National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October 2011

Our Shared Responsibility

staysafeonline.org

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | IT SECURITY

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Security Tips for Social Networking

twitter facebook Google+ LinkedIn

Social networking sites are popular on the Internet. Online social networks have sprung up for business, hobbies, schools and religious groups. Used properly, they are a unique communications tool to keep in touch with friends and colleagues. But like any online tools, social networking sites can be gamed and abused by scammers and other unscrupulous people. It's important to protect yourself by following a few important steps.

- **Be careful what you put online.** When you put a photo, or video or written account online, it stays for a very long time and a lot of people can see it. Many employers routinely check social networking sites as part of the hiring process. Criminals use the sites to trawl for personal information they can use. Don't put anything up that you might regret. This includes compromising photos and videos, and especially any sensitive personal data.

- **Protect your privacy.** Most social networking services offer extensive privacy options. You can use these settings to prevent anyone you don't know from viewing your information. Think about the information you have online, and whom you want seeing it; set your privacy levels accordingly.

- **Disable options, then open them one by one.** Think about how you want to use social networking. If it's only to keep in touch with people and be able to contact them then maybe it's better to turn off the bells and whistles. It makes a lot of sense to disable an option until you have decided you do want and need it, rather than start with everything accessible.

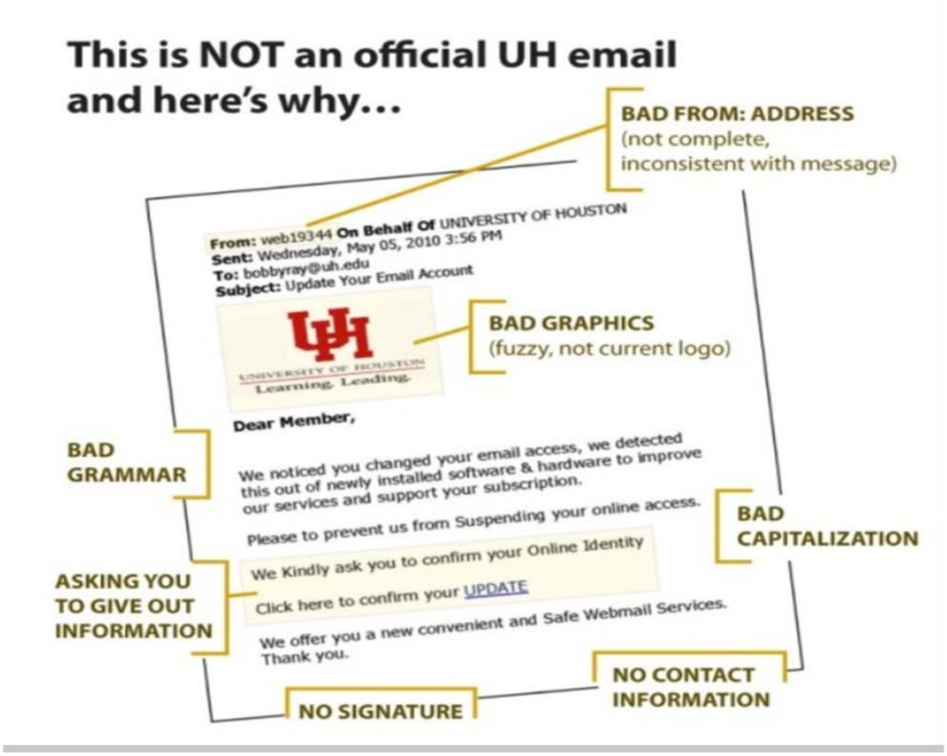
- **Think carefully about who you allow to become your "friend."** Once you have accepted someone as your friend they will be able to access any information about you (including photographs) that you have marked as viewable by your friends. You can remove friends at any time should you change your mind about someone.

- **Be careful about meeting your social networking "friends" in person.** It's not easy to tell who a person is from a photograph and a few lines of text. If you're going to meet in person, think about doing so in a public place, during the day.

- **Show "limited friends" a cut-down version of your profile.** You can choose to make people 'limited friends' who only have access to a cut-down version of your profile if you wish. This can be useful if you have associates who you do not wish to give full friend status to, or feel uncomfortable sharing personal information with.

Think Before You Click! | Once on the web, ALWAYS on the web | Stop. Think. Connect.

Don’t Get Hooked By Phishers!



This is NOT an official UH email and here’s why…

From: web19344 **On Behalf Of** UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 3:56 PM
To: bobbyray@uh.edu
Subject: Update Your Email Account

UH
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Dear Member,

We noticed you changed your email access, we detected this out of newly installed software & hardware to improve our services and support your subscription.

Please to prevent us from Suspending your online access.

We Kindly ask you to confirm your Online Identity

Click here to confirm your UPDATE

We offer you a new convenient and Safe Webmail Services.
Thank you.

BAD FROM: ADDRESS (not complete, inconsistent with message)

BAD GRAPHICS (fuzzy, not current logo)

BAD GRAMMAR

BAD CAPITALIZATION

ASKING YOU TO GIVE OUT INFORMATION

NO CONTACT INFORMATION

NO SIGNATURE

What Can I Do to Protect Myself?

- Do not reply to e-mail requests for personal account or financial information. Legitimate companies and organizations will not ask you to verify your personal information in this way.
- Do not open attachments or click on links in an email. Instead, manually enter the website address into your browser to access the website.
- If in doubt, check it out! Send the suspicious email to security@uh.edu.

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Protect your chat and emails
Protect your identity and personal information

Secure network access for your laptop, tablet, or smart phone

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