Examples of spam and phishing emails

*Never* click on a link in what you suspect may be a phishing email – not only should you not give away your personal details, you could also unknowingly download a virus. If you hover your mouse over a link, most browsers will show you a preview of the link so you can check it first.

**Please remember** that you will *never* be contacted by the University of Exeter, Microsoft, your bank, HMRC etc etc and asked to update your details by clicking on a link.

**Also remember** that if something looks too good to be true, it is nearly always false!

Check the sender’s email address. The examples below show the senders are not using genuine accounts:

**Example 1**

From: "Microsoft Team" <megon06@netscape.com>
Date: 7 October 2015 at 17:53:10 BST
To: <customerservice@outlook.com>
Subject: Avoid Suspension 2015!!!

Outlook

Dear Subscriber,

Your Microsoft account has been compromised. You must update it immediately or your account will be closed.

[Click here](mailto:customerservice@outlook.com) to update

Sincerely,

Microsoft Online Security Team

**Example 2**

Microsoft Account <mailing.verify@netscape.com>
Email Blocked (IMPORTANT)

To: hotmail.donotreply@outlook.cc

Dear User,

Courtesy Notice from the Admin Team,

You have reached the storage limit for your Mailbox on the database server.

You will be blocked from sending or receiving new messages if your email is not verified within 48 hours.

Please click BELOW to verify and access e-mail restore.

[CLICK HERE](mailto:mailto:mailing.verify@netscape.com?subject=Email Blocked (IMPORTANT))

Thanks

WINDOWS LIVE TEAM
Example 3

You may also get spam or phishing emails on your mobile if it is synchronised to your University email:

Example 4

Note that the sender’s email in the example below does certainly not look like a valid NatWest email:

From: Natwest Support <3@nattywestpoll.com>
Date: 19 November 2015 at 20:31:19 GMT
To: Undisclosed recipients:;
Subject: Important Notice

Important Notice

Please note that starting from October 30, 2015 we will be introducing new online banking authentication procedures in order to protect the information of our online banking users.

You are required to confirm your personal details with us as you will not be able access our online service until this has been done. As you’re already registered for online banking all you need to do is to confirm your online banking details.

Get Started

Once you’ve completed this process you’ll be able to have full access to our online banking service.

Best regards,
Natwest Online Banking Team
Example 5

Note that the sender's email and all of the links in the example below are suspicious and not valid Apple web addresses:

From: appleid-USER271718@telus.net
Subject: Payment Cancellation Form iTunes Store
To: 
Date: Wed, 21 Oct 2015 11:28:52 +0200

Order ID: CA387R1A9E
Receipt Date: 21/10/15
Order Total: GBP 18.31
Billed To: Store Credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICRSS Pro</td>
<td>ICRealtime LLC</td>
<td>In-App Purchase</td>
<td>GBP 18.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report a Problem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GBP 18.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you initiated this download, you can disregard this email. It was only sent to alert you in case you did not initiate the download yourself. If you did not initiate this download, we recommend that you go to iTunes Payment Cancellation Form to change your password, then See Apple ID: Tips for protecting the security of your account for further assistance.

How to resume Payment Cancellation Form iTunes Store downloads

http://support.apple.com/kb/UK3873V09Y/Cancel

iTunes

You can find the iTunes Store Terms of Sale and Sales Policies by launching your iTunes application and clicking on Terms of Sale or Sales Policies
Example 6

Note that the sender’s email in the example below is suspicious and not valid Amazon web addresses. See the grammar mistake in the subject. Also all the links point to an address beginning with http://bit.ly/..., so certainly not valid Amazon addresses:

From: "Thank you" <email@marketing.pmu.fr>
Date: 16 April 2016 at 09:58:20 BST
Subject: Congrats Andy Spedding! You’ve received a Amazon reward
Reply-To: n1j0fx1x@appleas.boxofficerecords.net

Special: Take a £50 Amazon Gift Card!

£50 Gift Card for Amazon
Complete Our Quick Survey to See if you Qualify

£50 Gift Card for Amazon

Gift card is one of multiple rewards.

START HERE

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