

# Common Holiday Phishing Attacks

## Holiday eCards

Who doesn't love to receive a nice holiday greeting? But is that link to an e-card actually from your coworker, manager, HR Department, etc. or is it something sinister? Disguising a phish as a holiday greeting is a simple and effective attack tactic every year.



## Holiday Discounts

'Tis the season for getting sweet deals, and merchants will be sending out plenty of legitimate emails advertising their sales. Attackers will be sure to take advantage of the holiday sale noise by sneaking in phishing emails masquerading as merchants offering blowout deals.



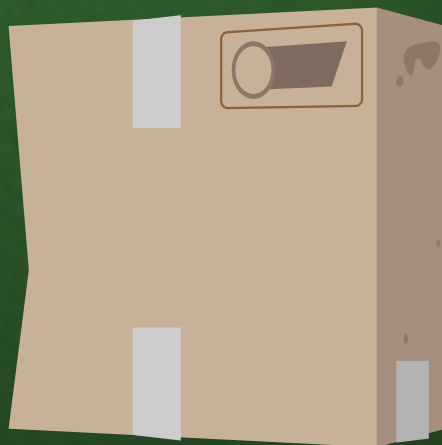
## Travel Notifications

While missed flight emails are an effective phish any time of year, with the spike in traveling around Thanksgiving and Christmas, they are even more effective during the holidays. An email warning of flight itinerary changes will certainly grab the attention of an employee eager to get home for the holidays, so travel-related emails need to be viewed with suspicion.



## Package Delivery

UPS and FedEx both expect an increase in shipping volume this year, meaning we'll also see a surge of package delivery emails. An email warning of problems with a package delivery plays on the recipient's emotions, and makes for an especially effective phishing email during the holiday season.



## End of the Year Attacks



The end of the year provides attackers with a number of potential topics that allow them to take on an authoritative tone and create a sense of urgency for the recipient, including:

- PTO balance notification
- Unfiled expense reports
- Urgent year-end deadlines

## Office Party Invitations

Executive search firm Battalia Winston estimates 88% of companies plan to throw a holiday party this year, meaning lots of invitations will be sent over email. Spoofed invitations present attackers with a great opportunity to craft a holiday-themed phish.



## Charity Phish



Online charity fundraiser Network for Good sees nearly a third of all donations in December, and advises charities to conduct holiday outreach through email. Unfortunately, attackers know this too, and will craft plenty of phishing emails that tug at a recipient's emotions by spoofing common charities.

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### Sources:

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