Phishing Email Analysis



Introduction

This report provides a forensic analysis of a suspected phishing email sample obtained from [Sample Phishing email]. The email appears to impersonate Banco do Bradesco, urging the recipient to take action regarding their loyalty points (Livelo). This analysis follows a structured methodology to determine whether the email is malicious and extract key Indicators of Compromise (IOCs).

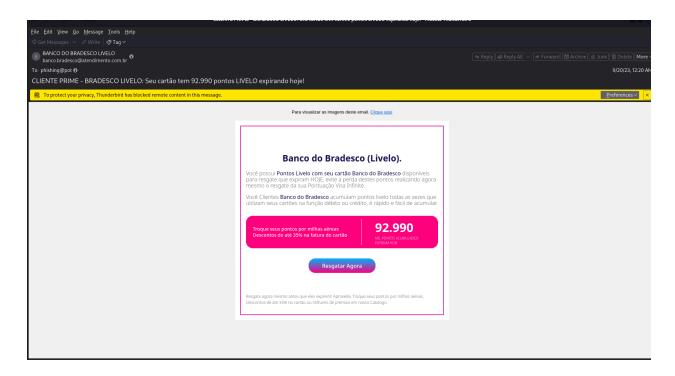
The investigation includes:

- Email header analysis to verify sender authenticity.
- SPF, DKIM, and DMARC checks to validate email authentication mechanisms.
- Content and link analysis to detect phishing attempts.
- Attachment and URL scanning using Kali Linux tools and open-source intelligence (OSINT) platforms.

Tools Used

Kali Linux Tools:

• mutt / thunderbird (to read .eml files)



- cat / less (to inspect raw email content)
- exiftool (to extract metadata from email headers)
- whois (to gather domain information)
- dig / nslookup (to analyze DNS records)
- curl / wget (to inspect URLs safely)
- strings (to extract hidden text in attachments)



1. Email Source & Relays:

- Originated from ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sfo3-06 (137.184.34.4)
- Passed through multiple Microsoft Exchange Online servers
- Received from BN8NAM11FT066.mail.protection.outlook.com

2. Authentication & Anti-Spam Results:

- **SPF:** TempError (DNS Timeout)
- **DKIM:** None (Message not signed)
- DMARC: TempError
- CompAuth: Fail (Reason: 001)
- SCL (Spam Confidence Level): 5
- BCL (Bulk Complaint Level): 9

3. Sender Information:

- From: BANCO DO BRADESCO LIVELO <banco.bradesco@atendimento.com.br>
- Return-Path: root@ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sfo3-06
- X-Sender-IP: 137.184.34.4

4. Email Subject & Content Encoding:

- **Subject:** CLIENTE PRIME BRADESCO LIVELO: Seu cartão tem 92.990 pontos LIVELO expirando hoje!
- Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
- Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64

5. Miscellaneous Headers:

- Message-ID: <20230919183549.39DEA3F725@ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sfo3-06>
- Received-SPF: TempError (DNS Timeout)
- X-MS-Exchange-Organization-SCL: 5 (Likely spam)
- X-MS-Exchange-Organization-AuthAs: Anonymous

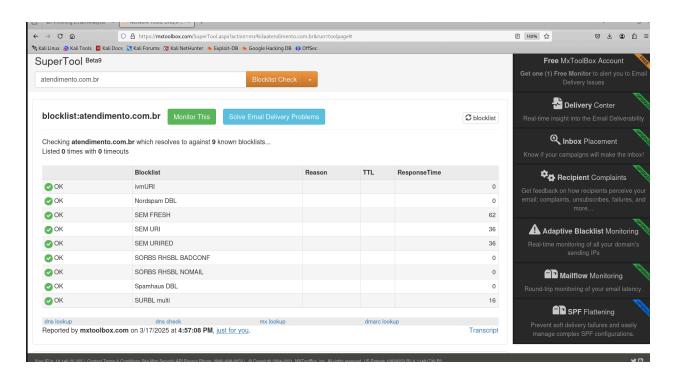
• X-MS-Exchange-Organization-MessageDirectionality: Incoming

This email is likely **phishing** based on:

