Phishing Email Analysis Report

1. Basic Information

Analyst Name	Nizar Aderbaz
Date of Analysis	2025-08-22
Email Subject	"86RE: Donation For You"
Sender (From)	"Philip Fredrick"<ghulammustafa@cyber.net.pk>
Recipient	*phishing@pot*
Reported By	End user

2. Email Metadata Summary

Message-ID	<0bcdb0f2-645d-41e8-8542-9e7541e0914a@BN1NAM02FT046.eop-nam02.prod.protection.outlook.com>
Return-Path	ghulammustafa@cyber.net.pk
Reply-To	<philipffredrick3690@gmail.com>
X-Mailer	Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2600.0000
Date Sent	*Wed, 2 Aug 2023 19:27:50 -0700*
Received	*from User (unknown [147.78.103.9])* *by mail.mail04.zhanlingol.com (Postfix) with SMTP id 6E01023FE574;* *Wed, 2 Aug 2023 19:27:40 +0000 (UTC)*

3. Header Authentication Results

Check	Result	Notes
SPF	SOFTFAIL	The email came from an IP **not listed in the SPF record**, but the receiving server decides **not to reject the email outright**.
DKIM	NONE	Message Not Signed
DMARC	FAIL	Action = Quarantine

4. URL & Attachment Analysis

Type	Found	Details
URLs	✕	None
Attachments	✕	None

5. Technical Indicators

IP Addresses	**147.78.103.9** (Known malicious, This IP has been reported a total of **191** times from **75** distinct sources on **AbuseIPDB** and **1** time on **VirusTotal**) **159.27.24.86** (Known malicious, This IP has been reported a total of **29** times from **18** distinct sources on **AbuseIPDB** and **1** time on **VirusTotal**
Hosting Country	Bulgaria
Domain	None
Domain Age	None
WHOIS Status	None

6. Risk Evaluation

1. Sender Analysis:

- **From: ghulammustafa@cyber.net.pk** (appears legitimate, known individual)
- **Reply-To: philipffredrick3690@gmail.com** (redirects replies to attacker)
- **Risk: High** – sender address is spoofed to appear trustworthy.

2. Email Authentication Checks:

- **SPF:** SoftFail → email is **not sent from authorized servers** for **cyber.net.pk**.
- **DKIM:** None → email is **not cryptographically signed**.
- **DMARC:** Fail → domain policy failed, email is **quarantined**.
- **Risk: High** – authentication failures indicate likely spoofing.

3. Received Headers Analysis:

- **Bottom-most Received IP: 147.78.103.9** → true origin of email (attacker-controlled).
- **Top-most Received IP: 159.27.24.86** → relay server, unauthorized per SPF.
- **Risk: Medium-High** – email path shows relay through untrusted server.

4. From vs Reply-To Mismatch:

- **Observation:** "**From**" is a known individual; "**Reply-To**" is attacker's Gmail.
- **Risk: High** – any replies go to attacker, confirming phishing intent.

5. Historical Reports / IP Reputation:

- Sending IP (**147.78.103.9**) reported **191 times by 75 distinct sources** on AbuseIPDB.
- **Risk: High** – IP has strong evidence of malicious activity.

6. Email Content Quality:

- Email is written with **poor English, grammar mistakes, and awkward phrasing** (e.g., *"Confirm your email is good"* ,,,*"I had one idea that never changed in my mind, that you should use your wealth to help people"* ,,, *"I want to use my wealth to help and support selected individuals who will help people around them"…*).
- **Risk: Medium** – typical phishing indicator; scammers often write emails with broken grammar or unnatural phrasing.

8. Overall Risk Assessment:

- **Likelihood of compromise / malicious intent: Very High**

7. Analyst Summary & Recommendation

The analyzed email exhibits multiple red flags strongly indicative of a **phishing attempt**:

