










Watch out for these Social Engineering email Alarm Bells

FROM

-  I don't **communicate regularly** (or at all) with the sender of the email.
-  Not somebody in my organisation and **wouldn't be relevant** to me anyway.
-  The email is from someone inside the organisation but the email seems **unusually rewritten**.
-  I **don't recognise the domain**, or it looks just a bit "wrong" (e.g. Amazon-help.com).
-  I **don't know the person** who sent the email, nor does anybody else I work with.
-  I've **never done business** with the sender, or ever spoken to them.
-  Although I do know this person, I have not spoken to them for a long time and it **seems odd** for them to contact me.

TO

-  I **don't know anyone else** on the list of people CC'd, and some of them are not even in my organisation.
-  My name is **not mentioned** in the To or CC, or there are **multiple variations of my name** CC'd. Eg. james@.. jim@.., jamie@..

From: YourCEO@yourorganisation.com
To: You@yourorganisation.com
Date: Sunday October 13, 03:27 am
Subject: Wire transfer ASAP

Hi,

I cannot get to my computer right now, and my wallet has been stolen!

Can you use the company account to wire me £500?
I spoke with the bank and they gave me a specific link you can use which will be much faster than a regular wire transfer.

<https://www.securebank.com>

Please get it done as soon as possible so I can get a ticket back before the next meeting.

Thanks very much,






CEO






DATE

-  I received this **out of regular hours!**




CONTENT

-  The sender is **strongly encouraging me to click the link**, and wouldn't usually do so.
-  There are **spelling/grammar errors**, or it seems poorly worded in some way.
-  The attachment or link I am being asked to open/click **doesn't seem related** to the theme of the email.
-  I **just feel uncomfortable** about clicking the link, something seems wrong...
-  The sender is saying they have compromising images/videos of me which **I know to be untrue** and they will show others if I don't act.




SUBJECT

-  The subject line **seems not to match the contents** of the message.
-  The **subject line is inflammatory**, threatening or asks me to act fast for something I know nothing about.
-  It seems to be a **reply to an email I don't remember**, or have no proof of sending.

ATTACHMENTS

-  The email has an attachment which **doesn't correlate** with the contents/subject of the message.
-  The attachment is **not of a format I would expect** to receive from the sender.
-  The sender **never usually sends attachments**.

HYPERLINK

-  The URL in the link does NOT go to the website I think it should. **This is the biggest alarm bell, DELETE IMMEDIATELY.**
-  The email just contains a link and **no other content**.
-  The URL/link appears to be **misspelt**, for example, a 1 instead of an l.

