Information Security Update

November, 2020

There is a lot going on in the world lately and I thought it might be time for a brief update on the latest attempts to steal your money and identity.

Now that the election is over...

Well, the election actually won’t be over until December 14th when the Electoral College members cast their votes. Until then, it appears this election will go on in the form of law suits and recounts.

The ongoing election is just one of many things that scammers will use to try and trick you into giving them something. Our best defense is to remain skeptical.

With that in mind, I will touch upon a few of the top scams going on

**Second Economic Payment Scam.**
This has been coming in the form of text messaging but it will migrate to email soon.

**Covid-19 Vaccine Scam – Part 1.**
A notice that claims you will receive $$$ to participate in a vaccine trial.

**Covid-19 Vaccine Scam – Part 2.**
A notice that claims you need to pre-register to be eligible for a vaccine.

**IRS / Social Security / FBI Arrest Warrant Scams.**
Their are several variants on the old, “We have a warrant for your arrest” scam and the frequency of the calls is increasing.
**Second Economic Payment Scam.**


This is a blatant attempt to get your bank account information. Basically, the scammer claims to be from the government and you are about to receive a second stimulus check of $1,200. It goes on to say that you can wait several weeks to receive your payment or if you supply your bank account information, you can receive a direct deposit within 24 hours.

Let’s start by saying there is no second economic stimulus payment. There may be, at some point in the future, a second installment but our elected officials failed to come to an agreement and they never release those funds.

Also, the Federal Government is not going to send you a text asking for your bank account information.

It should be noted that during the first round of stimulus payments, the IRS website was the best source of information. I recommend you start there if you have any questions.

**Covid-19 Vaccine Scam – Part 1.**


With the recent news regarding covid-19 vaccines, we are seeing an uptick in scams about clinical trials or vaccine distribution. In the first one, the scammer claims you are eligible to participate in early trials and will receive payment for your participation. All you have to do is give them your personal information and bank account information.

No, there is no program that will pay you get vaccinated. Please delete any messages you receive claiming that you will get paid for anything.

**Covid-19 Vaccine Scam – Part 2.**


This is a scam that attempts to collect your personal information by claiming you need to pre-register to receive the vaccine once it is available.

I am not sure how the vaccine will be distributed. I’m not sure the government knows how the vaccine will be distributed. What I do know is that there is currently no vaccine registry.

Now, I want to be clear: I say currently because there is always the possibility that the government will create a registry in the future, As of today, I can assure you that any claims of a registry are a scam.
IRS / Social Security / FBI Arrest Warrant Scams.

We are seeing an increase in the number of fake phone calls claiming to be from law enforcement. The call is posited as a “courtesy call” notifying you that there is an arrest warrant in your name and if you want to avoid being arrested, all you have to do is pay a fine. The caller informs you that the best way to pay that fine is to go to the store, buy thousands of dollars in iTunes gift cards and send them the access codes from the back of the cards.

There is no warrant for your arrest and if there was, they would arrest you. They would not call you and ask for money.

As a good life rule, if someone asks you to go buy iTunes gift cards to pay a fine, don’t do it. The government does not accept iTunes gift cards.

In closing, I want to wish you all continued good health and happiness.

For more ITS resources and information, please visit support.baypath.edu

If you have any questions or need help with technology, please feel free to contact the Help Desk by email (techsupport@baypath.edu) or phone (413-565-1487).