**Phishing Attack Report**

**CECS 378**



**Members:** 015843540 Jalon Flores

011667576 Andre Barajas

014058185 Anthony Diaz

**Date:**

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# **1. Overview**

## **1.1 Purpose**

# **2. What is a Phishing Attack?**

## **2.1 Definition**

Phishing - fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

## **2.2 How does it work?**

An individual is sent an email that looks like it’s coming from a reputable company. This email can say a number of topics including:

1. Fill out a survey and be entered in a raffle to win a new Playstation 4.
2. Your account may be in danger. Please click the link to change your password.

After the individual clicks the link, they are taken to a website that looks like a reputable company. The user will fill out any information that they are prompted to fill such as name, password, address, etc. After they submit this information, the data is now in the hands of the phishers.

## **2.2 Types of Phishing Attack**

1. **Clone Phishing**

This type of phishing attack requires hacking a previously sent email. The email is “resent” to the recipients with a new and updated link that allows the data to be sent to the phishers. This usually requires that the sender or recipient was previously attacked in order to obtain the email information.

1. **Search Engine Phishing**

This type of phishing attack involves the usage of a fake website. The website waits for a user to click on the link to the website, which is usually found through a search engine. Once the individual is taken to the website, their data is sent to the phishers.

1. **Smishing**

This type of phishing attack is sent through text. The message contains details about canceling an order while being provided a link. The individual is sent to a fake page where they fill out their information.

1. **Spear Phishing**

This type of phishing attack is directed towards specific individuals or companies. The phishers gather and use other’s personal information to make their emails look more credible.

1. **Vishing**

This type of phishing attack is done through a phone call. The phisher disguises themself as a trusted person such as a family member, friend, etc. They get the individual to give them personal data.

1. **Whaling**

This type of attack is similar to a phishing attack, except it is specifically targeted to higher profiled individuals. An email can potentially be disguised as a customer complaint to get the individual to follow the link.