

# Lecture 15: Phishing Prevention

---

CS 181W

Fall 2022

 Delete  Archive  Move  Flag  Mark Unread  Sync ...

## YOUR URGENT RESPONSE IS NEEDED



 Mrs Therese Nina Patrick <aishagaddafi937@gmail.com>

Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 3:56 AM

My dear beloved

My name is Mrs. Therese Nina Patrick, from Norway. I know that this message will be a surprise to you. Firstly, I am married to Mr. Patrick Nina, A gold merchant who owns a small gold Mine in Austria; He died of cardiovascular disease in mid-March 2011. During his lifetime he deposited the sum of € 8.5 Million Euro) Eight million, Five hundred thousand Euros in a bank in Vienna, the capital city of Austria in Europe. The deposited money was from the sale of the shares, death benefits payment and entitlements of my deceased husband by his company.

I have decided to donate what I have to you for the support of helping Motherless babies/Less privileged/Widows' because I am dying and diagnosed with cancer about 2 years ago. I have been touched by God Almighty to donate from what I have inherited from my late husband to you for the good work of God Almighty. I have asked Almighty God to forgive me and believe he has, because He is a Merciful God, I will be going in for a surgery soon.

This is the reason I need your services to stand as my next of kin or an executor to claim the funds for charity purposes. If this money remains unclaimed after my death, the bank executives or the government will take the money as unclaimed fund and maybe use it for selfish and worthless ventures, I need a very honest person who can claim this money and use it for Charity works, for orphanages, widows and also build schools for less privilege that will be named after my late husband and my name; I need your urgent answer to know if you will be able to execute this project, and I will give you more information on how the fund will be transferred to your bank account.

## Not a real CMU email address

From: [fvega@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:fvega@andrew.cmu.edu)

Date: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 08:57:08 -0500

Subject: RE

--\_000\_e252d52edf764e3790b856c08eae7b1aandrewcmuedu\_

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I am sharing job opportunity information to students and staff who might be interested in [University of Port Townsend](#) with a weekly pay of \$500.00 (USD).

Not a real person

Attached is further information about the employment schedule, If interested, kindly contact Dr. Dennis Nicholas via ( [aj011023@gmail.com](mailto:aj011023@gmail.com) ) with your alternate non-educational email address I.e gmail,yahoo,hotmail etc) for details of employment.

N.B , This is strictly a work from home position.

Sign,  
Academic Career Opportunity

From: [fvega@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:fvega@andrew.cmu.edu)

Date: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 08:54:47 -0500

Subject: Service Help Desk

--\_000\_db0a846fb5f44c109c582d7f2edcf516andrewcmuedu\_

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

URL in unknown domain

Your e-mail password expires in 2 days to retain e-mail password and details, [CLICK HERE](#) to update immediately

Urgent action required

Thank you,

Matthew Siko

Information Security Office

Carnegie Mellon University

Email: [iso-ir@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:iso-ir@andrew.cmu.edu)

Delete Archive Move Flag Mark Unread Sync ...

Release held messages

Actually from domain: pmgd06.wadax.ne.jp



✘ pomona.edu <eleanor.birrell@pomona.edu>

Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 8:04 AM

To: ✘ Eleanor Birrell

! This message is high priority.

## Incoming email was blocked

We've stopped the delivery of {2} new incoming emails to your inbox (\*\*\*\*@pomona.edu) as of September 10, 2022, 8:04:01 AM.

Release pending messages

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution before clicking on links or opening attachments.

 Delete  Archive  Move  Flag  Mark Unread  Sync ...

## Do you still need help?



 Janet Valentin Valentin <vjanetvalentin17@gmail.com>

Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 6:13 PM

To:  Corey Kirk LeBlanc;  Mercy Bickell;  Gabriel Konar-Steenberg;  Eryn Ma;  Sean O'Connor; [+45 more](#) 

### HUDSON LLC HELP DESK

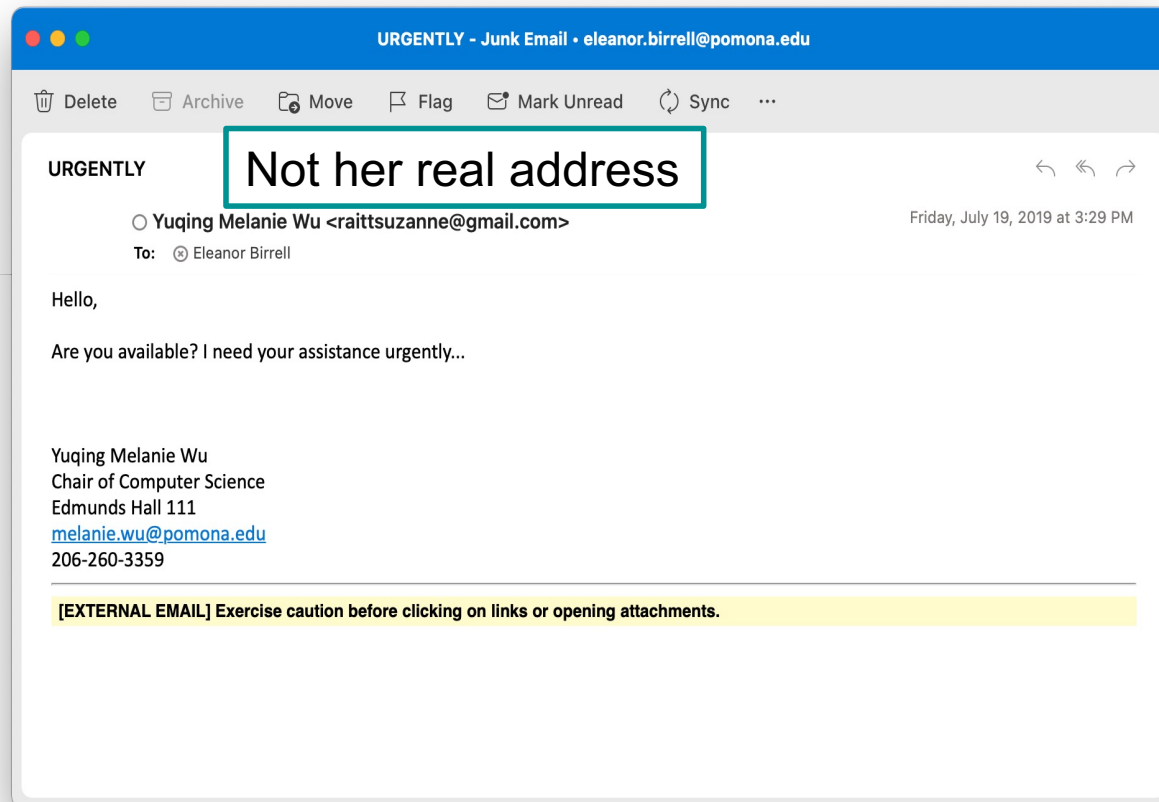
Get back your lost funds from scammers with our help . We can help you fight and track down any scammer . You can file a case with us now , it is never too late .I will not be checking this email often, I just sent this email to create awareness that there is still hope . If you have anyone that fell victim to scammers , we can help them also . You can text me to indicate your interest for our help on my phone number +1(732) 856 8033 . I will guide you on how to recover your funds .