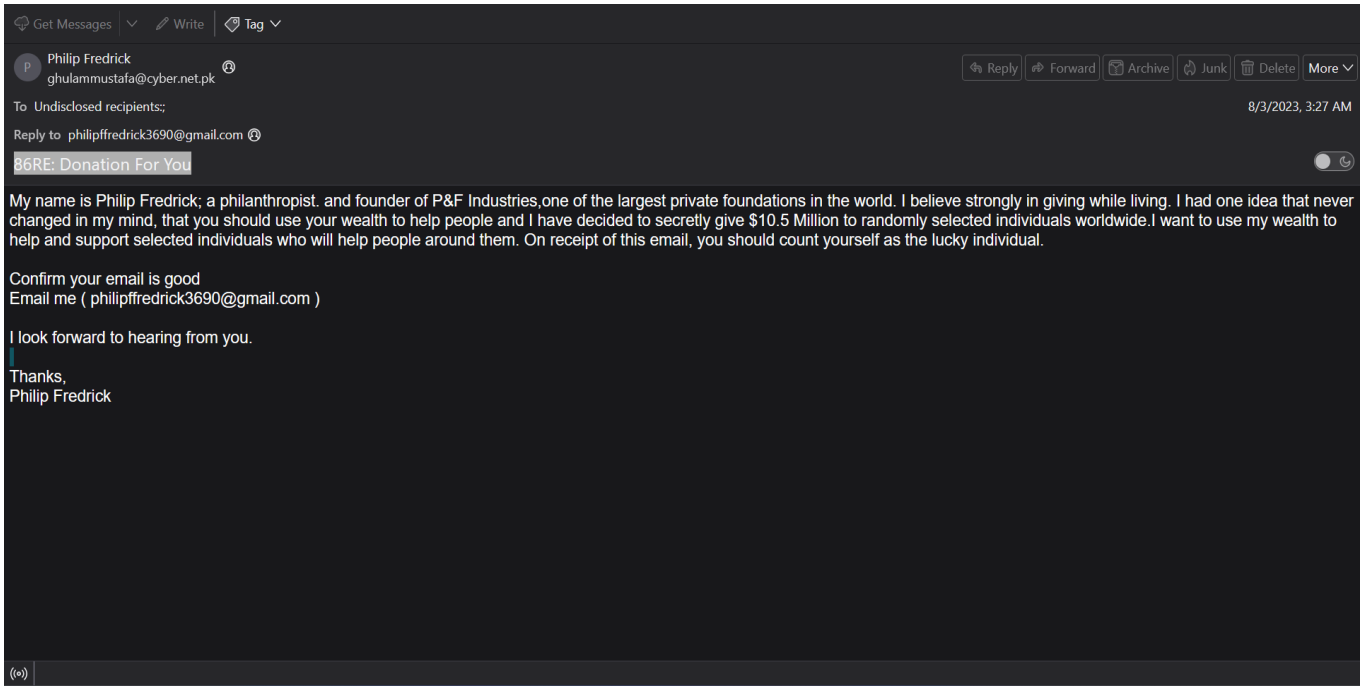
- **Spoofed sender address**: The message was sent using the legitimate email account of **ghulammustafa@cyber.net.pk**, likely via account compromise or domain abuse, while the **Reply-To** address redirects to *philipffredrick3690@gmail.com*. This technique is used to appear legitimate while ensuring attacker-controlled communication.
- **Content red flags**: The email promises a large sum of money ($10.5 million), a well-known social engineering tactic to entice victims.
- **Poor language quality**: Multiple grammar and phrasing issues (e.g., *"Confirm your email is good"*) further indicate fraudulent intent.
- **High external abuse reports**: The originating IP has been flagged in AbuseIPDB and VirusTotal with multiple reports, confirming malicious history

It is recommended :

- **Do not reply** or engage with the provided email addresses.
- **Block sender IP** at the email gateway and security appliances.
- **Report to abuse@cyber.net.pk** (the compromised domain) to notify the legitimate provider.
- **Awareness training**: Users should be reminded not to trust unsolicited financial offers, especially those containing poor English and suspicious sender/reply-to mismatches.

