

Bellevue University

Email Security

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Free email services have attractions other than the free price tag. One great advantage of free email accounts is to use them as throw-away accounts. When having a throw-away account, you don't care what happens to the account. You can use throw-away accounts when using the email address and sending it to a business that may spam your email. Another use of a throw-away account is when you want to send emails anonymously. A second significant advantage of free email accounts is they have spam filters. Gmail is an excellent option for a free email service as it has a fantastic spam filter to keep spam emails separate from your regular emails. Finally, a great advantage of using a free email account is service access. The service access allows you to use your Gmail account to access other Google-related services. All these items are significant advantages of free email services and make a free email very tempting.

There can't be these fantastic advantages of free email without the associated risks. One risk is that when you have something happen to your email, you may not have any customer service to help you fix your email account. Without customer service, you risk losing your entire email account completely. It is important to keep your account protected so that you don't get into a position where you need customer service. It is scary knowing that with these free email accounts, you might not have support if anything happens to your email address or account.

There was a recent attack that was fairly successful by an employee using a phishing attack. The company that got attacked is D-Link. D-Link is a Taiwanese networking equipment manufacturer. The attack stole data, which included names, emails, addresses, phone numbers, account registration dates, and the users' last sign-

in dates. The employee who stole the information then listed it on BreachForums for sale. The employee posted samples of 45 of the records they stole which had timestamps between 2012 and 2013. The post with the stolen information for sale stated that it included information about many government officials in Taiwan and 3 million lines of customer information. The email was not a free email account. The industry is a networking equipment manufacturer. The information stolen was records and only totaled 700. The company stated the 700 records stolen had information that was on the accounts for the past seven years.

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