---

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution before clicking on links or opening attachments.**

# Spear phishing

- Targets specific groups of individuals
- Often targeted towards an organization's employees rather than their customers



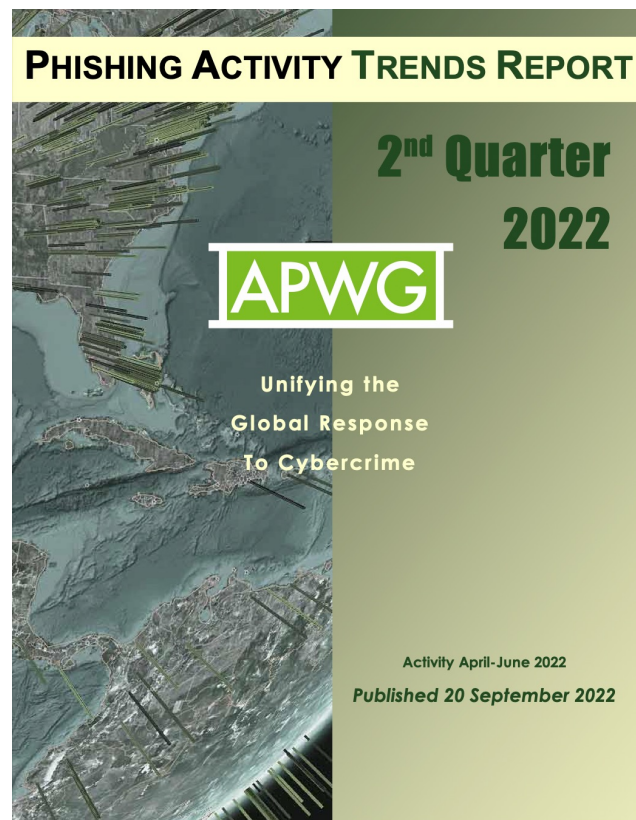
# High volume of phishing attacks

- 76% of businesses reported being a victim of a phishing attack in 2017 [Wombat Security State of the Phish]
- 30% of phishing messages get opened by targeted users and 12% of those users click on the malicious attachment or link [Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report]
- 95% of all attacks on enterprise networks are the result of successful spear phishing [SANS Institute]
- Nearly 1.5 million new phishing sites are created each month [Webroot Threat Report]



# 2022 trends summary

- Phishing attacks are at an all-time high (more than tripled since early 2020)
- 40% of phishing cash-out with gift cards
- Most targeted industries: financial institutions, webmail providers, social media
- Average wire transfer request in business email compromise scams: \$109,467



# Why phishing works

- Phishers take advantage of Internet users' trust in legitimate organizations
- Lack of computer and security knowledge
- People don't use good strategies to protect themselves

# Anti-phishing strategies

- Silently eliminate the threat
  - Find and take down phishing web sites
  - Detect and delete phishing emails
- Warn users about the threat
  - Anti-phishing toolbars and web browser features
- Recover from attacks quickly
- Train users not to fall for attacks

# User education is challenging

- Users are not motivated to learn about security
- For most users, security is a secondary task
- It is difficult to teach people to make the right online trust decision without increasing their false positive errors

# Is user education possible?

- Security education “puts the burden on the wrong shoulder.”  
[Nielsen, J. 2004. User education is not the answer to security problems.  
<http://www.useit.com/alertbox/20041025.html>.]
- “Security user education is a myth.”  
[Gorling, S. 2006. The myth of user education. 16th Virus Bulletin International Conference.]
- “User education is a complete waste of time. It is about as much use as nailing jelly to a wall.... They are not interested...they just want to do their job.”  
[Martin Overton, a U.K.-based security specialist at IBM, quoted in  
[http://news.cnet.com/2100-7350\\_3-6125213-2.html](http://news.cnet.com/2100-7350_3-6125213-2.html)]

# Web site training evaluation study

- Laboratory study of 28 non-expert computer users
- Experimental study: 2 conditions
  - **Control group:** evaluate 10 sites, 15 minute break to read email or play solitaire, evaluate 10 more sites
  - **Experimental group:** evaluate 10 sites, 15 minutes to read web-based training materials, evaluate 10 more sites

The image displays three overlapping browser windows, each showing a different website with security training content:

- Top Left Window:** Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website. The page title is "How Not to Get Hooked by a 'Phishing' Scam". The URL is <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt127.shtm>. The page features the FTC logo and navigation links. The main content includes a "FTC Consumer Alert" section with the heading "How Not to Get Hooked by a 'Phishing' Scam".
- Bottom Left Window:** OnGuard Online website. The page title is "Phishing - OnGuard Online". The URL is <http://www.onguardonline.gov/>. The page has a blue header with the OnGuard Online logo and navigation links. The main content includes a "Phishing" section with a "Quick Facts" sub-section.
- Right Window:** PayPal website. The page title is "Can you spot Phishing? - PayPal". The URL is <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=xpt/Marketing/securitycenter/a>. The page features the PayPal logo and navigation links. The main content includes a "Security Center" section with a "Can You Spot Phishing?" challenge.

