

Online Security

Dept. of Justice Reports Fraudulent Spam E-mail

Fraudulent spam e-mails alleged to be sent from the Department of Justice have been reported. The e-mails, addressed "Dear Citizen," may assert that the recipients or their businesses have been the subject of complaints filed with the DOJ and also with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The e-mails may even supply the recipient with a case number and a fictional name of the person alleged to have filed the complaint. DOJ logos may appear at the top of the message, and the e-mail may include an attachment.

Do not respond to these messages or open the attachment. The messages are a hoax.

The DOJ (and other government entities such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Trade Commission and the IRS) would never send unsolicited e-mail. Be especially wary of any unsolicited warning messages that direct you to click on a file attachment or to send unsolicited information. It is possible that by "double-clicking" on an attachment that recipients could cause viruses and other malicious software to be launched on their computers. Do not open any attachment to fraudulent or suspicious e-mails. Delete the e-mails immediately and empty the deleted items folder.

Learn to protect yourself from malicious spyware and fraudulent e-mails at www.OnGuardOnline.gov, a Web site created by the Department of Justice in partnership with other federal agencies and the technology industry to help you stay safe online.

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