



### THREAT LANDSCAPE FOR PHISHING & COUNTERMEASURES

Andrew Roberts



## What is Phishing





# Human Focused **Credential Theft**

# Financially Driven

Unauthorized Access



more give, less take

### **NAB Internet Banking**

NAB ID

Password

> Forgotten your NAB ID?

> Forgotten your password?

### Using NAB Internet Banking for the first time? Register now



### Send money overseas

Save time and money. It's quick and easy online with International Funds Transfers.



### Change your daily limit

Need to send a bit more? Change your daily limit easily via NAB Internet Banking.











Send money overseas

Funds Transfers.



Update your details

Save time and money. It's quick Moved house? Update your and easy online with International contact details in the Settings menu of NAB Internet Banking. you stay safe online.



NAB invests in the latest fraud prevention technology to ensure



NAB invests in the latest fraud prevention technology to ensure you stay safe online.









Password for will expire today. You can change your password or continue using current password

Keep Active Password

MicrosoftOutlook







gmail ×	+	
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≡ Mailbox		
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Drafts	HI IESS,	
Spam	I'm in a meeting right now with Amazon. It seems our last invoice went to their old acccount?	
✓ More Labels	If you don't have their new account details, I've provided them below. Please pay NOW so I can te	ell Jeff it's done.
	Acct no: 887483083	
	Sort Code: 60-22-67	
	Thanks,	
	Leon	

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## Type of Phishing Delivery









## Types of Phishing Delivery

- Hidden Text/Zero Font Evade the Natural Language Processing used to scan for phishing emails
- DNS Hijacking/Redirects Pharming
- Pop-Ups
- Evil Twin Rogue Infrastructure: WiFi Hotspot



## Global Threat Landscape



Compromise through phishing e-mails, and brute-forcing on Remote Desktop Services (RDP) remain the two most common ransomware infection vectors.

### UK NCSC Weekly Threat Report Oct 2021

Nearly 45 million people in the UK have been the target of a scam text message or phone call in the past 3 months.



### Australia Cyber Threat Report

Phishing campaigns, targeted spear phishing, remote access through vulnerable machines and the use of publicly available exploits remain the most common vectors for deploying ransomware.





## Estonian Threat Landscape

Incidents Registered in 2020 which Impacted Data or Systems

'OTHER' includes

- Ransomware (32 incidents)
- Denial-of-service attack (32 incidents)
- Command-and-control server(29 incidents)
- Data leak (21 incidents)
- SEO spam (18 incidents)
- Crypto mining (13 incidents)

**Cybersecurity in Estonia 2021** source: https://www.ria.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/kuberturve/kuberturvalisuse\_aastaraamat\_2021\_eng\_final.pdf









Republic of Estonia INFORMATION SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Phishing campaigns spread in the Estonian cyberspa..

### Phishing campaigns spread in the Estonian cyberspace in November and there were two denial-of-service attacks

19.12.2019

222 cyber incidents were detected by or reported to the Information System Authority in November. November had phishing campaigns and a denial-of-service attack on two Estonian companies.

### 2019 – Phishing Campaign targeted at banking and identity services users

information system

### Cybercriminals targeting Estonia in new phishing wave

NEWS

19.06.2020 19:50







### 2020 – Phishing Campaign using compromised, legitimate accounts





## Characteristics of Phishing in Estonia



- Target Users through:
  - Banking Services
  - Small-Business
  - Government Services
- Small Ecosystem
  - Intelligence Gathering is easier for Cybercrime
  - Limited Resources for Defence against Phishing
- Phishing against individuals is targeted at older populace
- Phishing is a continual threat not just a seasonal activity





### Trends

- Crimeware-as-a-Service
- New Attack Vectors Social Media & Personal Devices
- Opportunism COVID-19
- New Ways of Work Remote Working
- Digital Transformation Rich Data Environment







Payment	One-time
Email templates	~
Site templates	~
Email delivery	
Site hosting	
Credential theft	
Credential redistribution	
"Fully undetected" links/logs	

https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/09/21/catching-the-big-fishanalyzing-a-large-scale-phishing-as-a-service-operation/

## Phishing-as-a-Service



Phishing Toolkits and Guides readily available

Phishing often packaged with Ransomwareas-a-Service







.... \$100.00





\$80.00

\$100.00





.... \$100.00

Docusign10 Phishing Page .... \$80.00

Office 21 Single .... \$100.00



## Phishing-as-a-Service

- BulletProof Link commercial phishing company
- Provided commercial phishing services and YouTube how-to guides on phishing
- 100 Available phishing templates of known brands and services
- Host infrastructure of the Phishing Company was identified but attribution not possible









Text Message Today 12:56 PM



## New Attack Surfaces



### Gaming Accounts

Social Media

Mobile - SMS





### ---- Forwarded message -----From: GOV UK Notify < danielnhs@pinkcontract.com> To: " Sent: Friday, 6 March 2020, 08:28:50 GMT Subject: UK Updates on COVID-19 GOV.UK The government has taken urgent steps to list coronavirus as a notifiable disease in law As a precaution measure against COVID-19 in cooperation with National Insurance and National Health Services the government established new tax refund programme for dealing with the coronavirus outbreak in its action plan. You are eligible to get a tax refund (rebate) of 128.34 GBP. Access your funds now The funds can be used to protect yourself against COVID-19( https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ precautionary measure against corona) At 6.15pm on 5 March 2020, a statutory instrument was made into law that adds COVID-19 to the list of notifiable diseases and SARS-COV-2 to the list of notifiable causative agents. From Government Gateway This is an automatic email - please don't reply.