# Web site training evaluation study

- Laboratory study of 28 non-expert computer users
- Experimental study: 2 conditions
  - **Control group:** evaluate 10 sites, 15 minute break to read email or play solitaire, evaluate 10 more sites
  - **Experimental group:** evaluate 10 sites, 15 minutes to read web-based training materials, evaluate 10 more sites
- Experimental group performed significantly better identifying phish after training, but more false positives
- People learn from online training, if only they pay attention!

# How do we get people trained?

- Problem

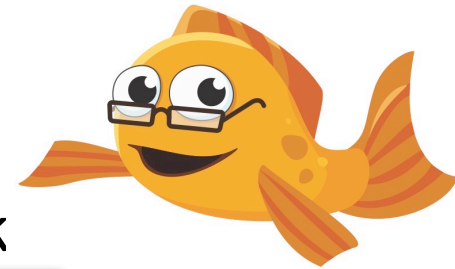
- Most people don't proactively look for security training materials
- "Security notice" emails sent to employees and/or customers tend to be ignored
  - Too much to read
  - People don't consider them relevant
- Existing (2010) materials good, but could be better

- Solution

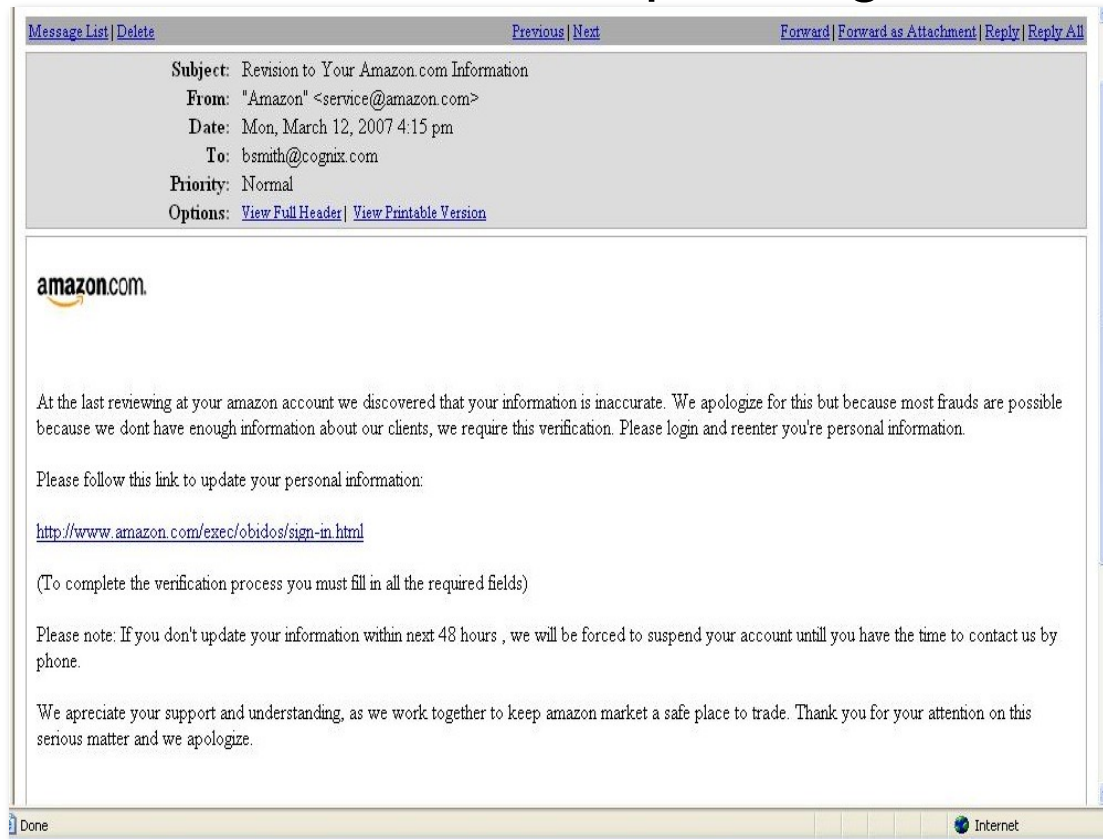
- Use learning science principles
- Find a "teachable moment": PhishGuru
- Make training fun: Anti-Phishing Phil



# PhishGuru embedded training



1. Send emails that looks like a phishing attack



2. If recipient falls for it, intervention warns and highlights what cues to look for in succinct and engaging format

**Carnegie Mellon**  
**The PhishGuru**  
 Protect yourself from Phishing Scams



**WARNING!**  
 Clicking on links like the one in the email you've just read puts you at risk for identity theft. A phishing scam uses fraudulent email and web pages to steal bank account information, passwords, and other confidential information.



Follow these steps to protect yourself

- 1 Don't trust links in an email.  
<http://www.wombank.com/update>
- 2 Never give out personal information upon email request.  
 Name: Jane Smith  
 SSN: 123 456 789
- 3 Look carefully at the web address.  
<http://www.amazon.com>
- 4 Type in the real website address into a web browser.  
<http://www.amazon.com>
- 5 Don't call company phone numbers in emails or instant messages. Check a reliable source such as a phone book or credit card statement.  
 Credit Card Statement  
 For customer service call 1-800-xxx-xxxx
- 6 Don't open unexpected email attachments or instant message download links.  
 My Inbox  
 Here is the updated document.  
[attachm191](#)

**How phishers trick you**

Here is how con artists try to steal your personal information.

I forged the address to look genuine.  
 I threatened the user with an urgent message.  
 I added a link that looks like it goes to Wombank - but it really sends people to my site so I can steal their information and money!