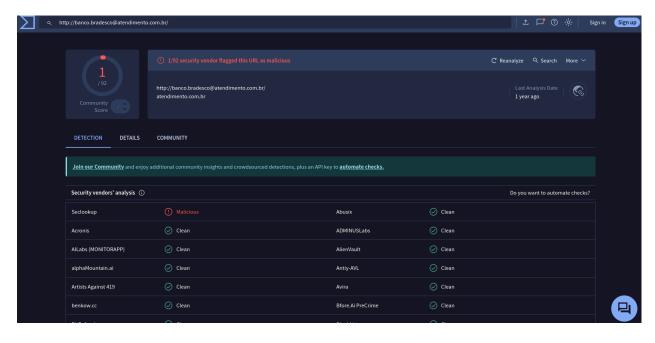
- SPF/DMARC failures
- · Use of a generic Ubuntu-based mail server
- High SCL/BCL values
- Misleading sender address (Bradesco would use their own domain)

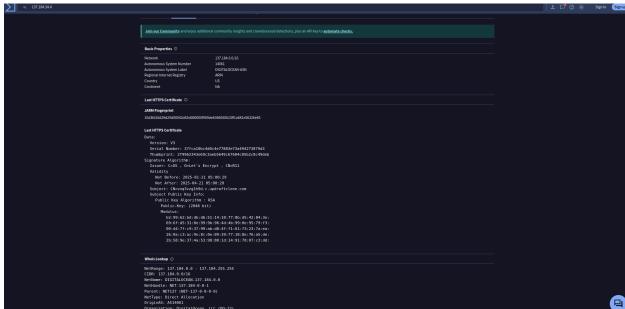
Open-Source Online Tools

 MXToolBox (https://mxtoolbox.com) – Email header analysis and SPF/DKIM/DMARC lookup

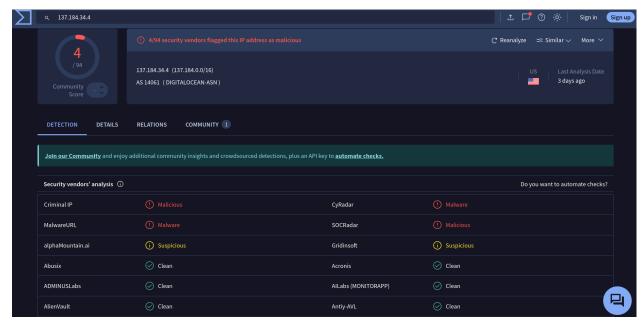


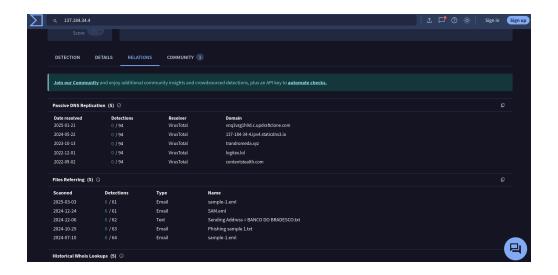
VirusTotal (https://www.virustotal.com) – URL, domain, and attachment scanning



