

**Don't Get Hooked!**

# Technology In-the-Know!

## What is Phishing?

**phish-ing (fish'ing) -v. 1.** To trick people into providing their personal and financial information by pretending to be from a legitimate company, agency, or organization.

### "Phish" Facts

The most common phishing scams are done through email. Some scammers will phish for information via the telephone as well. Some pose as legitimate employer who call or email people they have found on employment search sites.

Survey results suggest that as many as 30 million adults have experienced a phishing attack and that 1.78 million adults may have fallen victim to the scams.

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/135204/howto\\_get\\_the\\_facts\\_about\\_phishing.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/135204/howto_get_the_facts_about_phishing.html)

### Phishing Schemes

Phishing schemes are one of the fastest growing online scams. By using authentic-looking Web sites that pretend to be banking institutions or other online businesses, phishing schemes trick you into divulging personal and financial information that can be used to steal your identity.

If you should receive an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply or click on any links in the message. Be aware that legitimate businesses and banks will never ask for your personal information over the Internet. Before signing up for anything, check the URL (the site address) to see if it is coming from somewhere other than the real business. Refer to the [Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Alert on Phishing Scams](#) for more information.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt127.shtm>

## Phishing Scam Email Examples

Below you will see examples of two types of email phishing scams. These are "real" examples. Emails that look like the ones below should be deleted immediately.

Dear Staff/Student

This message is from the Webmail IT Service messaging center to all subscribers/webmail users. We are currently upgrading our data base and e-mail center due to an unusual activities identified in our email system. We are deleting all unused Webmail Accounts. You are required to verify your webmail account by confirming your Webmail identity. This will prevent your Webmail account from been closed during this exercise.

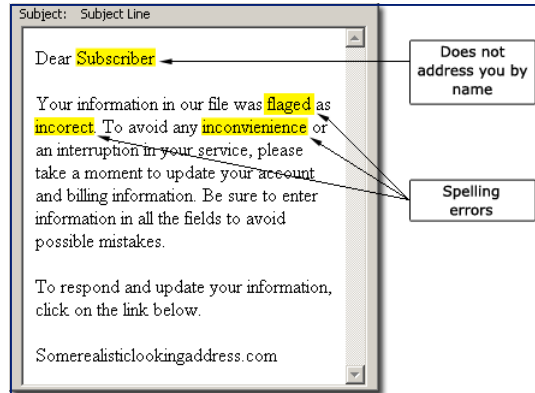
In order to confirm you Web-Mail identity, you are to provide the following data:

First Name:  
Last Name:  
Username/ID:  
Password:  
Date of Birth:

**\*Important\***  
Please provide all these information completely and correctly otherwise due to security reasons we may have to close your account temporarily.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please understand that this is a security measure intended to help protect you and your Webmail Account. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Regards,  
Webmail IT Service



**Please Note!** Northland College will never ask you to send your username and password via email. When passwords need to be changed and updated you will receive an official Northland email message from our System Administrator Scott Foss. This message will ask that you go to a secure site located within the Northland College website. You will then change your password on your own.

**If you think you have fallen victim to a Phishing attempt, please contact your campus ITS department.**