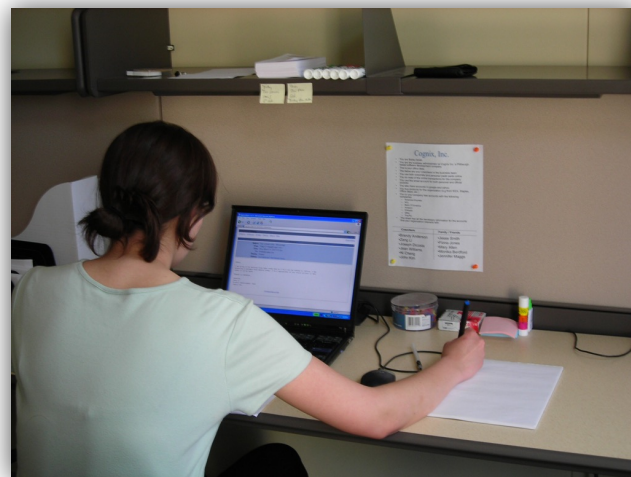
Wombank  
 From: service@Wombank.com  
 Dear Jane,  
 Your account will be suspended if you do not update your information.  
<http://www.Wombank.com/update>



- Presents conceptual knowledge
- Presents procedural knowledge
- Applies story-based agent principle
- Applies learning-by-doing and immediate feedback principles

# User Study

- Setup
  - Think aloud study
  - Role play as Bobby Smith, business administrator
  - Respond to Bobby's email
- Experiment
  - Part 1: 33 emails and one intervention
  - Part 2 (after 7 days): 16 emails and no intervention

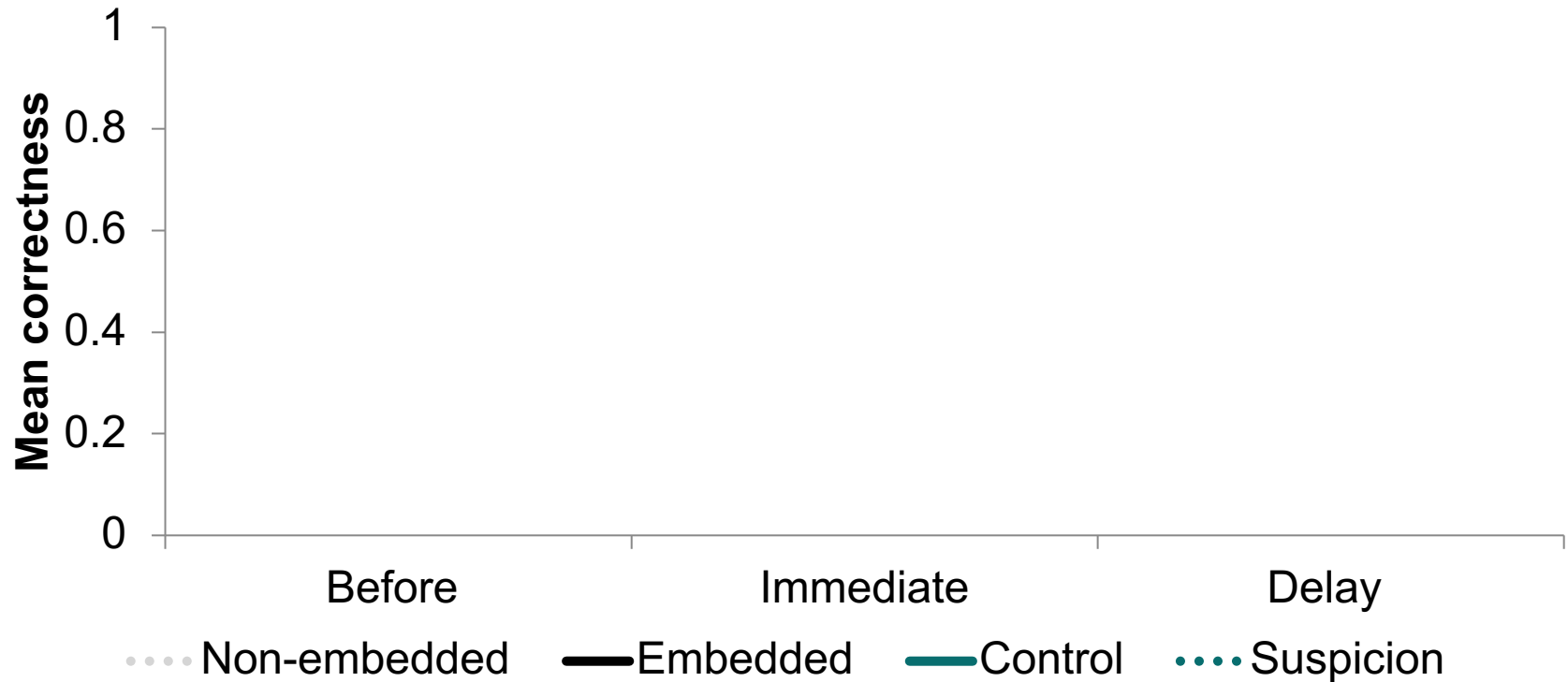


- 56 participants, 4 conditions
  - Control: no intervention
  - Suspicion: email from a friend
  - Non-embedded: in email
  - Embedded: intervention after clicking on link

