

Phishing Email Analysis Report

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1. Executive Summary

This report analyses a phishing email detected that attempted to steal user credentials through a spoofed sender and malicious link. The targeted employee did not engage with the email and reported it immediately, allowing the security team to block the sender, domain, and related indicators before any compromise occurred.

The incident underscores phishing as a persistent threat and highlights the importance of user awareness, effective email filtering, and continuous monitoring. While the response was successful, the organization should further strengthen controls through enhanced scanning rules and regular phishing awareness training.

2. Email Metadata Analysis

Email metadata provides critical information about the origin, path, and technical characteristics of an email. Analysing these details helps determine whether a message is legitimate, spoofed, or part of a malicious campaign. Key metadata fields examined include header information, sender authentication results, routing paths, and message integrity indicators.

a. Sender Information

- **From:** CH3P223MB1035.NAMP223.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM
- **Return-Path:** 0107018bed9eeb2f-721eeefd-d340-43f8-ac59-2a06e7b63702-000000@eu-central-1.amazonaws.com
- **Sender IP Address:** 69.169.224.13

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1 Received: from CH3P223MB1035.NAMP223.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM
(2603:10b6:610:1b9::6)
2 by LV3P223MB0968.NAMP223.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM with HTTPS; Mon, 20 Nov 2023
3 16:44:59 +0000
4 Received: from GVX0EPF000013D3.SWEP280.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM
(2603:10a6:144:1::11)
5 by CH3P223MB1035.NAMP223.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM (2603:10b6:610:1b9::6) with
6 Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,
7 cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.7002.27; Mon, 20
Nov
8 2023 16:44:58 +0000
9 Received: from HE1EURO1FT095.eop-EUR01.prod.protection.outlook.com
10 (2a01:111:f400:7e1f::200) by GVX0EPF000013D3.outlook.office365.com
11 (2603:1026:900:2::3) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,
12 cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.7002.27 via
Frontend
13 Transport; Mon, 20 Nov 2023 16:44:57 +0000
14 Authentication-Results: **spf=pass** (sender IP is 69.169.224.13)
15 **smtp.mailfrom=eu-central-1.amazones.com; dkim=pass** (signature was
verified)
16 header.d=eng.goldbelly.com;**dmarc=pass** action=none
17 header.from=eng.goldbelly.com;comauth=pass reason=100
18 Received-SPF: Pass (protection.outlook.com: domain of
19 eu-central-1.amazones.com designates 69.169.224.13 as permitted sender)
20 receiver=protection.outlook.com: client_ip=69.169.224.13.

- **IP Reputation Check (Abuseipdb):** The IP was reported 54 times in the AbuseIPDB database.

AbuseIPDB » 69.169.224.13

Check an IP Address, Domain Name, Subnet, or ASN
e.g. 99.99.192.57, microsoft.com, 5.188.10.0/24, or AS15169

69.169.224.13

69.169.224.13 was found in our database!

This IP was reported 54 times. Confidence of Abuse is 1%.

ISP	Amazon Web Services, Inc.
Usage Type	Data Center/Web Hosting/Transit
ASN	AS16509
Hostname(s)	b224-13.ampb-out.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com
Domain Name	amazon.com
Country	United States of America
City	Seattle, Washington

IP info including ISP, Usage Type, and Location provided by IPInfo. Updated biweekly.

