

February 19, 2018

Re: Email Spoofing and Phishing

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The Mount Pleasant Area School District strives to protect our student, staff and parent/guardian data. A few emails have gone out appearing to be from someone within the district when they actually are not. We would like to take this opportunity to educate the public on typical Spoofing and Phishing emails.

These emails, while they appear to be from someone you know because it has their name on it, are not from that individual or their email account. They are coming from a random email address account not from within their domain. This is commonly known as "Spoofing" or "Phishing". Individuals use this method in hopes of gaining the trust of the person it is being sent to in order to try and gain personal data. The good news is, there are ways to determine this rather easily.

The easiest way is to look at the "*From:*" field. If the email address is from someone you know, it is more than likely from the individual sending it. If you do not recognize the email address, it is probably not from the individual you may know. In our instance, if you see another email coming from any other email address not ending with "*@mpasd.net*", it is more than likely not from the Mount Pleasant Area School District.

Attached, you will find two examples of what these emails look like. Please review this carefully. If you receive any of these type of emails, please mark them as spam. If the email still appears to be from an individual you may know and it looks suspicious, please notify that individual as soon as possible to see if it is legitimate.

Thank you for your continued support of the Mount Pleasant Area School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Shaner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Shaner
Director of Technology

Phishing Email Examples:

From: Scott Shaner <lstep@charter.net>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2018 at 7:58 AM
Subject: Invoice
To: youremailaddress@youremaildomain.com

Do you know Scott Shaner and is lstep@charter.net his email address? It is not. Scott's email should end in @mpasd.net

Morning, Did you conduct business with Scott Shaner and are you expecting an invoice?

Thank you and we appreciate your business. Below you will find invoice details. REMINDER: TAX EXEMPTION IS ONLY APPLICABLE IF PROPER CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.
41675349 - 02/16/2018

>>> <http://ctvnorthsuburbs.org/Invoice-Number-040807/>

Do you know this web address? ctvnorthsuburbs.org. Never click on a link you are not familiar with.

This might be a phishing message and is potentially unsafe. Links and other functionality have been disabled. Click here to enable functionality (not recommended).

From: PayPal [service@paypal-australia.com.au]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Your account has been limited

1. Fake sender domain. (not service@paypal-australia.com.au)

2. Suspicious Subject and content.

3. Bad grammar

4. Hovering over link reveals suspicious URL.

PayPal™

How to restore your PayPal account

Dear PayPal member,
To restore your PayPal account, you'll need to log in your account.

It's easy:

1. Click the link below to open a secure browser window.
2. Confirm http://69.162.70.169/ppau/ the account, and then follow the instructions.

[Log in your account now](#)

PayPal Email ID PP32260008777636