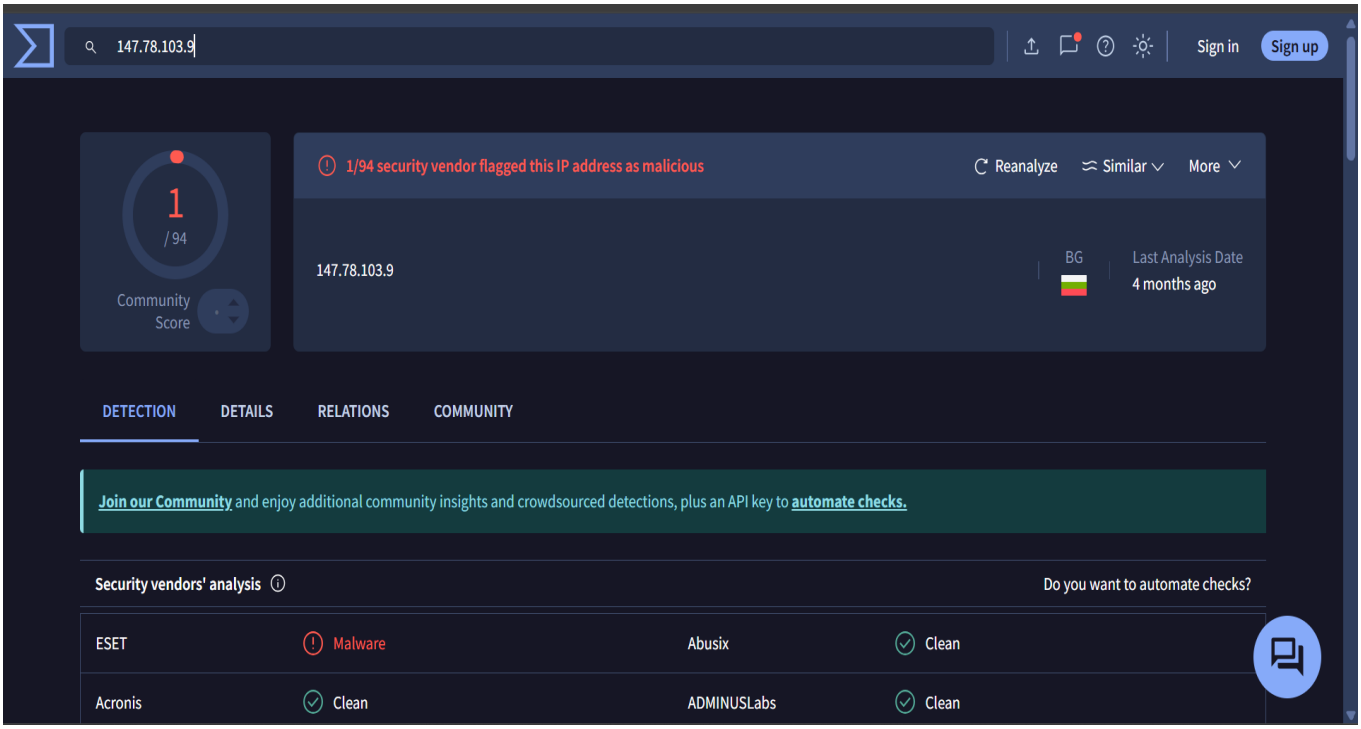
8. Attachments

Screenshots of email :



