

Warning, Scammers At Work!

By *Alexander Baron* - Jul 22, 2015



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SHARES

The two screengrabs below arrived in my inbox the other day; one is ostensibly from Amazon (notice that there are also some grammatical errors in the e-mail itself – for instance *accont* should read *account*); the other is from my ISP. Although they both look authentic, most people would not be taken in by them. Any e-mail that invites you to click on a link within is to be regarded with suspicion, but the Amazon e-mail is an obvious fraud because although I have an Amazon account, it is not linked to my main e-mail. This is a good way to detect scams, if you have an Amazon or similar account which has a screen name different from your registered e-mail, what you can do is register using a secondary e-mail account, one you do not use for correspondence but solely for this or these types of account.

• **Amazon Online Shopping**

To Shopping

Dear Customer,
We noticed that a different computer has tried to access your Amazon account but failed with wrong identity challenge during the process.
We need you to verify your account to us to avoid account suspension.
[Click here](#) to verify your account
Customer Service
Amazon Online Shopping

Reply, Reply all or Forward | More

Phishers and other scammers often harvest e-mail addresses, so if they harvest yours and you receive an authentic looking e-mail from Amazon, Santander or whoever at your regular address, you will be 100% certain it is not genuine.

• Your latest BT bill is overdue

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your latest BT bill is ready for you to see online.

The card details we have on file for your BT services needs to be re-confirmed to bill you for your most recent service fees.

You must update your billing information immediately in order to avoid any interruption to your services.

Due to this, to ensure that your service is not interrupted, we request you to confirm and update your billing information today.

To do this we have attached a form to this email. Please download the form and follow the instructions on your screen.

The e-mail ostensibly from BT is addressed to Dear Sir/Madam, something this ISP and most if not all ISPs never do. A genuine e-mail should be addressed to you personally, but don't take it for granted that it is genuine just because it appears so.

On-line scams are so incredibly common that you need always to keep your wits about you; for the most part these crooks are never brought to book, but when they are, they can pay a heavy price, though not heavy enough in the case of Emika Ogidi who was given **a seven and a half year sentence** at Guildford Crown Court earlier this month. His co-defendants received considerably less, and it is clearly time for the authorities to clamp down on this sort of thing.

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