REPORT ID: 189.224.13 | VERSION: 69.169.224.13

b. Email Authentication Results

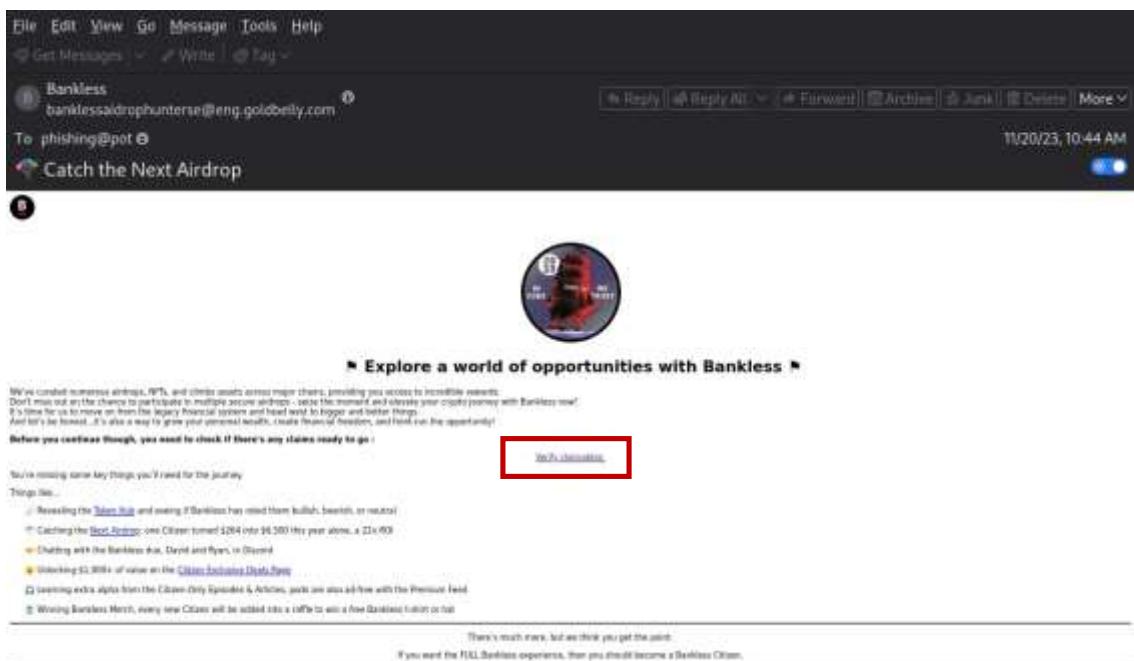
- **SPF (Sender Policy Framework):** Pass

- The SPF record validated successfully, suggesting that the sending server is authorized to send mail on behalf of the domain. However, SPF alone is not a reliable indicator of legitimacy.
- **DKIM (DomainKeys Identified Mail):** Pass
 - DKIM signature was present, indicating the email was cryptographically signed. This shows a credibility and makes the email unsusceptible to spoofing.
- **DMARC (Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance):** Pass
 - The domain has a DMARC policy, decreasing the likelihood of unauthorized use and spoofing.

3. URL Analysis

Suspicious Link

- URL found in email: <https://badr.tn/b/>



- I extracted the link and performed scans using the VirusTotal:

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal interface. At the top, it says "No security engines flagged this URL as malicious". Below that, the URL is listed as "https://badr.tr/b/" and "badr.tr". The status is "0/60" with "0/60" highlighted. The content type is "text/html; charset=UTF-8" and the last analysis time is "2 years ago". Below the main summary, there are tabs for DETECTION, DETAILS, and COMMUNITY. The DETAILS tab is selected. A green banner at the bottom encourages joining the community. The HISTORY section shows three submissions and one analysis all occurred on 2023-11-20 17:33:53 UTC. The FINAL URL is https://www.bankless.com/.

4. Threat Intelligence Analysis

1. IP Address Reputation

- IP Address:** 69.169.224.13
- The IP address returned 54 times from 25 distinct sources on AbuseIPDB. The categories of the reported times are Email Spam, Phishing Email spam, Hacking, Spoofing.

2. Indicator of Compromise (IoC)

- Email Header Anomalies:** DKIM/DMARC aren't missing, mismatched Return-Path and sending server.
- Malicious URL:** The URL is embedded in email links to an unavailable domain.
- Unusual Return-Path Domain:** eu-central-1.amazonaws.com is a suspicious domain name.

5. Conclusion

Email metadata analysis is a vital component of phishing detection and forensic investigations. By reviewing routing paths, authentication results, and technical attributes, analysts can accurately determine whether an email is legitimate or malicious—even before examining its content.

Based on comprehensive email header inspection, and IP address reports, I assess this email to be a **confirmed phishing attempt**. The email was crafted to trick recipients into clicking a potentially malicious link hosted at <https://badr.tn/b/>. The domain and IP involved exhibit red flags consistent with phishing infrastructure.

6. Recommendations

- **Immediate Quarantine:** Ensure the email is removed from all user inboxes.
- **Block Indicators:** Add <https://badr.tn/b/> and 69.169.224.13 to all perimeter security block lists (firewall, proxy, email gateway).
- **Security Awareness Campaign:** Notify users about this phishing attempt and reinforce phishing awareness training.
- **Enhance Email Filtering:** Strengthen email gateway rules to enforce strict DMARC/DKIM/SPF policies.
- **Threat Hunting:** Initiate monitoring of internal logs and endpoints for any interaction with the flagged domain/IP.
- **Report to Authorities:**
 - Report the phishing attempt to Microsoft via the Security & Compliance Center.
 - Submit indicators to APWG and Google Safe Browsing.

