Social Engineering Red Flags





FROM:

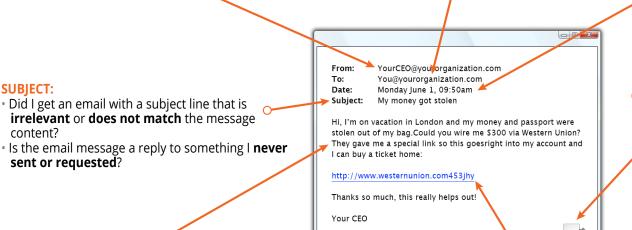
- I don't recognize the sender's email address as someone I ordinarily communicate with.
- This email is from someone outside my organization and it's not related to my job responsibilities.
- This email was sent from someone inside the organization or from a customer, vendor, or partner and is **very unusual or out of character**.
- Is the sender's email address from a suspicious domain? (like micorsoft-support.com)
- I don't know the sender personally and they were not vouched for by someone I trust.
- I don't have a business relationship nor any past communications with the sender.
- This is an unexpected or unusual email with an embedded hyperlink **or an attachment** from someone I hadn't communicated with recently.



- I was cc'd on an email sent to one or more people, but I don't personally know the other people it was sent to.
- I received an email that was also sent to an unusual mix of people. For instance, a seemingly random group of people at my organization whose last names start with the same letter, or a whole list of unrelated addresses.



• Did I receive an email that I normally would get during regular business hours, but it was sent at an unusual time like 3 a.m.?





ATTACHMENTS:

- The sender included an email attachment that I was not expecting or that makes no sense in relation to the email message. (This sender doesn't ordinarily send me these types of attachment(s).)
- I see an attachment with a possibly dangerous file type. The only file type that is always safe to click on is a .TXT file.



CONTENT:

SUBJECT:

content?

sent or requested?

- Is the sender asking me to click on a link or open an attachment to avoid a negative consequence, or to gain something of value?
- Is the email out of the ordinary, or does it have bad grammar or spelling errors?
- Is the sender asking me to click a link or open up an attachment that seems odd or illogical?
- Do I have an **uncomfortable gut feeling** about the sender's request to open an attachment or click a link?
- Is the email asking me to look at a compromising or embarrassing picture of myself or someone I know?



HYPERLINKS:

- I hover my mouse over a hyperlink that's displayed in the email message, but the link to address is for a different website. (This is a big red flag.)
- I received an email that only has long hyperlinks with no further information and the rest of the email is completely blank.
- I received an email with a **hyperlink that is a misspelling** of a known web site. For instance, www.bankofarnerica.com - the "m" is really two characters - "r" & "n".