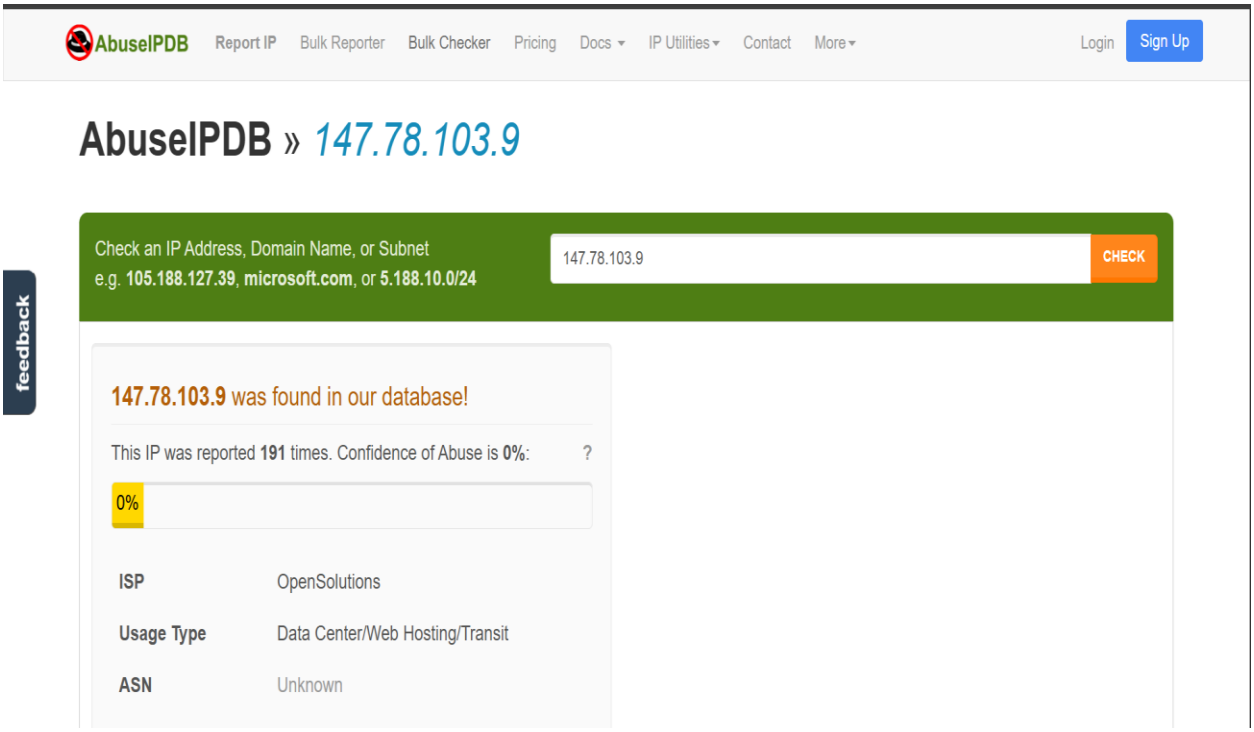
Screenshot of the sender's IP address in VirusTotal :

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/147.78.103.9



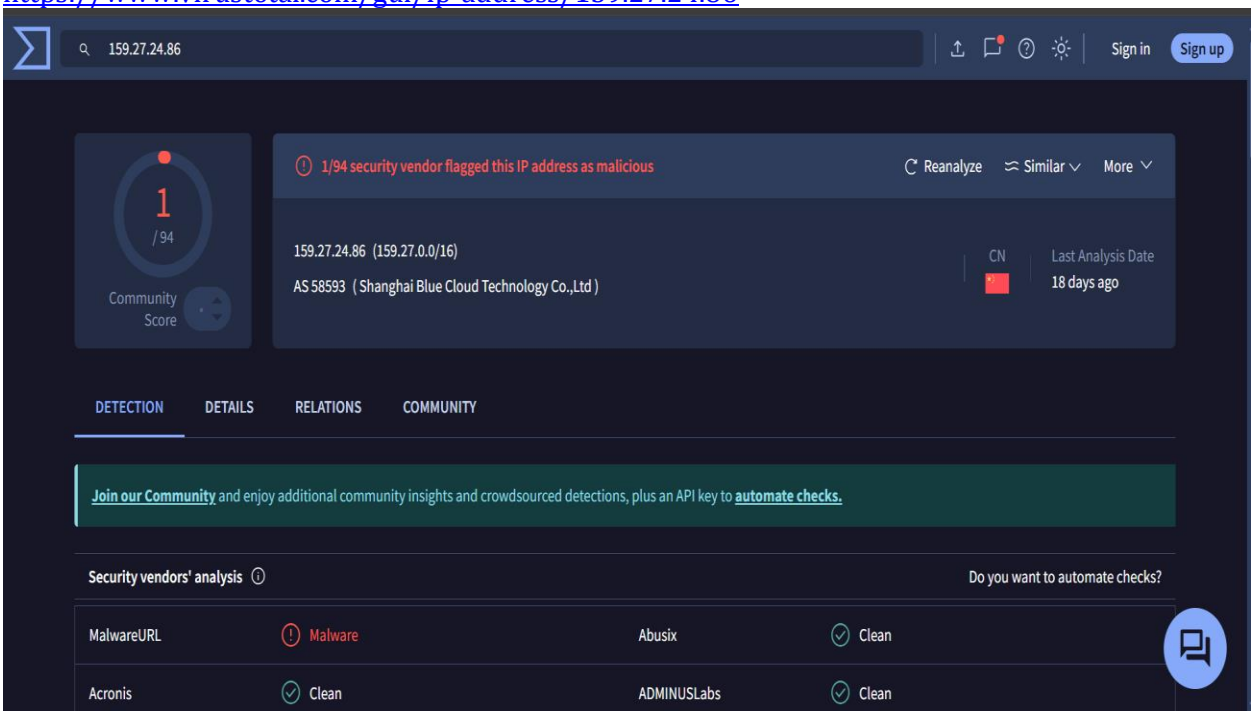
Screenshot of the sender's IP address in AbuseIPDB :

