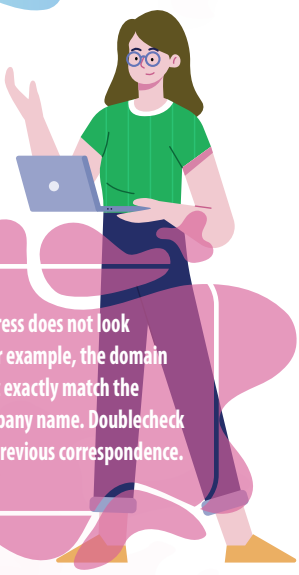
Business e-Mail compromise fraud

A business email compromise (BEC) fraud is an online scam where the scammer impersonates a business representative and tricks you into transferring money or sensitive information. We advise you to take note of the following tips so that you protect yourself:

The email was unexpected. For example, the invoice came from a supplier you have not dealt with in a while, or the payment amount differs from previous amounts.

The email asks for an urgent payment or threatens serious consequences if payment is not made.



The email was sent from someone in a position of authority, particularly someone who would not normally send payment requests.

The email address does not look quite right. For example, the domain name does not exactly match the supplier's company name. Doublecheck by looking at previous correspondence.

The supplier has provided new bank account details.

Teach your team to recognise and deal with phishing attacks as well as to report emails that request any sort of financial transaction. Promote refresher training frequently.

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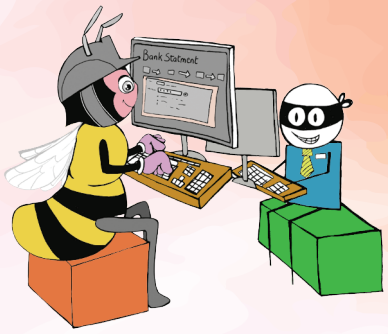

If possible apply impersonation detection protection. This instantly scans all aspects of an email: header, sender, attachments and key words, paying special attention to new domains and external addresses, and establishes controls to thwart look-alike domains.

Always verify. It always pays to confirm details with the parties involved, especially when it comes to messages that involve fund transfers.

Instead of clicking on Reply, use the Forward feature and type in or select from your contacts list the e-mail address of the person you are replying to. This is to ensure that you are not replying to a spoofed address.

Use two-factor authentication to verify any change made to account information or wire instructions.

Check the full email address on any message and be alert to hyperlinks that may contain misspellings of the actual domain name.

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