

# Focus On...

## AWARENESS

### ALERT: Netflix Phishing Scam

If you've checked your email any time recently, you've probably seen a plethora of junk messages relating to COVID-19, your bank and bills in need of attention. If you haven't already guessed, most of these are spam and scams, but why are so many of these obvious traps slipping through our filters so easily?

The answer is complicated, but it has to do with the fact that more people are online than ever these days. Between coronavirus lockdowns and the shuttering of mass gatherings and entertainment, the online population is far larger and riper for exploitation by hackers. Tap or click here to see why there are so many phishing scams nowadays.

To make matters worse, a new scam is circulating that poses a unique danger to your bank accounts. This phishing email looks like a real message from Netflix describing a billing error with your account. But if you make the mistake of filling out the form it links you to, your entire bank account can be drained.

Netflix is urging subscribers to avoid opening a phishing email that claims to come directly from the company. If it appears in your inbox, interacting with the message can give the hackers behind it access to your bank account — and potentially other personal data as well.

Here's how it works:

The email arrives with an urgent alert that there has been an error processing your monthly Netflix payment. In the

text, you're prompted to click a link to update your payment and account information.

Clicking the link takes you to what appears to be Netflix's website, but filling in your payment details and account information results in your card information, email and password being harvested by scammers.

But that's not the only danger surrounding this scam. Many incarnations of the email include what appears to be a text file as an attachment. Downloading this attachment can potentially result in ransomware or other malware being installed on your computer on top of the phishing issue. It's a double-whammy of scam in one message!

The threat of ransomware is everywhere these days. That's why it's important to back up all of your essential files with a company you can trust.

But as bad as this scam is, it's actually quite easy to detect and avoid — even if you've accidentally ventured deeply into the scam site.

As with nearly every phishing email claiming to come from an official source, the easiest telltale sign to look for is the sender field of the email itself.

If you get a suspicious email or text, Netflix has a help page. Click [here](#) for instructions.

You can also manually log into your account on a separate browser, not clicking on the links in the emails, and checking the status there.

[Boston 25 News, Natalie Dreier, Cox Media Group National Content Desk](#)  
[Updated: September 4, 2020 - 12:21 PM](#)

[Komando.com, James Gelinas, July 29, 2020](#)

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