

# How to Spot SCAMS

- IT'S A -  
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THING®**



## EMAIL PHISHING SCAMS

Do you know how to spot them? This example and the tips below will help you recognize a suspicious email.

### Email

Inbox (9)  
Sent  
Drafts  
Spam  
Trash

### **ACTION required or your account will be DELETED** 1

Joe Shabadoo <jshabadoo@gmail.com> 2 Jan 26 at 3:29 AM 3

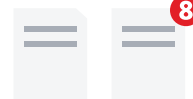
Valued Customer, 4

Someone has gained unauthorized access to your account. Reset your Pass Word imediately. 5

RESET PASSWORD 6

Customer Support: <http://youraccount.com/dcijflksd%al>  
Questions? Contact: 1-800-555-3942 7

View Attachment: [Status\\_Report.doc.file](#) 8



## KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE RED FLAGS

- 1 The subject line** Scammers tend to use an urgent or aggressive tone.
- 2 The sender** In the example above, is the sender using a Gmail address? If you said yes, take a closer look! It's actually g-r-n-a-i-l.com. Sneaky scammers will use email handles that are one letter off from what they should be (e.g., "netftix" instead of "netflix") so that, at a glance, everything appears official.
- 3 The time stamp** When was the email sent? This is an especially telling clue when a scammer is impersonating someone you know or correspond with regularly.
- 4 The greeting** Does it address you by name, by email address or by a generic title? A generic or awkwardly phrased greeting could be the sign of a scam.
- 5 The spelling** Errors in spelling and grammar are always a red flag.
- 6 Buttons and links** These are easy for scammers to format and disguise. Get in the habit of accessing your accounts by typing the official URL in a new browser window. Avoid using the direct links in your email messages.
- 7 The contact info** Does it look sketchy? If you need to verify the legitimacy of the sender, never use the contact information contained within the email. Cross-reference it with a separate web search.
- 8 Attachments** Malicious files can be easily disguised as innocent Word documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Be deliberate about which attachments you choose to open or download.



### REPORTING EMAIL SCAMS

Email phishing attempts (even the unsuccessful ones) can be reported here:

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)  
[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)  
[www.FTC.gov/complaint](http://www.FTC.gov/complaint)

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