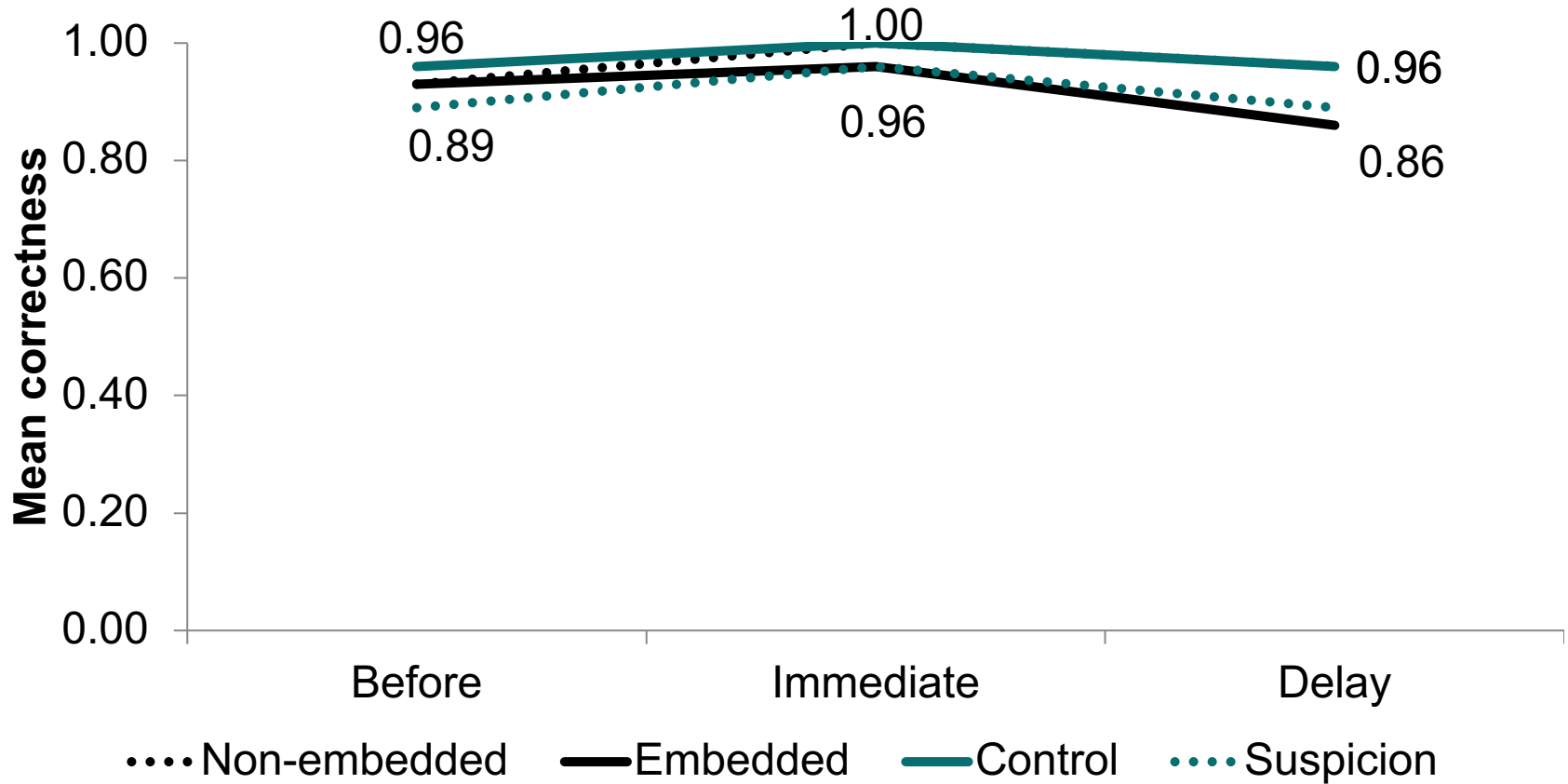
# Some of Bobby's messages

<b>Email type</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Legitimate-no-link	Brandy Anderson	Booking hotel rooms for visitors
Legitimate-link	Joseph Dicosta	Please check PayPal balance
Phishing-no-account	Wells Fargo	Update your bank information!
Phishing-account	eBay	Reactivate your eBay account
Spam	Eddie Arredondo	Fw: Re: You will want this job
Intervention	Amazon	Revision to your Amazon.com information

# Results - Phishing account emails



# Results – Legitimate link emails



# Participant quote

“I was more motivated to read the training materials since it was presented after me falling for the attack.”

# Real world study: CMU

- Evaluate effectiveness of PhishGuru training in the real world
- Investigate retention after 1 week, 2 weeks, and 4 weeks
- Compare effectiveness of 2 training messages with effectiveness of 1 training message



# Study design

- Emailed all CMU students, faculty and staff to recruit participants to opt-in
- 515 participants in three conditions
  - Control
  - One training message
  - Two training messages
- Emails sent over 28 day period
  - 7 simulated spear-phishing messages
  - 3 legitimate messages from ISO (cyber security scavenger hunt)
- Exit survey

# Implementation

- Unique hash in the URL for each participant
- Demographic and department/status data linked to each hash
- Form does not POST login details
- Campus help desks and all spoofed organizations were notified before messages were sent

# Study schedule

Day of the study	Control	One training message	Two training messages
Day 0	Test and real	<b>Train</b> and real	<b>Train</b> and real
Day 2	Test		
Day 7	Test and real		
Day 14	Test	Test	<b>Train</b>
Day 16	Test		
Day 21	Test		
Day 28	Test and real		
Day 35	Post-study survey		

# Simulated spear phishing message

**From:** Help Desk <alert-password@cmu.edu>  
**Subject:** **Your Andrew password alert**  
**Date:** November 17, 2008 11:08:19 AM EST  
**To:** Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (PK)

Dear Student/Faculty/Staff,

Our records indicate that you have not changed your Andrew password in the last 90 days, if you do not change your password in the next 5 days, your access to the Andrew email system will be terminated. Click the link below to update your password.

<http://andrewwebmail.org/password/change.htm?ID=9009>

Sincerely,  
Andrew Help Desk

Plain text email  
without graphics

URL is not hidden

# Simulated phishing website

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'WebISO Secure Login'. The address bar contains the URL 'http://andrewwebmail.org/password/change.htm?ID=9009'. The page features a red header with the 'CarnegieMellon' logo. In the top right corner, there are 'ABOUT' and 'LOGOUT' buttons. The main content area is titled 'WebISO Secure Login' and contains a message: 'The resource you requested requires you to authenticate.' Below this message are four input fields: 'User ID', 'Old password', 'New password', and 'Confirm password'. The 'User ID' field is followed by an '@' symbol and a dropdown menu showing 'ANDREW.CMU.EDU'. A 'Login' button is positioned below the password fields. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'Carnegie Mellon Certificates' with a link to 'install the Carnegie Mellon CA Root Certificates in your browser.' and another section titled 'About this service.' with a link to '[more]'. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Done' on the left and 'Perspectives' on the right.

WebISO Secure Login

http://andrewwebmail.org/password/change.htm?ID=9009

CarnegieMellon

ABOUT LOGOUT

## WebISO Secure Login

The resource you requested requires you to authenticate.

