

Case Study:

Use a Playbook to Respond to a Phishing Incident

Scenario:

You are a level-one security operations center (SOC) analyst at a financial services company. Previously, you received a phishing alert about a suspicious file being downloaded on an employee's computer. After investigating the email attachment file's hash, the attachment has already been verified to be malicious. Now that you have this information, you must follow your organization's process to complete your investigation and resolve the alert.

Your organization's security policies and procedures describe how to respond to specific alerts, including what to do when you receive a phishing alert.

In the [playbook](#), there is a flowchart and written instructions to help you complete your investigation and resolve the alert. At the end of your investigation, you will update the alert ticket with your findings about the incident.

Ticket ID	Alert Message	Severity	Details	Ticket status
A-2703	SERVER-MAIL Phishing attempt possible download of malware	Medium	The user may have opened a malicious email and opened attachments or clicked links.	Escalated -

Ticket comments
<p>The alert detected that an employee downloaded and opened a malicious file from a phishing email. There is an inconsistency between the sender's email address "76tguy6hh6tgfrt7tg.su" the name used in the email body "Clyde West," and the sender's name, "Def Communications." The email body and subject line contained grammatical errors. The email's body also contained a password-protected attachment, "bfsvc.exe," which was downloaded and opened on the affected machine. Having previously investigated the file hash, it is confirmed to be a known malicious file. Furthermore, the alert severity is reported as medium. With these findings, I chose to escalate this ticket to a level-two SOC analyst to take further action.</p>

Additional information**Known malicious file hash:**

54e6ea47eb04634d3e87fd7787e2136ccfbcc80ade34f246a12cf93bab527f6b

Email:

From: Def Communications <76tguyhh6tgftrt7tg.su> <114.114.114.114>

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 09:30:14 AM

To: <hr@inergy.com> <176.157.125.93>

Subject: Re: Infrastructure Egnieer role

Dear HR at Inergy,

I am writing for to express my interest in the engineer role posted from the website.

There is attached my resume and cover letter. For privacy, the file is password protected. Use the password paradise10789 to open.

Thank you,

Clyde West

Attachment: filename="bfsvc.exe"