

Welcome to the NIST Phish Cues Survey

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is conducting an anonymous survey to understand how visually observable characteristics of phishing emails impact how people interpret a phishing email. This is your opportunity to help us understand how people decide whether an email is a phish and what visually stands out in phishing emails. Your responses will help NIST to further its research goals on this important cybersecurity issue and its evaluation of phishing awareness training methods. By participating, your contribution will be of great value to both our research efforts at NIST and the cybersecurity awareness training of your organization.

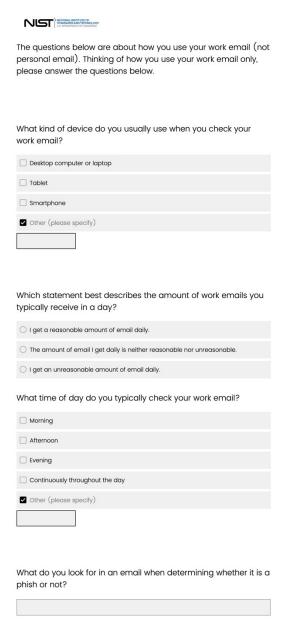
This survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. The survey responses are confidential and your information is strictly anonymous. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to skip any question or quit the survey at any time. If you quit the survey, any answers that have already been provided will be retained. Once the survey is completed and submitted, your answers cannot be withdrawn. The anonymous survey results may be shared publicly. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Shanée Dawkins at shanee.dawkins@nist.gov.

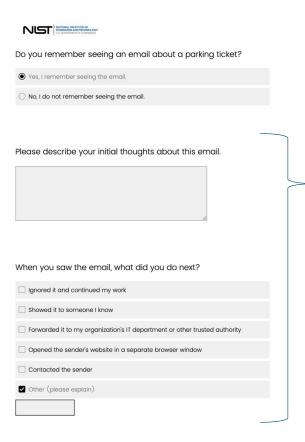
If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the NIST Research Protections Office and/or Institutional Review Board at 301-975-5445 or email rpoffice@nist.gov.

OMB Control #0693-0089 Expiration Date: 09/30/2024

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0089. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey/information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 15 minutes, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Institute of Standards and Technology at: 100 Bureau Drive, Attn: Shanée Dawkins.

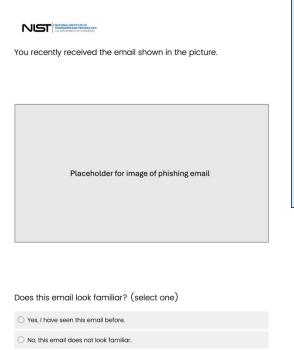
I understand that by clicking "Next", I am choosing to take part in this research study voluntarily.





The wording of this question ("parking ticket") is conditional. The subject of the email depends on the email template the

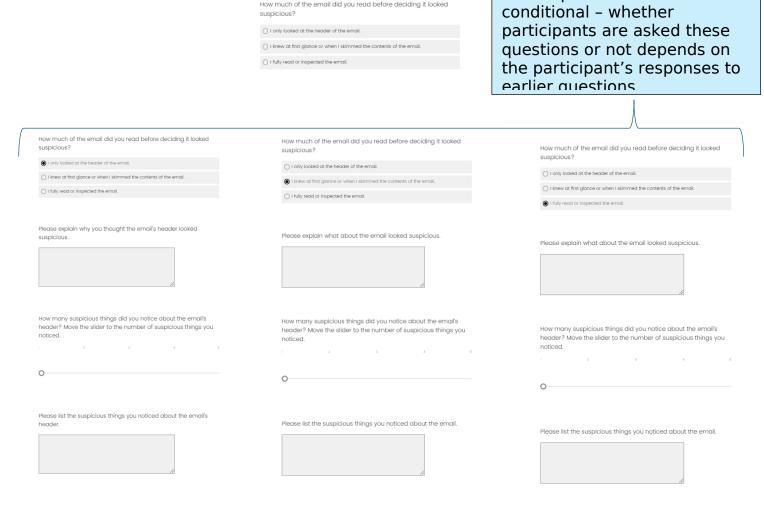
These questions are conditional – whether participants are asked or not depends on the participant's responses to earlier questions.



This page is conditional – whether participants are asked this question or not depends on the participant's responses to earlier questions.

