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# Cybersecurity Awareness: Social Engineering

UMS Information Security Office

UMS Information Technology Services

Maine's Public Universities
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## Scam emails on the rise UMS wide

1 message

**UMS Information Security** <infosecurity@maine.edu> Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 3:03 PM
Reply-To: infosecurity@maine.edu
To:

Maine's Public Universities
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

**November 2, 2023**
**UMS Information Security Office**

# Cybersecurity Awareness

## Social Engineering

**Social Engineering** is the name for a group of fraudulent activities that manipulate people into divulging personal information to dubious individuals or groups. The information is then used for criminal acts, causing a variety of difficulties for the victims. Although phishing is the most widely publicized, there are a number of ways these bad actors can psychologically manipulate us.

## Job Scams

"Internship Opportunity." We have all seen a variant of this subject line in an email. It is designed to grab your attention, and it works. Scam job offer emails are becoming more and more frequent within the University of Maine System (UMS). This article will identify things to look for and ways to avoid being taken in by the scammer.

Often, the email looks legitimate, the sender's email address appears to be from a maine.edu account, or the signature at the end of the email is for a member of the University community. The body of the email is mostly well written; the content is usually minimal but mentions the pay, hours, and a contact phone number, asking you to reach out by texting that phone. The majority, if not all, of these types of emails are scams; their goal is to get you to deposit a fraudulent check and immediately purchase equipment from their seller with an extremely short turnaround. The check is not going to clear, and they want the money for the purchase before you realize this.

There are several ways to avoid falling victim to this type of scam; first and foremost, do NOT correspond with the scammers until you verify the legitimacy of the offer. Here are a few steps that can be taken to verify the legitimacy:

For offers that appear to be for internships within the UMS, contact the student employment or career office at your campus if you are interested in the job. (Do not use these offices to report scams.)

- For offers that appear to be for internships within the UMS, contact the student employment or career office at your campus if you are interested in the job. If it turns out to be a scam, forward the email to **phish@maine.edu**.

- Check the IT Knowledge Base **Phishing Overview article** and review the **Common Types of Phishing** article, which is updated with examples of the most recently reported phishing and scam attempts.

- For any suspicious emails, forward them to **phish@maine.edu** for verification.

## Pop-up Support Scam

Another example of a social engineering scam is trying to get access to your computer remotely. You are at your computer working, and suddenly, you get a pop-up alert asking to contact Microsoft or another software vendor with a phone number provided. Once you contact that number, they will usually ask that you install some form of remote access software, which will then give them complete access to your computer. When a malicious actor has access to your computer, university data, credentials, or systems may be at risk in addition to your own.

If a pop-up appears on a University computer, immediately contact the UMS:IT helpdesk at 1-800-696-4357, and they can assist you. Never install software from a third party at their request without verifying the legitimacy of the software and the vendor with the IT Helpdesk.

Thank you,

**UMS Information Security Office**
207-581-9105
Infosecurity@maine.edu,

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