



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recent Trend of Phishing and E-Mail Spam Scams reported within the Hispanic Community

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The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detective Division would like to alert the community on a recent increase in "Phishing and Spam" scams targeting the Hispanic community.

Phishing is similar to fishing in a lake, but instead of trying to capture fish, phishers attempt to acquire a victim's personal information, such as usernames, passwords, social security numbers and credit card details. They do this by disguising their e-mail as a trustworthy or well known entity, large corporation or banking system.

The most recent Phishing scam has been directly targeting the Hispanic community. The Phisher sends an e-mail to an innocent victim advising them that their bank has declared bankruptcy. The Phisher directs the recipient to a false web page to learn how to save their money. Once the victim accesses the web page they are not given information concerning bankruptcy proceedings but instead are told to upgrade their "Adobe Macromedia Flash Player".

Once the victim downloads the program, they instantly allow the phisher complete access to all of their personal information stored on their hard drive. The phisher exploits the victim by utilizing their personal information to obtain credit cards, establish checking accounts and make various purchases using the victim's identity and credit.

If you receive any suspicious or unfamiliar e-mails requesting you provide the identified entity with personal information we are advising you take several precautions.

First, do not load any unfamiliar programs onto your personal home computers.

Second, do not provide any personal information without first calling the entity listed to confirm if they sent the email.

Detectives remind residents to be diligent when using the internet and their e-mail accounts. The internet can be used safely but can also be used to exploit us if we do not take certain precautions.