GUIDED NOTES

How Phishing Tricks People

Guided Notes

Fill in the blanks as we go. Every answer is in the word bank.

Word bank social engineering · phishing · smishing · vishing · quishing · spear phishing · pretexting · baiting · persuasion tactic · generic greeting

What is social engineering?

Many attacks start with a person, not a computer.

Tricking a person into giving up information, access or money, or into doing something that helps the attacker, is _____.

It's often the first step in breaking into an account or a computer.

A fake message that pretends to come from someone you trust, so you'll click a link, open a file, sign in, pay or share information, is _____.

Where can phishing come from?

Phishing can come by email, text, direct message, phone call or QR code.

Phishing by text message is _____.

Phishing by phone call or voice message is _____. If a message gives you a number to call, calling it can reach the scammer.

Phishing with a QR code is _____. Treat a QR code like a link you can't read yet.

A fake message made for one person or a small group, often using real details about them, is _____.

It may use your real name, school, teacher or team, so those details don't prove it's real. A message from a friend's account can be fake too, because accounts get hacked.

What other tricks do scammers use?

Some tricks use a story or a prize instead of a scary message.

Making up a story or pretending to have a role, like a new student or a repair worker, to get someone to share information is _____.

Offering something, like a free download, a prize or a found USB drive, so someone opens or plugs in something harmful is _____.

It can work on your wish to help, like finding a drive's owner. Don't plug in a drive you found. Give it to an adult or the office.

How do phishing messages get you to act?

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think.

A way a message gets you to act before you think is a _____.

Authority and trust tactics pretend to be someone you'd listen to, like a teacher, a bank or a friend.

Urgency, fear and scarcity tactics rush you or threaten you with a loss.

Curiosity and reward tactics tease something to see or offer something free.

Many scams also tell you to keep it secret or not to call anyone. That's a warning sign too.

Can you tell by how a message is written?

How a message is written is a clue, but it can't prove anything.

A greeting like Dear Customer or Dear Student that could go to anyone is a _____, and it's a warning sign.

AI can fix the spelling and grammar mistakes people used to look for, so good writing proves nothing. Bad writing is still a warning sign.

A real company will give you time to check. No rush doesn't mean it's safe, so check any message that asks for a password, a code, money or a download.

REMEMBER

Phishing gets you to act before you think, so slow down when a message asks for something.