Placeholder images throughout this file are dependent on the email template the participant

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suspicious?

You recently reported the email shown in the picture. Thinking back to when you first saw the email, please respond to the

Placeholder for image of phishing email

How much of the email did you read before deciding it looked

These questions are

						e will c	k to when			parts of the email. I, please answer the
							Placel	nolder for im	age of phis	hing email
How many of the fol	lowing	ı, if any	, did ya	ou notic	ce in th	e emo	nil?			How many of the f
	0	1	2	3	4	5	I'm not sure			
Links where the text did not match the URL	0	0	0	0	0	0	•			Imitation of well-known branding or logos
Links that appeared to be	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			Out-of-date branding or logos from well-known
from well-known websites Attachments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			brands Content or formatting that
Other suspicious things you					0					appeared to be unprofessional
noticed in the email (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			Unexpected security icons or text.
How many of the fo	llowing	g, if any	, did yo	ou noti	ce in th	ne emo	ail?			Other suspicious things you noticed in the email (please specify) How many of the fo
	0	1	2	3	4	5	i'm not sure			
Legal language like copyright information,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			Spelling errors
disclaimers, etc.										Grammar errors Inconsistencies within the
Details unrelated to the emails message	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			email's message, sender's information, and/or
Requests for sensitive or personal information	0	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	0			attachments Other suspicious things you
Pressure or urgency to do something quickly	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0	0			noticed in the email (please specify)
Threats of consequences for not doing something	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Other suspicious things you noticed in the email (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
How many of the fo	ollowin	ıg, if an	y, did y	ou no	tice in t	the em	nail?			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	sure			
Requests to help, contribute, or donate to others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Offers that appeared too good to be true	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0	\circ	0			
Suggestions that something special was just for you	0	0	0	0	0	0	\circ			
Offers granted only for a limited time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Other suspicious things you noticed in the email (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Page 5 OR Page 6 is asked to the participant, depending on their previous survey responses. All questions on pages 5 and 6 are conditional unless otherwise noted.

For pages 5 and 6, the grid questions below the placeholder image are conditional – whether they are asked or not depends on the email template the participant receives. Only

How many of the following, if any, did you notice in the email?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	I'm not sure
Imitation of well-known branding or logos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-date branding or logos from well-known brands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Content or formatting that appeared to be unprofessional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unexpected security icons or text.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other suspicious things you noticed in the email (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

How many of the following, if any, did you notice in the email?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	sure
Spelling errors	0	0	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
Grammar errors	\circ	0	\circ	0	0	0	\circ
Inconsistencies within the email's message, sender's information, and/or attachments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other suspicious things you noticed in the email (please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

How many of the fo	llowing, if any, d	o you notice in	he email?
	0	1	I'm not sure
Email's sender name does not match their email address	0	0	0
Email's sender address appears to be from a well-known website	0	0	0
s the email missing	expected bran	ding or logos?	
O Yes, I noticed. (please	e describe)		
No, I didn't notice.			
O No, this is not in the en	mail.		
im not sure.			
○ I'm not sure.			
low many of the	following, if ar	ny, do you not	ice in the email?
How many of the Email is missing an appropriate formal or			
How many of the Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not			
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information		0	I'm not sure
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact		0	I'm not sure
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information	o O O following, if ar	ny, do you not	I'm not sure

For pages 5 and 6, these questions are also conditional – whether they are asked or not depends on the email template the participant

You indicated that you noticed "Links where the text did not match the URL" in the email. Please list them below.
How easy or difficult was this email to recognize as a phishing email because of the "Links where the text did not match the URL" that you noticed in this email?
O It was not difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.
O It was moderately difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.
O It was very difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.

For pages 5 and 6, the wording of these questions is conditional. For each item in the first grid question, these questions are asked depending on participant responses.

STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Please indicate how applicable the email was to your responsibilities at work, if at all:
The email had no applicability to my work responsibilities.
The email had low applicability to my work responsibilities.
The email had moderate applicability to my work responsibilities.
The email had significant applicability to my work responsibilities.
The email had extreme applicability to my work responsibilities.
What type of device were you using when you first saw the email?
O Desktop computer or laptop
○ Tablet
○ Smartphone
O Don't remember
Other (please specify)

For pages 5 and 6, these questions are asked to all participants and are not conditional. Links where the text does not match the URL

Other suspicious things you notice in the email (please

Attachments

specify)

or logos

Out-of-date branding or loaps

appear to be unprofessional

notice in the email (please

information discigimers etc. Details unrelated to the email's Requests for sensitive or personal Pressure or urgency to do Threats of consequences for not Other suspicious things you notice in the email (plea specify)

Unexpected security icons or text.

to the participant, Using the screen capture of the email shown, please respond to depending on their previous survey responses. The skip logic and branching is identical to page 5. The only difference between page 5 Now we will ask you further questions about things that may or may not be present in the email. and page 6 is the wording of cortain augotions How many of the following, if any, do you notice in the email? How many of the following, if any, do you notice in the email? 1 2 Spelling errors Grammar errors inconsistencies within the emails message, sender's information, and/or attachments Other suspicious things you notice in the email (please How many of the following, if any, do you notice in the email? How many of the following, if any, do you notice in the email? 3 Requests to help, contribute, or donate to others Offers that appear too good to Suggestions that something special is just for you Offers granted only for a limited notice in the email (please specify) How many of the following, if any, do you notice in the email?

NST

Page 5 OR Page 6 is asked

may not be present	in the email.		
How many of the fo	llowing, if any,	do you notice in	the email?
	0	1	l'm not sure
Email's sender name does not match their email address	0	0	0
Email's sender address appears to be from a well-known website	0	0	0
Is the email missing		nding or logos?	
No, I didn't notice.			
O No, this is not in the er	mail.		
I'm not sure.			
low many of the	following, if c	iny, do you no	tice in the email?
low many of the	following, if c	ıny, do you no	tice in the email?
How many of the Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting			
Email is missing an appropriate formal or			
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not			
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information			fm not sure
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information			
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information			fm not sure
Email is missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting Email is not personalized for you Body of the email is missing the sender's name or contact information	o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o	iny, do you no	I'm not sure

You indicated that you noticed "Links where the text did not match the URL" in the email. Please list them below.					
How easy or difficult was this email to recognize as a phishing email because of the "Links where the text did not match the URL" that you noticed in this email?					
It was not difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.					
It was moderately difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.					
It was very difficult to recognize this email as a phishing email.					
Please indicate how applicable the email was to your responsibilities at work, if at all:					
The email had no applicability to my work responsibilities.					
The email had low applicability to my work responsibilities.					
The email had moderate applicability to my work responsibilities.					
The email had significant applicability to my work responsibilities.					
The email had extreme applicability to my work responsibilities.					



What is your level of confidence in identifying an email as a phishing email because of the following?

	No confidence	Low confidence	Neither high nor low confidence	High confidence	Extremely high confidence
Links where the text did not match the URL links.	0	0	0	0	0
Links that appear to be from well-known websites.	0	0	0	0	0
Attachments.	0	\circ	0	0	0
The email's sender name did not match their email address.	0	0	0	0	0
The email's sender address appears to be from a well-known website.	0	0	0	0	0

	Extremely unlikely	Unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Likely	Extremely likely
Links where the text did not match the URL links.	0	0	0	0	0
Links that appear to be from well-known websites.	0	0	0	0	0
Attachments.	\circ	\circ	0	0	0
The email's sender name did not match their email address.	0	0	0	0	0
The email's sender address appears to be from a well-known website.	0	0	0	0	0



What is your level of confidence in identifying an email as a phishing email because of the following?

	No confidence	Low confidence	Neither high nor low confidence	High confidence	Extremely high confidence
Imitation of well- known branding or logos.	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-date branding or logos from well- known brands.	0	0	0	0	0
Content or formatting that appears to be unprofessional.	0	0	0	0	0
Unexpected email security icons or text.	0	0	0	0	0
Missing expected branding or logos.	0	0	0	0	0

	Extremely unlikely	Unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Likely	Extremely likely
Imitation of well- known branding or logos.	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-date branding or logos from well- known brands.	0	0	0	0	0
Content or formatting that appears to be unprofessional.	0	0	0	0	0
Unexpected email security icons or text.	0	0	0	0	0
Missing expected	0	0	0	0	0

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY US DEPAITMENT OF COMMERCE

Previously, we asked about the specific email used for this training exercise. Now, the questions below ask more broadly about emails you typically receive at work.