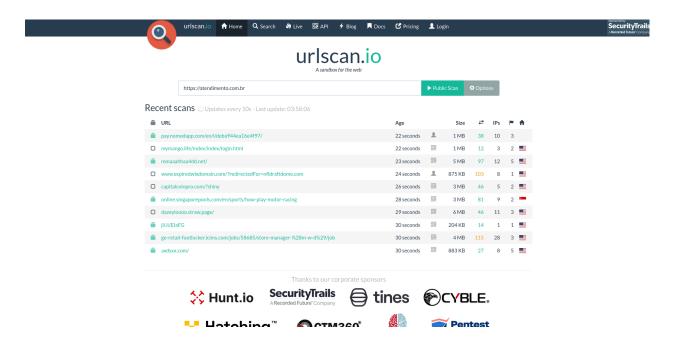


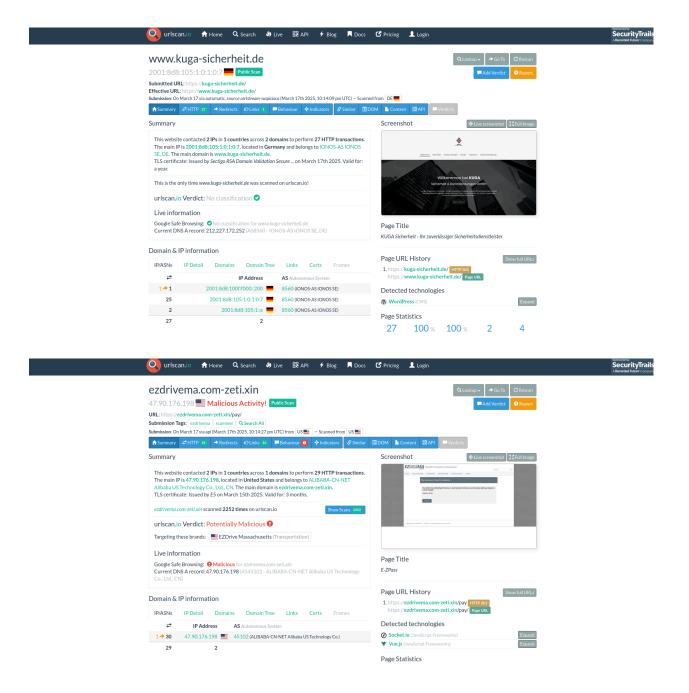




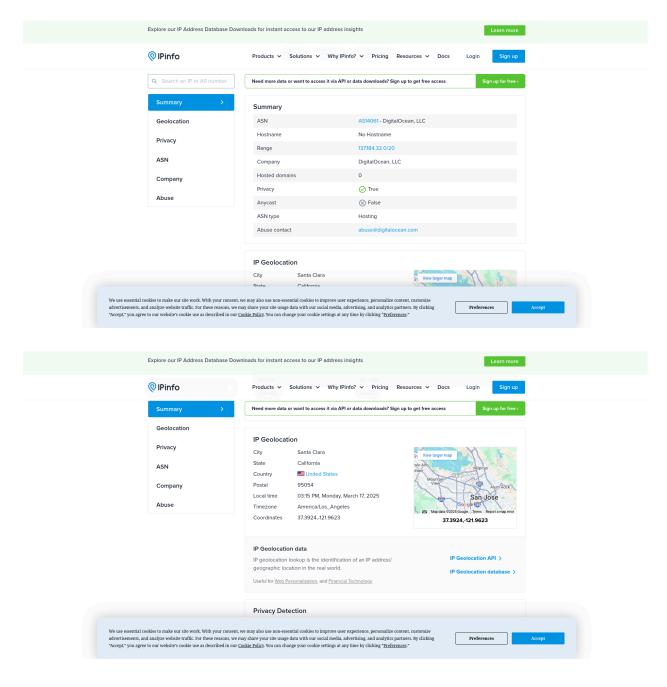


• <u>URLScan.io</u> (<u>https://urlscan.io</u>) – URL behavior analysis





• IPinfo.io (https://ipinfo.io) – IP address lookup



• PhishTank (https://www.phishtank.com) – Phishing link verification



Email Header Analysis

Step 1: Extract Email Headers

open the .eml file using:

```
cat sample-1.eml less

or

exiftool sample-1.eml
```

```
MNOPR19MB6312.namprd19.prod.outlook.com with HTTPS; Tue, 19 Sep 2023 18:36:46
+0000
Received: from BNOPR03CA0023.namprd03.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:408:e6::28)
by SA3PR19MB7370.namprd19.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:806:317::17) with
Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,
cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.6792.27; Tue, 19 Sep
2023 18:36:45 +0000
Received: from BN8NAM11FT066.eop-nam11.prod.protection.outlook.com
(2603:10b6:408:e6:28) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,
cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.6792.28 via Frontend
Transport; Tue, 19 Sep 2023 18:36:45 +0000
Authentication-Results: spf=temperror (sender IP is 137.184.34.4)
smtp.mailfrom=ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sf03-06; dkim=none (message not
signed) header.d=none; dmarc=temperror action=none
header.from=atendimento.com.br; compauth=fail reason=001
Received-SPF: TempError (protection.outlook.com: error in processing during
lookup of ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sf03-06: DNS Timeout)
Received: from ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sf03-06: DNS Timeout)
SRCecived: from ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sf03-06: DNS Timeout)
SRCANCTSDB0844A78406060F9EFCDAA2C894988E687CF8C56555A04B52D30;SizeAsReceived:544;Count:9
Received: by ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-35gb-intel-sf03-06 (Postfix, from userid 0)
id 390EA3F725; Tue, 19 Sep 2023 18:35:49 +0000 (UTC)
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
```

```
ExifTool Version Number File Name
                                                 : sample-1.eml
Directory
File Size
                                                : 16 kB
File Modification Date/Time
                                                : 2025:03:18 03:33:08+05:45
File Modification Date/lime
File Access Date/Time
File Inode Change Date/Time
File Permissions
File Type
File Type Extension
MIME Type
MIME Encoding
Pute Order Mark
                                                 : 2025:03:18 03:34:14+05:45
                                                 : 2025:03:18 03:33:08+05:45
                                                 : -rw-rw-r--
                                                 : TXT
                                                 : txt
                                                 : text/plain
                                                 : utf-8
Byte Order Mark
Newlines
                                                 : Windows CRLF
