.com> Unsubscribe

Feb 17, 2019, 4:50 PM

to me

Your PayPal Account is Limited,
Solve in 24 Hours!

Dear PayPal Customer,

We're sorry to say you cannot access all the paypal account features like payment and money transfer.
Click here to fix your account now. .

**Why is it blocked?**
Because we think your account is in danger of theft and unauthorized uses.

**How can I fix the problem?**
Confirm all your details on our server. Just click below and follow all of the steps.

Confirm Account Details Now

## 2. Spoofed Sender Email Analysis

The sender claims to be from PayPal, but the email address is paypalaccounts@mailbox.com, which is not a valid PayPal domain. Legitimate PayPal emails always come from @paypal.com. This is a clear attempt at email spoofing to trick the user into believing the email is authentic.

## 3. Email Header Analysis (Simulated)

- SPF/DKIM/DMARC checks likely fail since the email comes from mailbox.com, not paypal.com.
- Return-Path mismatch: Expected to be paypal.com, but probably mailbox.com.
- Reply-To Address likely differs from From Address, which is suspicious.
- Tools for header analysis: MxToolbox, Google Admin Toolbox.

## 4. Suspicious Links or Attachments

The email contains two clickable links:

1. Click here to fix your account now.
2. Confirm Account Details Now.

The visible text looks legitimate, but hovering would likely show a fake phishing URL. No attachments found.

## 5. Urgent or Threatening Language

The email uses urgency to scare the user: 'Your PayPal Account is Limited, Solve in 24 Hours!'. This is a classic social engineering tactic.

## 6. Mismatched URLs (Simulated)

Though not visible, it's likely the displayed link text redirects to a phishing site. Links should be scanned using VirusTotal.

## 7. Spelling and Grammar Errors

Grammar issues:

- 'paypal' not capitalized.
- Awkward phrasing like 'Confirm all your details on our server.'

Such errors are typical in phishing emails.

## 8. Summary of Phishing Traits Found

| Indicator | Present | Notes |
| --------- | ------- | ------ |
| Spoofed email domain | Yes | mailbox.com instead of paypal.com |
| Email header anomalies | Yes | Simulated SPF/DKIM/DMARC fail |
| Suspicious links | Yes | Link likely points to phishing site |
| Urgent language | Yes | 'Solve in 24 Hours' |
| Grammar issues | Yes | Lowercase 'paypal', awkward phrasing |
| Generic greeting | Yes | 'Dear PayPal Customer' |
| Request for info | Yes | Asks for sensitive data |

## Conclusion

This email is a confirmed phishing attempt using spoofed sender address, urgent messaging, suspicious links, and poor grammar. Its goal is to steal user credentials.

## 🔐 Recommendations

1. **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)**
   - Always enable 2FA on accounts like PayPal to add an extra layer of security, even if login credentials are compromised.
2. **Educate and Train Users**
   - Conduct regular **phishing awareness training**.
   - Teach how to **hover over links**, identify **spoofed addresses**, and recognize **urgent language tactics**.
3. **Use Email Filters and Security Tools**
   - Configure **spam filters** and **phishing detection** in email clients.
   - Implement **anti-phishing software** or **email gateways** (e.g., Proofpoint, Mimecast).
4. **Verify Suspicious Emails Directly**
   - Never trust emails requesting account actions. Instead, **visit the official website directly** or contact customer support via known channels.
5. **Report Suspicious Emails**
   - Forward phishing emails to **phishing@paypal.com** or **reportphishing@apwg.org**.
   - Use the “Report Phishing” option in your email client.
6. **Regularly Monitor Account Activity**
   - Check account statements for **unauthorized transactions**.
   - Set up **account alerts** for any login or transaction activities.

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**Drafted By,**

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