

Coronavirus and Phishing Scams

Hackers will literally do anything to get you to click on a malicious link, or open an attachment infected with malware.

Their latest angle? The coronavirus health scare.

When major events happen around the world, such as this coronavirus outbreak, malicious nation state hackers will leverage these types of events to sew distrust amongst the public in the hopes of creating instability. You see these kinds of spikes all the time... around national elections, major sporting events, or practically any other major disasters that make national or international news. Once they take off, you'll see massive misinformation campaigns on the web, email and social media, and using this new angle to entice people to click on phishing links within emails in order to continue spreading malware and ransomware.

As of late, the [Federal Trade Commission](#), among others, are cautioning people to be wary of incoming malicious emails and scams surrounding the coronavirus. As with anything, please be extremely skeptical when it comes to clicking on any links within emails, and knowing who the email actually came from.

Unfortunately with this particular event, people are also currently being scammed into buying fake cures or preventative measures against the coronavirus, so please make sure that you validate the source, and exercise skepticism if it's not coming from the [CDC](#) or the [WHO](#).

The [FBI has released a series of helpful videos](#) dubbed "**Protected Voices**", in the hopes of protecting our citizens against foreign influence operations and cybersecurity threats. These are short, easy-to-understand, less-than-5-minute videos, that help shed some light on topics such as "Business Email Compromise", or "Ransomware", etc. They are very informative, and would highly recommend watching some if they are of interest to you.

Unfortunately, sample emails as the one below are becoming more common. Please exercise caution both here at the office and at home.

Coronavirus (2019 -nCoV) Safety Measures



[Redacted Name] @who-pc.com>

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:08 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Go through the attached document on safety measures regarding the spreading of corona virus.

This little measure can save you.

WHO is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this new virus and to provide advice on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak.

Symptoms to look out for; Common symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties.

Regards

[Redacted Signature]

General Internist

Intensive Care Physician

WHO Plague Prevention & Control

