CID
ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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Cybercrime Prevention Flyer

SF-86 Email Scam & General Email Safety

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) recently became aware of a sophisticated phishing email targeting federal government employees. The email directs recipients to view a security-related presentation and complete an SF-86 addendum. This email is not coming from DCSA and is malicious in nature. If you receive this email, notify your security office, and delete it immediately. Do not forward the message.

This latest threat highlights the importance of strong email security practices. As we find ourselves amid Internet Safety Month, it's the perfect time to refocus on a cornerstone of our digital lives, email safety.

Email, often the first point of contact in our online interactions, can unfortunately become a gateway for cyber threats if not properly secured. From personal communications to professional exchanges, it's crucial that we safeguard this digital mailbox from potential invaders.

Cybersecurity is not just a concept for tech experts to worry about, it's a vital aspect of our everyday online lives. When it comes to email, complacency can turn this essential tool into a critical vulnerability. From phishing scams to data breaches, emails safety risks are plentiful, but with a bit of knowledge and precaution, scams and breaches are largely preventable. As we navigate through Internet Safety Month, refresh yourself on practical ways to strengthen the security of your email communications.

TIPS FOR EMAIL SAFETY

- **Create Strong Passwords.** Use a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Make sure it's not easily guessable, like "password123."
- **Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA.)** This adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of verification beyond just your password.
- **Beware of Phishing Scams.** Never click on links or download attachments from unknown senders. They could lead to malicious websites or contain malware.
- **Never Share Sensitive Information.** Banks and other institutions will never ask for your personal details via email. If you receive such an email, it's likely a scam.
- **Keep Your Device's Operating System and Installed Software Updated.** Regular updates often contain security patches that protect you from new threats.
- **Use a Secure Connection.** When accessing your email, always use a secure connection (HTTPS) to prevent interception of your information.
- **Don't Use Public Wi-Fi for Sensitive Activities.** Public networks are less secure. If you must use them, consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN.)
- **Use a Spam Filter.** Enable a spam filter to help sort out potentially harmful emails.
- **Regularly Monitor Your Email Settings.** Check your settings regularly to ensure no changes have been made without your knowledge.
- **Avoid Using Your Email for Multiple Services.** Using your email for multiple services increases the risk if one service is compromised.

- **Regularly Back Up Your Emails.** Regular backups ensure that you don't lose important emails and can recover quickly in case of an attack.
- **Watch for Email Impersonation.** Be wary of emails from familiar names but unfamiliar addresses.

Email safety is a continuous, integral aspect of our personal and professional digital lives. Each interaction with your inbox is an opportunity to reinforce your defenses against cyber threats. During and after Internet Safety Month, make a commitment to maintain and enhance your email security practices. Staying cyber aware isn't an option, it's a professional necessity in our interconnected world.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Be Cautious When Connected

How to Use Email Securely

Multifactor authentication (MFA)

Phishing Scams and Email Spoofing

SF-86 Phishing Attempt

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To receive Cyber Directorate Cybercrime Prevention Flyers, send an email to: **CYDIntel@army.mil**

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CLICK TO SUBMIT A TIP

CID LOOKOUT
ON POINT FOR THE ARMY

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