DON'T FALL FOR THE WRONG CAN OF SPAM

Spamming ~ Phishing ~ Hacked ~ Spoofed

Communications and Public Relations is important in our club world. However, we need to worry about what the “bad guys” are searching for and sending us in order to get into our email and website.

Spamming is an unsolicited email. It is often an advertisement, a subscription offer, or a newsletter. They are annoying, but they are typically harmless. Just do not open them.

Phishing is an attempt to gather your personal information, passwords, etc. They are vague or they will warn you that something good or bad will happen to you if you do not respond. They may pretend to be from a commonly used company or service - UPS, FedEx, Amazon, Chase Bank. They will often times have some form of bad grammar as a clue to them not being legitimate. It may also have links that redirect you to fake data gathering web pages. They also commonly use classified ads, such as Craig’s List to start an interaction with you.

Hacked is when an unauthorized user(s) attempts to access your account. Some signs may be that the contacts say they are receiving emails from you, or you start receiving mail delivery failures. There can be messages in your “Sent folder” that you did not send and there can also be activity pages/logs show logins from places and times you did not do.

Spoofed is when someone sends an email with your name in the “From” field using an account that is not associated with you. Some signs that this is happening may be that your name is John Doe and your email address is johndoe@gmail.com, but people are receiving emails that show “John Doe” as the from name, but the email address shown isn’t johndoe@gmail.com.

When in doubt, do not open anything. A simple click can cost you a lot and make you frustrated.

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