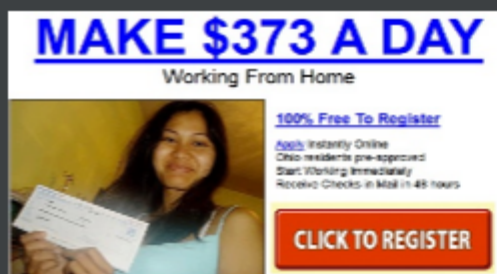


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–Begin Transmission–

Hoax

What is it?



Hoaxes are reports of false and unsubstantiated claims, in an attempt to trick or defraud users.

A hoax could be an attempt to solicit money, an attempt to install malware, or an attempt to consume bandwidth (by having users forward a hoax email).

Hoaxes in the form of emails do some or all of the following:

- Warn you that there is an undetectable, highly destructive new piece of malware
- Ask you to avoid reading emails with a particular subject line, claiming it contains malware
- Claim that the warning was issued by a major software company, Internet provider or government agency
- Claim that the malware can do something improbable
- Urge you to forward the warning
- Claim that liking a story or individual on Facebook can result in financial windfalls, charitable contributions and free prizes



How to avoid Hoaxes



- ✓ Have a policy on virus warnings.
- ✓ Don't forward chain letters.
- ✓ The best defense against hoaxes is to educate yourself and your users. It is also helpful to search online for information about suspected hoaxes.

–End Transmission–

Information Security: It's a Shared Responsibility

REFERENCES



<http://www.sophos.com/en-us/threat-center/threat-analyses/threatsaurus/a-to-z-of-threats/h/hoax.aspx>



<http://www.sophos.com/en-us/threat-center/threat-analyses/threatsaurus/safety-tips/how-to-avoid-hoaxes.aspx>

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