User ID  @ ANDREW.CMU.EDU

Old password

New password

Confirm password

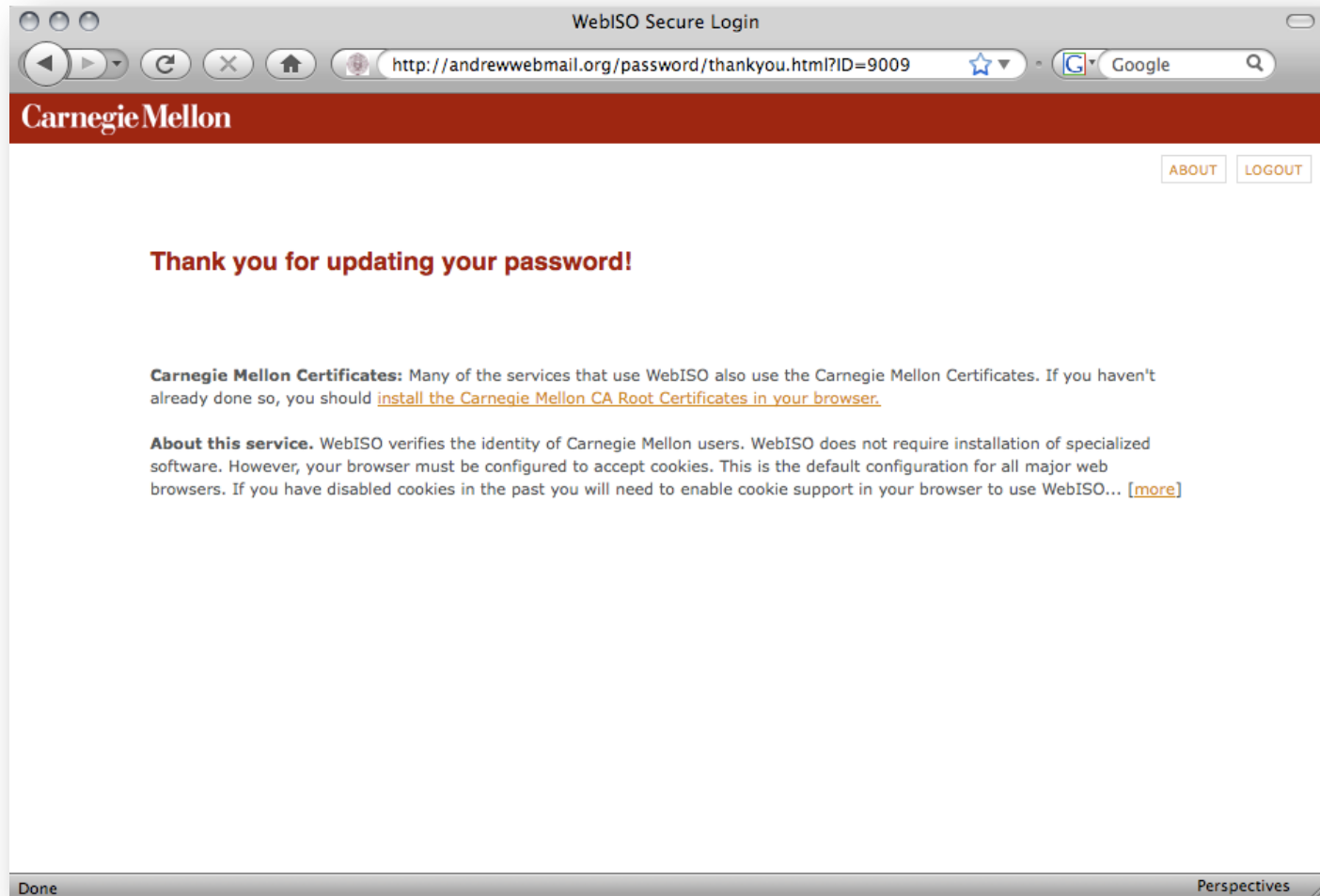
Login

**Carnegie Mellon Certificates:** Many of the services that use WebISO also use the Carnegie Mellon Certificates. If you haven't already done so, you should [install the Carnegie Mellon CA Root Certificates in your browser.](#)

**About this service.** WebISO verifies the identity of Carnegie Mellon users. WebISO does not require installation of specialized software. However, your browser must be configured to accept cookies. This is the default configuration for all major web browsers. If you have disabled cookies in the past you will need to enable cookie support in your browser to use WebISO... [\[more\]](#)

Done Perspectives

# Simulated phishing website



# PhishGuru intervention

**CarnegieMellon**  
**The PhishGuru**  
Protect yourself from Phishing Scams



## WARNING!

Clicking on links like the one in the email you've just read puts you at risk for identity theft. A phishing scam uses fraudulent email and web pages to steal bank account information, passwords, and other confidential information.

### How you were tricked

This email is from my bank and it is asking me to update my information. I better click on the link and update it.

**STOP!**  
Don't fall for this scam email.



#### Wombank

From: service@Wombank.com  
Dear Jane,  
Your account will be suspended if you do not update your information.  
<http://www.Wombank.com/update>

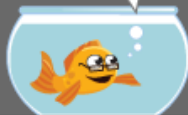


### How to help protect yourself

- 1 Don't trust links in an email.  
<http://www.wombank.com/update>
- 2 Never give out personal information upon email request.  
Name: Jane Smith  
SSN: 123 456 789
- 3 Look carefully at the web address.  
<http://www.amazon.com>
- 4 Type in the real website address into a web browser.  
<http://www.amazon.com>
- 5 Don't call company phone numbers in emails or instant messages. Check a reliable source such as a phone book or credit card statement.  
Credit Card Statement  
For customer service call 1-800-xxx-xxxx
- 6 Don't open unexpected email attachments or instant message download links.  
My Inbox  
Here is the updated document.  
[attachment](#)

### How phishers trick you

Here is how con artists try to steal your personal information.



#### Wombank

From: service@Wombank.com  
Dear Jane,  
Your account will be suspended if you do not update your information.  
<http://www.Wombank.com/update>

I forged the address to look genuine.

I threatened the user with an urgent message.

I added a link that looks like it goes to Wombank - but it really sends people to my site so I can steal their information and money!

Thanks PhishGuru!  
Where can I learn more?



Visit [phishguru.org](http://phishguru.org)

# Simulated phishing emails

From	Subject line
Info Sec	Bandwidth Quota Offer
Networking Services	Register for Carnegie Mellon's annual networking event
Webmaster	Change Andrew password
The Hub - Enrollment Services	Congratulation - Plaid Ca\$h
Sophie Jones	Please register for the conference
Community Service	Volunteer at Community Service Links
Help Desk	Your Andrew password alert



# Results

- People trained with PhishGuru were less likely to click on phishing links than those not trained
- People retained their training for 28 days (only half of people who clicked on day 0 clicked on day 28)
- Two training messages are better than one
- PhishGuru training does not make people less likely to click on legitimate links
- Age was most significant factor in determining vulnerability (students mostly likely to fall for phishing)

# Participants liked training, wanted more

- 280 completed post study survey
- 80% recommended that CMU continue PhishGuru training
  - “I really liked the idea of sending CMU students fake phishing emails and then saying to them, essentially, HEY! You could've just gotten scammed! You should be more careful - here's how....”
  - “I think the idea of using something fun, like a cartoon, to teach people about a serious subject is awesome!”

