

Steer clear of phishing sites

CYBERSECURITY Malaysia is concerned with the letter "Easy to fall prey to online scams" (*The Star*, April 19). The scenario described in the letter is known as "phishing" where the criminal tricks the user into divulging his or her online banking credentials through a fake bank website.

It is quite common to find an e-mail in our mailbox purportedly from the bank urging us to log in to the bank's e-banking website via a modified link. The criminals basically try to persuade users to go to fake banking sites and usually, this is done by using e-mails worded so convincingly that users are persuaded to click on a link that would lead to the fake website.

In the first quarter of 2010, 143 incidents involving phishing sites targeting Internet banking sites in Malaysia were referred to the Cyber999 Help Centre of CyberSecurity Malaysia. Cyber threats such as phishing are expected to rise as criminals are moving their operations to cyber space and more people are connected to the Internet.

To educate the public, CyberSecurity Malaysia has published an advisory with regards to Internet banking fraud (www.mycert.org.my/en/services/advisories/mycert/2009/main/detail/718/index.html).

We have also produced educational materials and carried out security awareness activities through our Cyber Security Awareness For Everyone (CyberSAFE) initiative.

We would like to encourage the public to visit CyberSAFE portal www.cybersafe.my for tips on safety in the cyber world or our corporate website www.cybersecurity.my for more resources on cyber safety. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter (@cybersecuritymy).

While we may not be able to prevent nor stop such incidents from happening, Internet users can protect themselves by learning about cyber best practices and taking safety precautions while surfing the Internet.

If you receive a phishing e-mail or link to phishing sites, you can forward it to our Cyber999 Help Centre (cyber999@cybersecurity.my) for further analysis and action.

CyberSecurity Malaysia is the national cyber security specialist centre under the pur-

view of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti), Malaysia. Our services include:

- CyberSAFE (www.cybersafe.my)
- Cyber999™ Help Centre
- Digital Forensics / CyberCSI™
- Security Management and Best Practices
- Security Assurance
- Malaysia Common Criteria Certification Scheme (MyCC)
- Cyber Security Training and Professional Certification
- Cyber Security Policy and Legal Research

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