Ken's Study Journey
Ken的学习之旅

Scam Alert: Be Aware of Phishing with (Spoofed) Official Sender Names

Let's Strengthen Security on the State-of-the-art Technology

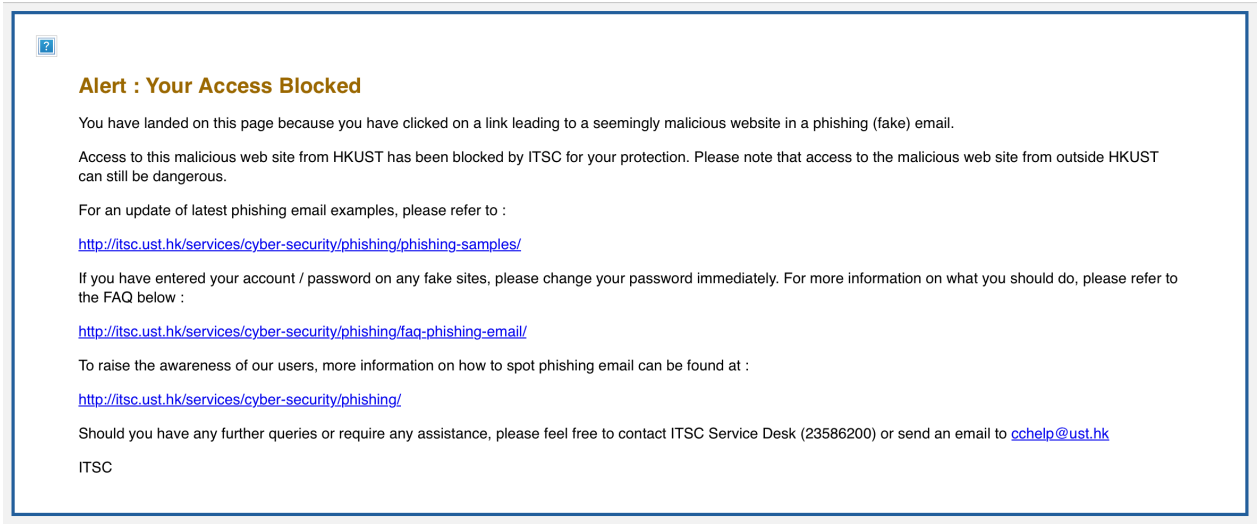
Dear students, users and fans,

In recent days, Ken's Study Journey and other friends have been aware of some phishing SMS (text messages) sent to SIM cards using official brand names but unofficial similar domain names.

The phishing SMS in question is either in Chinese (Simplified) (简体中文) or Chinese (Traditional) (繁體中文).

In the worst case, the senders of the phishing messages use the same identity (spoofed) as the official (real) 6-digit verification codes.

Fortunately, the ITSC of our university discovers and blocks such phishing websites as soon as possible.



Alert : Your Access Blocked

You have landed on this page because you have clicked on a link leading to a seemingly malicious website in a phishing (fake) email.

Access to this malicious web site from HKUST has been blocked by ITSC for your protection. Please note that access to the malicious web site from outside HKUST can still be dangerous.

For an update of latest phishing email examples, please refer to :

http://itsc.ust.hk/services/cyber-security/phishing/phishing-samples/

If you have entered your account / password on any fake sites, please change your password immediately. For more information on what you should do, please refer to the FAQ below :

http://itsc.ust.hk/services/cyber-security/phishing/faq-phishing-email/

To raise the awareness of our users, more information on how to spot phishing email can be found at :

http://itsc.ust.hk/services/cyber-security/phishing/

Should you have any further queries or require any assistance, please feel free to contact ITSC Service Desk (23586200) or send an email to cchelp@ust.hk

