Awareness Module 1 Cheat Sheet

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Phishing

An attack where a hacker impersonates a trusted entity to steal information, spread malware, or deceive victims.

Types of phising

Email	Create urgency to trick victims into giving information, logging in, or sending money.
Vishing (via phone)	Phone scam where attackers impersonate trusted entities to steal information.
Smishing (via text)	Text scam impersonating a trusted entity to steal data or money.

Red Flags to look for on phishing attacks

Sender Email Address	Look for misspellings, slight changes, or unknown senders.
Urgent or Fearful Language	Beware of urgent phrases like “immediate action” or “account suspended.”
Suspicious Links & Attachments	Hover over links and check file extensions to spot threats.
Poor Grammar & Spelling	Typos and errors can signal phishing; legit firms are proofread.
Requests for Personal/Financial Info	Beware of unexpected emails requesting sensitive info.
Unusual Content	Watch for generic greetings, odd content, or unusual tone.

Measures to face phishing / spam attacks

1. Report phishing emails/calls/texts to the IT department or supervisor.
2. Provide cybersecurity training for employees.
3. Verify the legitimacy of the sender's email/text.
4. Verify contact information from official websites before continuing with phone calls.

Elements of Phishing attacks

Impersonation	Appears legit with official logos, formatting, and language.
Persuasive Language	Uses emotions, threats, or rewards to prompt action.
Sense of Urgency	Pressures victims with urgent security threats or account issues.
Malicious Links	Sends victims to fake sites or numbers to steal data.
Dangerous Attachments	May hide malware in fake invoices or receipts.

Spam Emails

Spam emails steal data, harvest addresses, or spread malware.

Examples

1. Promotions (fake discounts, giveaways)
2. Job Scams (fraudulent employment offers)
3. Lottery Scams (fake winnings, prize claims)
4.Phishing Attempts (deceptive messages to steal information)

Key Characteristics

I. Unsolicited & unwanted (a.k.a. junk email)
II.Mass-distributed to many recipients
III.Can be part of phishing campaigns
IV.Often linked to advertising or fraud