

From: [Weber, Lon](#)
To: ["cnre_faculty_staff-g@vt.edu"](mailto:cnre_faculty_staff-g@vt.edu)
Cc: ["cnre_grad_students-g@vt.edu"](mailto:cnre_grad_students-g@vt.edu)
Subject: Phishing Alert: Yet another spear-phishing attack.
Date: Monday, June 6, 2016 7:29:12 AM

Hello CNRE,

See the message below about a new phishing attack currently going on. Unfortunately it's pretty darn ingenious and I can see where people would fall for it...

Lon

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-----Original Message-----

From: Valdis Kletnieks [<mailto:Valdis.Kletnieks@vt.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 7:45 PM
To: techsupport-g@vt.edu
Subject: Yet another spear-phishing attack.

Warn your users - being used in the wild against GMail, Hotmail, and Yahoo users. Only partially mitigated by the fact the attacker needs to know both the e-mail address and the phone number, as many users have their primary number listed someplace online.

"The attackers simply leverage the email provider's password recovery feature, which allows users who have forgotten their passwords to verify their identities by having verification codes sent to their mobile phones.

By clicking on the <forgot password> link and requesting the verification code, the attacker prompts the email provider to send an SMS message with the code to the victim's mobile phone.

To get the code, the attacker then sends the victim a separate SMS message saying something like, <Google has detected unusual activity on your account.

Please respond with the code sent to your mobile device to stop unauthorized activity.>

The victim replies with the code, and the attacker gains access to the victim's email account."

<http://www.esecurityplanet.com/network-security/new-spear-phishing-attack-bypasses-two-factor-authentication.html>