'Tis The Season to be Jolly!

Infected with a computer virus!

Xmas is usually a time for giving...

...or in this case a time for receiving!

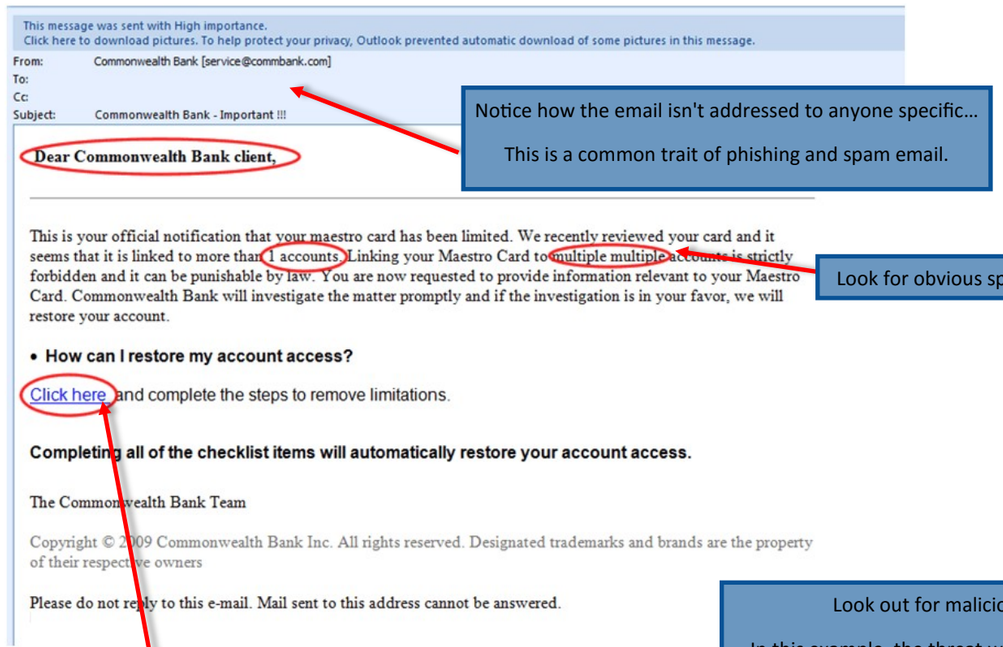
Every year, around Christmas, there's a significant increase in the number of infected computers. Its not that virus writers are working overtime, or the antivirus venders are down the pub rather than curing computer virus's…

Simply put, at this time of year we're all Xmas happy, therefore more susceptible to clicking on malicious email links and attachments that we wouldn't otherwise normally go near.

Who wouldn't like to receive a festive e-card from the attractive girl in marketing, thousands of £ worth of free Xmas goodies, or to look after £1million for that nice gentleman from Nigeria?

The Grinch: Hates Xmas. Probably never infected his laptop with a virus. :/

Be aware that some threats are so new, they may not yet be detectable by AV & malware vendors. Always use caution, never assume an attachment is safe. If you don't know the sender, and can't confirm the validity of the attachment: DELETE IT!

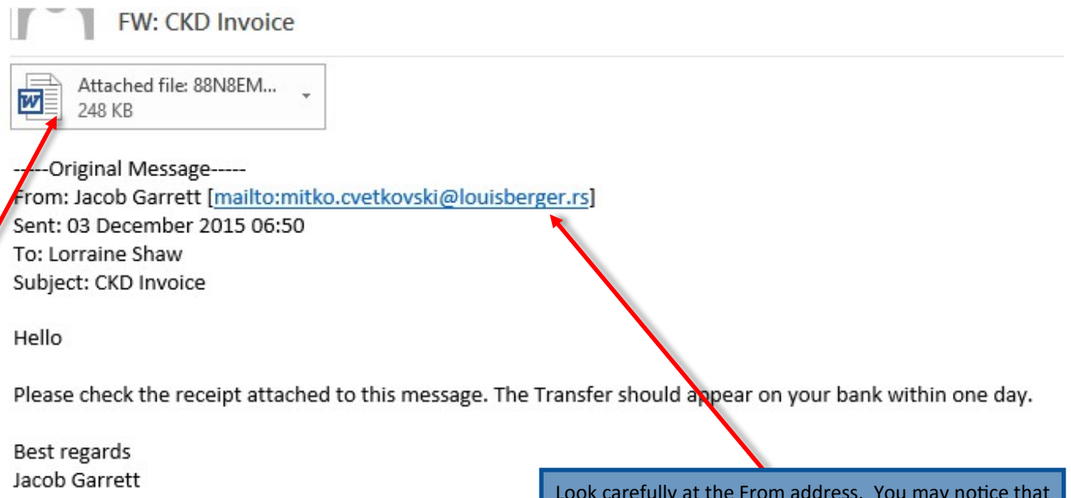


Notice how the email isn't addressed to anyone specific…

This is a common trait of phishing and spam email.

Look for obvious spelling and grammar mistakes.

The email will usually try and entice you into clicking on a link. It is this link that will either take you to a fake login page (capturing your credentials), or download a virus or piece of malware to your computer.



Look out for malicious attachments.

In this example, the threat was so new, the AV vendor didn't detect the Trojan attachment, nor did any of the 55 AV vendors on Virus Total.

Look carefully at the From address. You may notice that these emails aren't from the companies they claim to be from, or from an email address that you don't recognise.

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