

Subject: Computer Security Warning: U.S. Government Targeted Spear Phishing Messages

Date: Fri, 19 Jun 2009 15:02:13 -0400

From: Joseph Klimavicz <[Announcement@noaa.gov](mailto:Announcement@noaa.gov)>

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Hands

FROM: Joseph F. Klimavicz  
Chief Information Officer  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SUBJECT: "U.S. Government Targeted Spear Phishing Messages"

Date: June 19, 2009

This alert has been issued to inform all NOAA personnel of an ongoing threat involving malicious software.

Fictitious messages, with sender addresses approximating those of high ranking NOAA officials, have been observed. The messages are crafted to look legitimate including valid signature blocks, titles, etc. and often concern subject matter relevant to the target or origin of the message(s). The messages that have been observed contain a link to a non-NOAA website and reference files that contain malicious software.

These spear phishing attacks often leverage information that is publicly accessible. Consider the implications of publishing information, such as attendee lists, meeting agendas, biographies, etc., that may be used in such a manner.

What you can do:

1. Increase vigilance and scrutinize unsolicited messages, especially those received from non-NOAA mail accounts, e.g., @[gmail.com](mailto:gmail.com).
2. Pay attention to IT security awareness training, and broadcast e-mails about current threats.
3. Report IT Security incidents, or concerns, to the NOAA Computer Incident Response Team ((301) 713-9111 or via NOAA Form 47-43 on the IT Security Office website)

The NOAA Computer Incident Response Team (N-CIRT) is issuing a Computer Security Warning (CS Warning) to system administrators to facilitate appropriate responses to this threat. Malicious software poses a significant risk to NOAA. All suspected security incidents, including

spear phishing, must be reported to the N-CIRT via NOAA Form 47-43 on the IT Security Office website.

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