Social Engineering Red Flags

From: YourCEO@yourorganization.com

Date: Monday December 12, 2016 3:00 pm

Hi, I'm on vacation in London and my money and passport were stolen out of my bag. Could you wire me \$300 via Bank of America? They gave me a special link so this goes right into my account and

To: You@yourorganization.com

Subject: My money got stolen

http://www.bankofarnerica.com

Thanks so much. This really helps me out!

I can buy a ticket home:

Your CEO



- I don't recognize the sender's email address as someone I ordinarily communicate with.
- This email is from someone outside my organization and it's not related to my job responsibilities.
- This email was sent from someone inside the organization or from a customer, vendor, or partner and is very unusual or out of character.
- Is the sender's email address from a suspicious domain (like micorsoft-support.com)?
- I don't know the sender personally and they were not vouched for by someone I trust.
- I don't have a business relationship nor any past communications with the sender.
- This is an unexpected or unusual email with an embedded hyperlink or an attachment from someone I haven't communicated with recently.



- I was cc'd on an email sent to one or more people, but I don't personally know the other people it was sent to.
- I received an email that was also sent to an unusual mix of people.
 For instance, it might be sent to a random group of people at my organization whose last names start with the same letter, or a whole list of unrelated addresses.



- I hover my mouse over a hyperlink that's displayed in the email message, but the link-to address is for a different website. (This is a big red flag.)
- I received an email that only has long hyperlinks with no further information, and the rest of the email is completely blank.
- I received an email with a **hyperlink that is a misspelling** of a known web site. For instance, www.bankofarnerica.com the "m" is really two characters "r" and "n."



 Did I receive an email that I normally would get during regular business hours, but it was sent at an unusual time like 3 a.m.?



- Did I get an email with a subject line that is irrelevant or does not match the message content?
- Is the email message a reply to something I never sent or requested?



- The sender included an email attachment that I was not expecting or that makes no sense in relation to the email message. (This sender doesn't ordinarily send me this type of attachment.)
- I see an attachment with a possibly **dangerous file type**. The only file type that is **always safe to click on is a .txt** file.



- Is the sender asking me to click on a link or open an attachment to avoid a negative consequence or to gain something of value?
- Is the email **out of the ordinary**, or does it have **bad grammar** or **spelling errors**?
- Is the sender asking me to click a link or open up an attachment that **seems odd** or **illogical**?
- Do I have an uncomfortable gut feeling about the sender's request to open an attachment or click a link?
- Is the email asking me to look at a compromising or embarrassing picture of myself or someone I know?

