

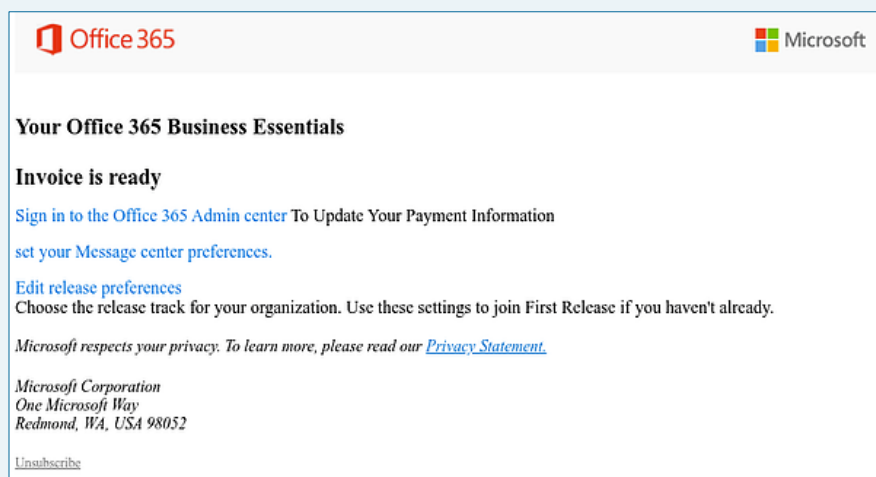
## Phishing: Don't Bite the Hook!

By Michael Hegedus

The Microsoft Security Response Center has discovered a series of largescale phishing campaigns and ransomware attacks that have recently spread across the web. The good news? The majority of the threats are not powered by malware, meaning users can reduce the risk or prevent a breach of security by following Microsoft's recommended security guidelines. But first...

### What is Phishing?

It's certainly no calm afternoon on the lake. Phishing is defined as any fraudulent attempt to obtain someone's credentials, like their email addresses and passwords. The most common type of phishing uses images from popular platforms such as PayPal to create false messages in an attempt to trick the recipient into thinking the message is legitimate, such as the email impersonating Office 365 below.



Others create false records to impersonate family members or coworkers to trick you. Regardless of whether the phishing takes place in an email, text message or phone call, the potential damage is all the same, the theft of your accounts.

### What Can I Do to Protect Myself?

Thankfully Microsoft has a set of guidelines that CCS Technologies agrees can prevent phishing attempts and ransomware infections. Contact CCS Technologies if you would like any assistance.

- Be suspicious of emails from unknown sources
- Look for common mistakes of phishing like translation, spelling or grammar errors
- Keep your version of Windows and your Antivirus solution up-to-date
- Regularly backup your files to an external drive
- Additionally backup your files to a Cloud-based platform
- Disable Remote Desktop when possible
- Use Two-Factor Authentication
- Create strong passwords that are not reused with another account
- Avoid browsing web sites known for hosting malware content (ads, popups, insecure links)

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### Contact Information

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### CCS Technologies Store Hours

#### Allendale Store

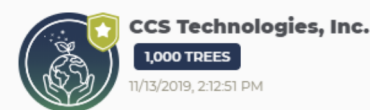
Mon-Fri 8 - 5:00

#### Grand Haven Store

Mon-Thu 8 - 5  
Fri 10 - 5 & Sat 10-3

Both Grand Haven and Allendale will be **closed** on the following dates:

Dec. 14th, Dec. 24th & Dec. 25th



**15,144,066**  
TREES PLANTED

EVERY DOLLAR PLANTS ONE TREE

Take a screenshot, share it on social, and tag 3 friends to join #TeamTrees

Team Trees has set a goal of planting 20 million trees by January 1st, 2020. With all kinds of help from personalities like Elon Musk, famous YouTubers, and IT companies like us, it looks like this goal is possible. At the time of this article, they have already reached over 16 million trees! #Teamtrees has the process down and you can join our efforts for as little as one dollar.