Line Count
                                                   228
Word Count
```

Key headers to inspect:

- · From: Check sender email legitimacy.
- Reply-To: Verify if it redirects to a suspicious domain.
- Received: Identify the actual sending server.

- Return-Path: Compare with the From field for spoofing.
- SPF/DKIM/DMARC: Analyze authentication mechanisms.

Step 2: Validate SPF, DKIM, and DMARC

Extract the sending domain (example.com) and check its DNS records:

dig TXT https://atendimento.com.br

```
L$ dig https://atendimento.com.br

; <<>> DiG 9.20.4-4-Debian <<>> https://atendimento.com.br
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NXDOMAIN, id: 6371
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 1, ADDITIONAL: 1
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; DESTION SECTION:
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;https://atendimento.com.br. IN A

;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
com.br. 1200 IN SOA a.dns.br. hostmaster.registro.br. 2025076532 1800 900 604800 900
;; Query time: 207 msec
;; SERVER: 203.153.41.28#53(203.153.41.28) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Tue Mar 18 04:10:21 +0545 2025
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 117
```

Use MXToolBox to verify SPF, DKIM, and DMARC settings:

- SPF Record Lookup: https://mxtoolbox.com/SuperTool.aspx?
 action=spf%3Aexample.com
- DKIM Checker: https://mxtoolbox.com/DKIMLookup.aspx
- DMARC Analyzer: https://mxtoolbox.com/DMARC.aspx

Content and Link Analysis

Step 1: Extract Links from the email

```
grep -oP '(http|https)://[^"\s]+' sample-1.eml
```

Analyze extracted URLs:

Check with VirusTotal: https://www.virustotal.com/gui/home/url

- Scan with <u>URLScan.io</u>: <u>https://urlscan.io/</u>
- Verify with PhishTank: https://www.phishtank.com/

Step 2: Fetch URL Headers (Without Clicking)

```
curl -I https://atendimento.com.br
```

Look for redirects, suspicious headers, or anomalies.

Attachment Analysis (If applicable)

Step 1: Extract and Identify File Type

file attachment.pdf

Step 2: Analyze for malicious content

```
strings attachment.pdf | less
```

clamscan --infected --recursive attachment.pdf

Conclusion

Based on the findings:

- If the email contains spoofed headers, fails SPF/DKIM/DMARC checks, and includes phishing links, it is likely a phishing attack.
- If the domain is newly registered and flagged by OSINT tools, it is highly suspicious.
- If attachments contain malware, they pose a serious threat.

Recommendations

Never click on links or download attachments from suspicious emails.

- Verify sender authenticity before taking action.
- Use email filtering solutions to block phishing attempts.
- Educate users on phishing awareness and detection techniques.
- Report phishing emails to security teams or anti-phishing organizations.

This report provides a structured approach for investigating phishing emails using Kali Linux tools and open-source platforms. By following this methodology, analysts can effectively detect, analyze, and mitigate phishing threats.