## COVID-19





Saatja: Terviseamet [mailto:finansije@hotel-n.rs] Saatmisaeg: 21. august 2020 10:32 Teema: Covid-19 kaitsevahendite tasuta levitamine (Eesti Vabariik Terviseamet) Tähtsus: Kõrge



Lugupeetud kodanikud

Vastavalt 25-2-2020 seadusandliku siseseaduse (Valitsuse Eesti 42 / A / 25-2-2020) artiklile 3 "Kiireloomulised meetmed koroonaviiruse leviku tõkestamiseks ja piiramiseks".

Meie, Eesti Tervishoiuministeerium, levitame koostöös Eesti valitsusega covid-19 näomaski, respiraatoreid, testimismasinaid ja muid kaitsevahendeid covid-19 tasuta kõigile Eesti registreeritud ettevõtetele, mida koordineerib terviseregioonide kesknõukogu (TK). Täitke lisatud vorm ja veenduge, et sellele vormile on kirjutatud täpne töötajate arv ja ettevõtte aadress.

Täitke lisatud vorm ja saatke meile koopia enne sulgemist täna ja ootame teie kiiret vastust.

Saatke kõik täidetud vormid sellele e-posti aadressile: covid-19@terviseamet.ee

Tervitused



Riina Sikkut Tervise- ja tööminister



Terviseamet Paldiski mnt 81, 10617 Tallinn Telephone: (+372) 794 3500

https://www.terviseamet.ee/

## COVID-19

Eesti Vabariik Terviseamet







## New Work Environment

- Working from Home & Virtualisation of the workforce
- Psychologically breaks the link between the work environment and home environment
- Many companies not adapted to provide remote working technical facilities







DECEMBER 1, 2018 / 2:55 AM / UPDATED 3 YEARS AGO U.S. LEGAL NEWS

### Marriott's Starwood database hacked, 500 million may be affected

By Jim Finkle, Arjun Panchadar

(Reuters) - Marriott International said on Friday hackers stole about 500 million records from its Starwood Hotels reservation system in an attack that began four years ago, exposing personal data of customers including some payment card numbers.

## Rich Data Environment

3 MIN READ









### Free Identity Monitoring

Where available in your country/region, Marriott is offering affected guests the opportunity to enroll in a personal information monitoring service free of charge for one year. This will be provided by Experian, a global data and information service provider. This service (IdentityWorks<sup>™</sup> Global Internet Surveillance) is available to residents of Australia, Brazil, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, Spain and the Netherlands. (Experian does not currently offer this service in all countries or regions.)

IdentityWorks<sup>™</sup> Global Internet Surveillance monitors whether your personal data is available on public websites, chat rooms, blogs, and non-public places on the internet where data can be compromised, such as "dark web" sites, and generates an alert to you if evidence of your personal information is found.

## Rich Data Environment





Please visit the following website: <a href="https://www.globalidworks.com/">https://www.globalidworks.com/</a> identity1 and click the "Get Started" button to activate this 12-month complimentary service. You can then enter the activation code: K9QX65ZN3TR3 to start your IdentityWorks<sup>™</sup> Global Internet Surveillance membership.

The section below provides additional information on steps you can take. If you are a resident of the United States, UK, or Canada, please check info.starwoodhotels.com for similar services being offered in those countries.

## Rich Data Environment





### Hack Brief: Marriott Got Hacked. Yes, Again The hotel chain has suffered its second major breach in 16 months. Here's how to find out if you're affected.

## Rich Data Environment



### **Damage Mitigation**

- Contain any financial and data loss
- Incident Response plans tailored for phishing
- Information Sharing

### **User-Awareness**

- Train Users to detect and respond to malicious phishing content
- Awareness of those offering services that are targets of phishing

## Countermeasures



### **Detection/Prevention**

- Personal Device Security
- Block Untrusted Sources
- Patched System, Mail Filtering, Anti-Virus, Multi-Factor Authentication

### Monitoring

- Telecommunication Providers can block known phishing sources
- Network monitoring





### Make it difficult for attackers to reach your users

### Respond quickly to incidents

## Four Layer of Phishing Defence



### Help users identify and report suspected phishing emails

# Protect your organisation from



![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

## The Human Firewall

### **User Awareness Training**

- Phishing Simulation Exercises
- Builds awareness of the User to signs of a malicious email source

### **Evil Phishing Tests**

Presents extreme phishing simulations that test the ethical boundaries of organisations experiments.

![](_page_26_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Passwords

- HavelbeenPwnd
- Multi-Factor Authentication

![](_page_27_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

- exercises
- shared with who
- derive key weaknesses

## Incident Response

Incident Response Plans for Phishing should be exercised regularly through table-tops and phishing simulation

Information sharing between related organisations is of vital importance but there are impediments to what data can be

The Phishing Kill-Chain or Cybercrime Journey needs to be mapped to understand the adversarial perspective and

![](_page_28_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

process and technology.

## Conclusion

- Phishing will remain one of the top cyber threats due to its low cost of implementation and high effectiveness.
- Defence mechanisms need to include solutions for people,
- Information sharing and exercises/simulations should be a core part of defence of phishing

![](_page_29_Picture_11.jpeg)