

Grade Level: 9-12

Duration: One 15 minute session

Description: This lesson is designed to help students learn about phishing and other online scams – and how to protect themselves.

Content Outline:

1. Read, or have students read, the following: (adapted from: Phishing <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/phishing.aspx>)

Phishing is a scam where Internet fraudsters send spam or pop-up messages to lure personal and financial information from unsuspecting victims. To avoid getting hooked:

- Don't reply to email or pop-up messages that ask for personal or financial information, and don't click on links in the message. Don't cut and paste a link from the message into your Web browser — phishers can make links look like they go one place, but that actually send you to a different site.
 - **Some scammers send an email that appears to be from a legitimate business** and ask you to call a phone number to update your account or access a "refund." If you need to reach an organization you do business with, call the number on your financial statements or on the back of your credit card.
 - Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software, as well as a firewall, and update them all regularly.
 - Don't email personal or financial information.
 - Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges.
 - Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from emails you receive, regardless of who sent them.
 - Forward phishing emails to spam@uce.gov – and to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the phishing email. You also may report phishing email to reportphishing@antiphishing.org, the Anti-Phishing Working Group, a consortium of ISPs, security vendors, financial institutions and law enforcement agencies, uses these reports to fight phishing.
 - If you've been scammed, visit the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft website at ftc.gov/idtheft.
2. Assessment: Have students take the on-line anti-phishing quiz on their own (or project and complete as a class). (From Phishing Scams Game <http://www.onguardonline.gov/games/phishing-scams.aspx>)