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CYBER GUIDANCE ISSUE 0311

NEW ZEALANDERS TARGETED BY PHISHING SCAMS

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IMPACT	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
EASE OF EXPLOIT	HARD	MEDIUM	EASY

OVERVIEW

New Zealanders are being targeted by a slew of new phishing scams circulating via text messages, phone calls, and emails. An attacker asks the victim to install software to gain remote control of a target computer to access confidential information.

BREAKDOWN

A recent alert from CertNZ highlights that Kiwis are being targeted in a slew of recent phishing scams. Methods include text messages, phone calls, and emails that claim to be coming from a legitimate source such as a local bank, Inland Revenue, Waka Kotahi NZTA, postal services, computer security software and others. The messages are crafted to invoke a sense of urgency that presses the user to pay an overdue bill, pay unpaid tolls, tax refunds, or other fees requiring payment. These attack methods can also contain a malicious link that redirects a user to a website that looks legitimate, asking them to enter their username and password. Many of the latest scams pretend to be banks - one, pretending to be from ANZ, asks people to confirm a transaction, and another asks recipients to update their contact details. These threats are evolving with time and have become more sophisticated and challenging to detect.

REMEDIATION STEPS

- Educate users on social engineering and phishing emails – how to detect them and what to do with any emails they deem suspicious received within your organisation.
- Implement a Next Generation Secure Email Gateway to detect malicious, inbound and outbound email activity. Spam filters are no longer enough on their own.
- If you get an unexpected text message or an email, verify it by directly contacting the organisation.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

CertNZ https://www.cert.govt.nz/individuals/alerts/phishing-scams-targeting-new-zealanders-to-install-remote-access-software/

1News https://www.1news.co.nz/2023/04/08/cyber-security-experts-warn-kiwis-about-new-phishing-scams/