# From research to reality

- Iterated on PhishGuru designs
- PhishGuru user studies
  - Laboratory
  - Real-world
- Anti-Phishing Working Group landing page
- PhishGuru commercialized by Wombat Security Technologies, Inc., acquired by Proofpoint in 2018

# APWG landing page

- Train people when they fall for actual phishing emails
- Redirect people to “landing page”

<http://education.apwg.org/>

P. Kumaraguru, L. Cranor, and L. Mather. Anti-Phishing Landing Page: Turning a 404 into a Teachable Moment for End Users. CEAS 2009.



## WARNING!

The web page you tried to visit might have been trying to steal your personal information. That page was removed after being identified as a “phishing” web page. A phishing web page tricks people out of bank account information, passwords and other confidential information.

### How You Were Tricked

This email is from my bank and is asking me to update my information. I better click on the link and update it.



#### My Inbox

From: service@Wombank.com  
Dear Jane,  
Your account will be suspended if you do not update your information.  
<http://www.Wombank.com/update>

### How to Help Protect Yourself

- 1 Don't trust links in an email.

**DANGER!** <http://www.amazon.com/update>

- 2 Never give out personal information upon email request.

**DANGER!** Name:   
Credit Card:

- 3 Look carefully at the web address.

- 4 Type in the real website address into a web browser.

- 5 Don't call company phone numbers in emails or instant messages. Check a reliable source such as a phone book or credit card statement.

Credit Card Statement

For Customer Service call:  
1-800 xxx-xxx

- 6 Don't open unexpected email attachments or instant message unload links.

#### My Inbox

Here is the updated document.  
[attachment](#)

**DON'T CLICK!**

### How Phishers Trick You Into Giving Out Personal Information



#### My Inbox

**A** From: service@Wombank.com  
**B** Dear Jane,  
Your account will be suspended if you do not update your information.  
**C** <http://www.Wombank.com/update>

- A** He forges email addresses to look genuine
- B** He provokes the computer user with an urgent request
- C** He adds links that appear to connect to a real bank but bring users to the phisher's counterfeit site - to take their information and money

### How You Can Help

Should I report this suspicious email?



This one was already reported and you are safe. But Please tell your friends what you learned here.



# How do we get people trained?

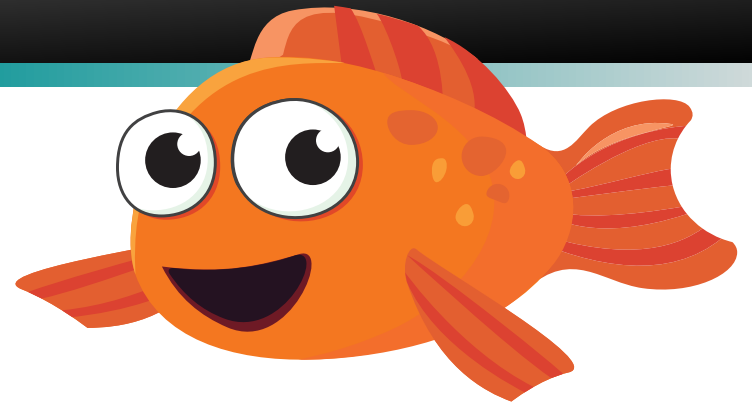
- Problem

- Most people don't proactively look for security training materials
- "Security notice" emails sent to employees and/or customers tend to be ignored
  - Too much to read
  - People don't consider them relevant
- Existing (2010) materials good, but could be better

- Solution

- Use learning science principles
- Find a "teachable moment": PhishGuru
- Make training fun: Anti-Phishing Phil

# Anti-Phishing Phil



- Online game
- Teaches people how to protect themselves from phishing attacks
  - identify phishing URLs
  - use web browser cues
  - find legitimate sites with search engines


ROUND 1

SCORE: 0

LIVES: 

TIME LEFT: 1 : 44



 (147.46.236.55/PayPal/login.html)

**Don't trust URLs with all numbers in the front.**

WITH URL REVEALED:

**E**

EAT LEGITIMATE URLs

**R**

REJECT PHISHING URLs

**T**

ASK YOUR FATHER FOR HELP

ROUND 1

# ROUND OVER

**Congratulations! You May Proceed to the Next Round**

(✓) correct choice (✗) incorrect choice

- ✓ <http://165.246.121.80/wamu/> SCAM ALERT! URLs with all numbers in the front are usually scam.
- ✓ <http://www.msn-verify.com/> SCAM ALERT! keywords such as verify, update in the domain usually means it is scam.
- ✓ <http://www.chase.com> Chase.com is part of the J.P. Chase Corporation.
- ✓ <https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/> Don't be fooled by the www3, this site belongs to nationalgeographic.com
- ✓ <http://www.onlineregionsbank.com/> SCAM ALERT! Regions bank website is regions.com, not onlineregionsbank.com
- ✓ <http://www.citizensbank.com> citizensbank.com belongs to Citizens Bank.
- ✗ <http://147.91.75.1/ebay/> SCAM ALERT! URLs with all numbers in the front are usually scam.
- ✗ <http://www.amazon.com> amazon.com is the shopping site Amazon.

