

BASIC DIGITAL SAFETY

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- Always use secure connections HTTPS websites to ensure data encryption.
- Connect to protected and trusted Wi-Fi networks, particularly when handling sensible information.
- Avoid suspicious links. Be cautious of connecting on links in emails or/ and messages from unidentified sources.
- Don't Sharing Personal Information: Control the number of individual information shared online.

Identifying Phishing Emails

- Suspicious Sender: Verify the email address for minor misspellings or unusual domains.
- Generic Greetings: Beware of emails that use general greetings approaching "Dear User."
- Links and Attachments: Prevent clicking on links or downloading attachments from unspecified resources.
- Poor Grammar: View for spelling and grammatical mistakes, which are common in phishing electronic mail.

Actions to Take if Targeted

- **Do Not Respond:** Avoid replying to the email or providing any personal information.
- **Verify the Source:** Contact the organisation directly using official contact information to verify the email's legitimacy.
- **Report the Email:** Report phishing emails to your email provider or relevant authorities.
- **Delete the Email:** Permanently delete the email from your inbox and trash folder.
- **Update Security Measures:** Ensure your security software is up-to-date and consider changing passwords if necessary.

Common Digital Threats

- **Malware:** Malicious software intended to damage or gain access to any programmable device, service or network. (Examples are worms, Trojan horses and viruses.)
- **Ransomware:** Malware that keeps users from accessing / not being able to access their system or data, until they pay a ransom (Ransomware).
- **Identity Theft:** The intentional use of another person identity, generally as a way to obtain financial benefit or to get credit and other benefits or to get credit and other benefits in another person name.

References

1. Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., and Ólafsson, K. (2011). Digital literacy and safety skills. London: EU Kids Online, London School of Economics and Political Science. Available at: [https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33733/1/Digital%20literacy%20and%20safety%20skills%20\(lsero\).pdf](https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/33733/1/Digital%20literacy%20and%20safety%20skills%20(lsero).pdf) (Accessed: 21 November 2024).