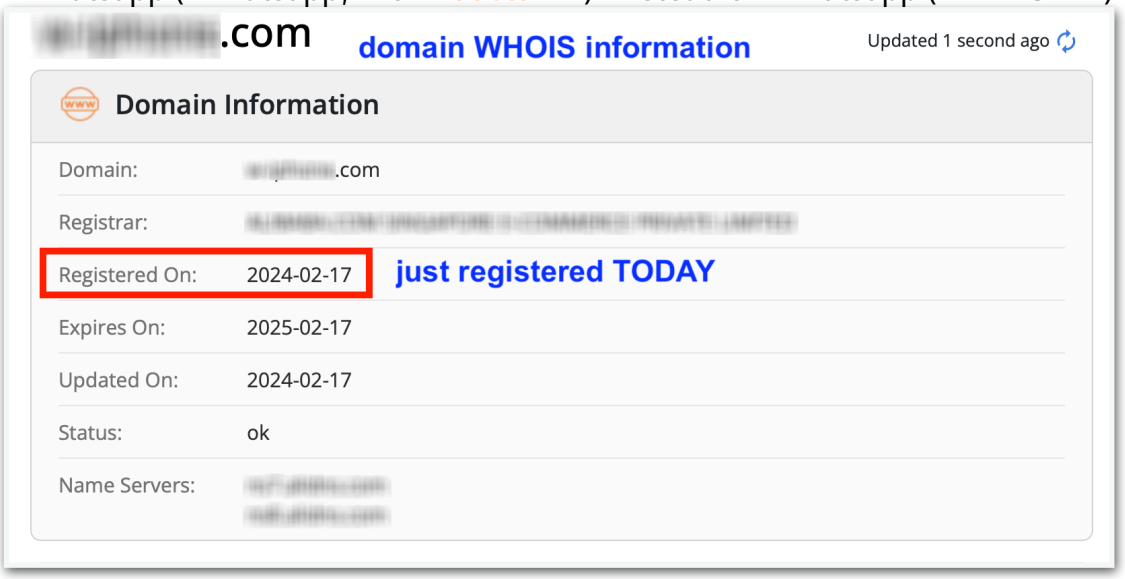
ITSC

Ken's Study Journey has already implemented domain name SPF and DMARC policies to prevent spoofed emails, as well as self-developed email unique codes.

This means fake email servers impersonating the domain name "@kenstudyjourney.cn" will be dropped by the receiver's email provider (if it supports SPF/DMARC).

My Security Tips:

1. Be **extra careful** of URL spelling.
   Ken's Study Journey Reminder:
   Also check spelling **very carefully** in your exams.
2. Disconnect from the Internet when copying and pasting the URLs/ messages (which prevents opening it by error).
3. Check the domain name WHOIS information (especially the registration date).
   CAUTION: Copy and paste the domain name (or the whole message).
   Do not type it because some letters are incorrect but confusing, e.g.
   "**l**phone (**L**PHONE)" instead of "**i**phone (**I**PHONE)"
   "**vv**hatsapp (**VV**hatsapp; with Double "V")" instead of "**w**hatsapp (**W**HATSAPP)"



4. For Python programmers/students:
   Check the fully lowercase/uppercase versions of the domain name using the `"string".lower()` or `"string".upper()` Python functions, e.g.
   `print("lPhone".lower()) => "lphone"`
   `print("lPhone".upper()) => "LPHONE"`
   You can simply type the commands and paste the domain names in the Python IDLE.

```
Python 3.11.3 (v3.11.3:f3909b8bc8, Apr  4 2023, 20:12:10) [Clang 13.0.0 (clang-1
300.0.29.30)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> print("lPhone-com.com".lower())
lphone-com.com
>>> print("lPhone-com.com".upper())
LPHONE-COM.COM
```

Ken's Study Journey Reminder:

Always be careful when reading information, whether in assignments, exams, emails and SMS.

Like assignments and exams, scammers can also trick students with fake but very similar URLs.

Let's Strengthen Security on the State-of-the-art Technology.

University students also need anti-phishing tips in addition to academic knowledge.

Don't get conned and give up your studies.

Ken’s Study Journey

9 March 2024

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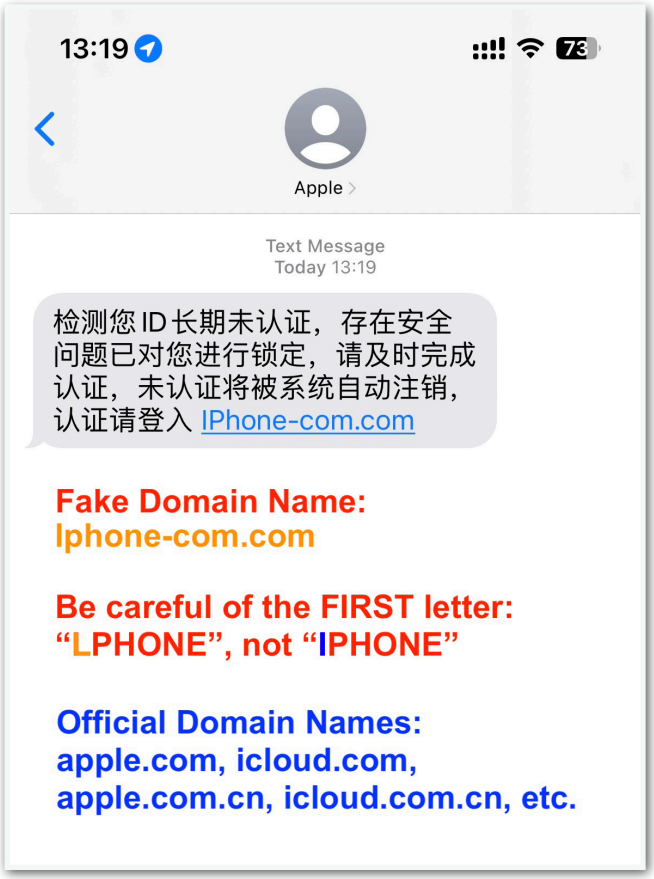
Examples of Phishing SMS Received

Claiming to be “Apple”, in Chinese (Simplified) (简体中文):



Claiming to be “WhatsApp”, in Chinese (Traditional) (繁體中文):