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SANDBOX TECHNOLOGIES

Phishing Alert for Tax Professionals

If you are receiving this email, our records indicate that you or your firm may be involved with financial management and/or tax preparation. At this time, we would like to alert you to a targeted phishing scheme that we have observed to be re-circulating as of late.

The scheme begins with a member of the target firm receiving an email from a malicious actor purportedly in need of tax preparation services. When the recipient responds, the individual typically engages in dialogue via email, or in some cases by telephone. The individual describes their business activities, then follows up with an email containing a link or attachment to an alleged prior year's tax return.

The return or link is sent under the pretense of helping the tax preparer to gain a better understanding of the individual's needs, however the return is actually a delivery mechanism for malware.

Although we have not conducted a thorough evaluation of the aforementioned malware (which sometimes varies), its ostensible purpose is to allow the malicious actor to gain access to the recipient's computer and network resources.

It is advised that anyone receiving an email similar to the above should NOT respond unless and until the sender's identity has been unequivocally verified (ideally through a verbal conversation with someone who referred them), and under no circumstances should the recipient ever click on any unsolicited links or attachments.

It is our recommendation that this alert be disseminated to all staff, colleagues and fellow tax professionals.

Anyone who believes they may have fallen victim to this or any of the countless other attacks targeting financial professionals this season should contact their IT staff or provider promptly, and arrange to have their systems inspected for any indicators of breach-related activity.

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Our mailing address is:

4111 West Alameda Ave., Suite 605 Burbank, CA 91505

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