https://www.abuseipdb.com/check/147.78.103.9



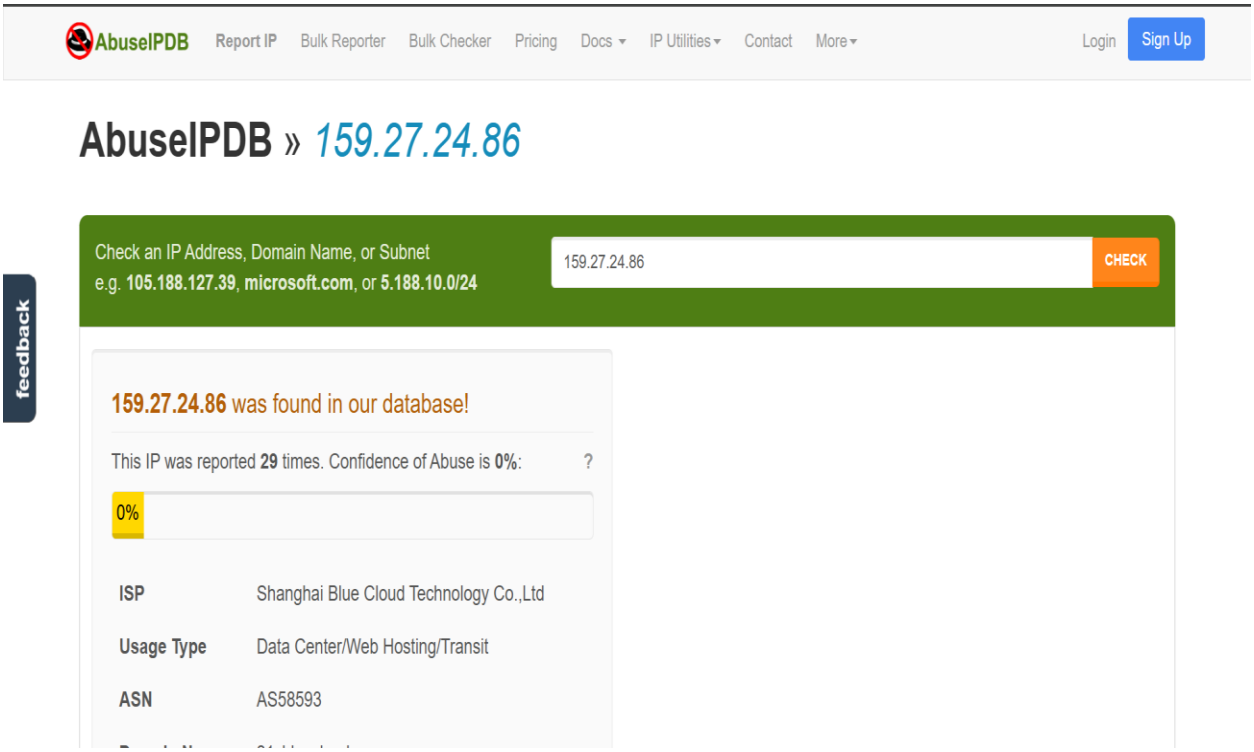
Screenshot of the sender's mail server IP address (from the second 'Received' header) in VirusTotal :

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/159.27.24.86



Screenshot of the sender's mail server IP address (from the second 'Received' header) in AbuseIPDB :

https://www.abuseipdb.com/check/159.27.24.86



Automation & Tools:

To streamline email header analysis, **MXToolbox's Email Header** Analyzer was utilized to automatically parse and interpret the headers. This automation facilitated quick identification of SPF, DKIM, and DMARC results, the true originating IP, and potential relay servers. By leveraging this tool, the analysis process became more efficient, reducing manual inspection errors and accelerating phishing detection.

https://mxtoolbox.com/Public/Tools/EmailHeaders.aspx?huid=435570d2-d70a-45ad-9f6e-035dfc409956