

BASIC DIGITAL SAFETY

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- Always use secure connections HTTPS websites to ensure data encryption.
- Connect to secure and trusted Wi-Fi networks, especially when handling sensitive information.
- Avoid suspicious links. Be wary of clicking on links in emails or messages from unknown sources.
- Don't Sharing Personal Information: Limit the amount of personal information shared online.

Identifying Phishing Emails

- **Suspicious Sender:** Check the email address for slight misspellings or unusual domains.
- **Generic Greetings:** Be cautious of emails that use generic greetings like "Dear User".
- **Links and Attachments:** Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.
- **Poor Grammar:** Look for spelling and grammatical errors, which are common in phishing emails.

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 designed to harm or exploit any programmable device, service, or network. Examples include viruses, worms, and Trojan horses.
- **Ransomware:** A type of malware that locks users out of their systems or encrypts their data, demanding a ransom for access to be restored.
- **Identity Theft:** The deliberate use of someone else's identity, usually as a method to gain a financial advantage or obtain credit and other benefits in the other person's 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).