What is your level of confidence in identifying an email as a phishing email because of the following?

	No confidence	Low confidence	Neither high nor low confidence	High confidence	Extremely high confidence
Legal language like copyright information, disclaimers, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
Details unrelated to the email's message.	0	0	0	0	0
Requests for sensitive or personal information.	0	0	0	0	0
Pressure or urgency to do something quickly.	0	0	0	0	0
Threats of consequences for not doing something.	0	0	0	0	0
Missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting.	0	0	0	0	0
Not personalized for you.	0	0	0	0	0
Body of email missing email sender's name or contact information.	0	0	0	0	0

	Extremely unlikely	Unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Likely	Extremely likely
Legal language like copyright information, disclaimers, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
Details unrelated to the email's message.	0	0	0	\circ	0
Requests for sensitive or personal information.	0	0	0	0	0
Pressure or urgency to do something quickly.	0	0	0	\circ	0
Threats of consequences for not doing something.	0	0	0	0	0
Missing an appropriate formal or informal greeting.	0	0	0	0	0
Not personalized for you.	0	0	0	\circ	0
Body of email missing email sender's name or contact information.	0	0	0	0	0



What is your level of confidence in identifying an email as a phishing email because of the following?

	No confidence	Low confidence	Neither high nor low confidence	High confidence	Extremely high confidence
Spelling errors.	0	0	0	0	0
Grammar errors.	0	0	0	0	0
Inconsistencies within the email's message, sender's information, and/or attachments.	0	0	0	0	0

	Extremely unlikely	Unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Likely	Extremely likely
Spelling errors.	0	0	0	0	0
Grammar errors.	0	0	0	0	0
Inconsistencies within the email's message, sender's information,	0	0	0	0	0

When a participant hovers over a response option, examples of the job type will be displayed:

- Administrative support-For example, timecard tracking, travel and expense report preparation, or meeting planning
- Mission-based-For example, an instructor, scientist, researcher, or salesperson
- Facilities support in the field-For example, security guard, janitorial staff or groundskeeper
- Facilities support in the office-For example, a facilities manager or security captain
- **Legal**-For example, general counsel

example, Chief Executive Office, Director, or Department

Chair

 Organizational support-For example, grants and contracts, employee relations, finance, public affairs, auditing, or information tachnology

	Extremely unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat likely
Requests to help, contribute, or donate to others.	0	0	0	0
Offers that appear too good to be true.	0	0	0	\circ
Suggestions that something special is just for you.	0	0	0	0
Offers granted only for a limited time.	0	0	0	\circ
Email appears to be work-related.	\circ	0	0	\circ
Email appears to be from a friend, colleague, boss, or known authority.	0	0	0	0



What is your level of confidence in identifying an email as a phishing email because of the following?

	No confidence	Low confidence	Neither high nor low confidence	High confidence	Extremely high confidence
Requests to help, contribute, or donate to others.	0	0	0	0	0
Offers that appear too good to be true.	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	\circ
Suggestions that something special is just for you.	0	0	0	0	0
Offers granted only for a limited time.	0	0	0	0	0
Email appears to be work-related.	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ
Email appears to be from a friend, colleague, boss, or known authority.	0	0	0	0	0

NIST STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
What is your job title?
Which job type listed below best fits your day-to-day responsibilities?
Administrative support: Provide general clerical and coordination support for the business aspects of the organization.
Mission-based: Central to the mission and goals of the organization.
Facilities support in the field: To provide protection, safety, maintenance, construction, repair or installation of facilities, grounds, infrastructure, equipment and/or vehicles.
Facilities support in the office: Plan, design, direct, or organize activities related to the protection, safety, maintenance, construction, repair or installation of facilities, grounds, infrastructure, equipment, and/or vehicles.
\bigcirc \textbf{Legal} : To ensure organizational legal and regulatory compliance and/or provide legal counsel.
Management: Provide directorial-level administrative decisions that affect the organization and envision, develop, and recommend higher-level managerial and administrative initiatives, programs, and policies.
Organizational support: Advise on, administer, or perform work that requires knowledge of both business and trade practices.
Other (please specify)
Please provide any last thoughts, comments, or observations about phishing emails that you would like to share with us.