

Be Aware Spammers Exploit Swine Flu

Please be aware that the DOI Computer Incident Response Center (DOI CIRC) reported emails with malicious attachments being received by users with filenames and subject lines related to the recent reports of the Swine Flu outbreak. This is due to the broad media coverage and lack of public knowledge about Swine Flu, which gives spammers a higher than normal probability that computer users will open “Swine Flu” related spam messages. Spammers are using the Swine Flu as a lure to get users to go to fake pharmaceutical and medical information websites. Additionally, the US-Computer Emergency Response Team (US CERT) has advised that this could be part of a spear phishing email campaign involving Adobe Reader (.pdf) attachments. DOI CIRC reminds users that phishing and spamming campaigns often coincide with highly publicized events and breaking news. **USERS SHOULD REMAIN CAUTIOUS IN OPENING UNSOLICITED EMAIL.**

Due to these potential phishing attacks and email scams, DOI CIRC encourages users to visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website for trusted information regarding the Swine Flu.

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm

In response to the spear phishing email campaign, the DOI CIRC team has put in place signatures on network perimeter security devices to monitor for these types of threats. All identified threats will be blocked immediately to eliminate any possibility of harm to the Department of the Interior network and its users. However, there may still be some of the malicious email that slip through or you may receive such fraudulent email from well meaning friends, family, or co-workers. So be aware and follow the below guidelines to help mitigate the security risk:

- Don't trust unsolicited email.
- Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open unsolicited email messages.
- Use caution when visiting untrusted websites.
- Use caution when downloading and installing applications.
- Maintain up-to-date antivirus software

Refer to the following link for a document on how to help avoid email scams:

http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/emailscams_0905.pdf