WITH URL REVEALED:

E

EAT LEGITIMATE

**NEXT ROUND**

ES URLS

T

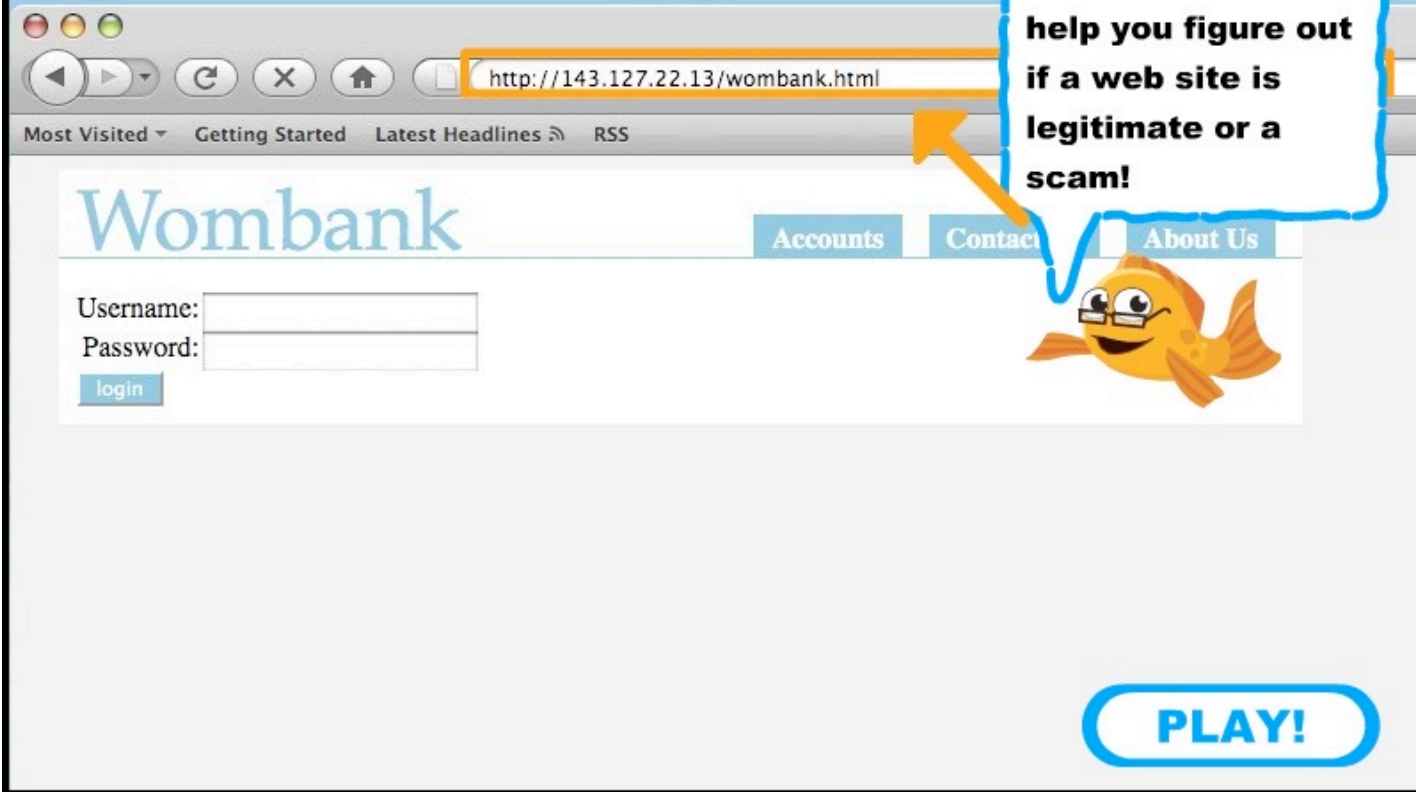
ASK YOUR FATHER FOR HELP



# How To Avoid Online Scams

Don't ignore the URL!

Looking at the address bar can help you figure out if a web site is legitimate or a scam!



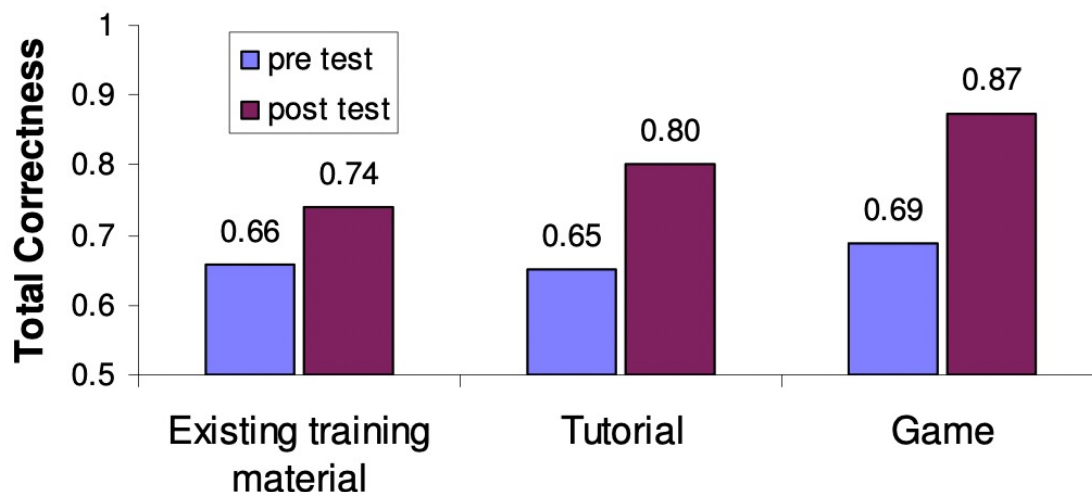
The image shows a browser window with the address bar containing the URL `http://143.127.22.13/wombank.html`. The page content includes the 'Wombank' logo, navigation links for 'Accounts', 'Contact', and 'About Us', and a login form with fields for 'Username:' and 'Password:', and a 'login' button. A cartoon fish character is positioned near the navigation links. A blue callout box with a white border and a blue arrow pointing to the address bar contains the text: 'Looking at the address bar can help you figure out if a web site is legitimate or a scam!'. At the bottom right of the browser window, there is a blue button with the text 'PLAY!'.

# User Study 1

- Test participants' ability to identify phishing web sites before/after training
  - 10 URLs before training, 10 after, randomized
  - Up to 15 minutes of training
- Three conditions:
  - Web-based phishing education
  - Tutorial
  - Game
- 42 participants (14 in each condition)
  - Screened out security experts
  - Younger, college students

# Results

- No significant difference in false negatives among the three groups
- Game group performed best in false positives
- All training we tested made people more suspicious, but game was significantly better accuracy than existing



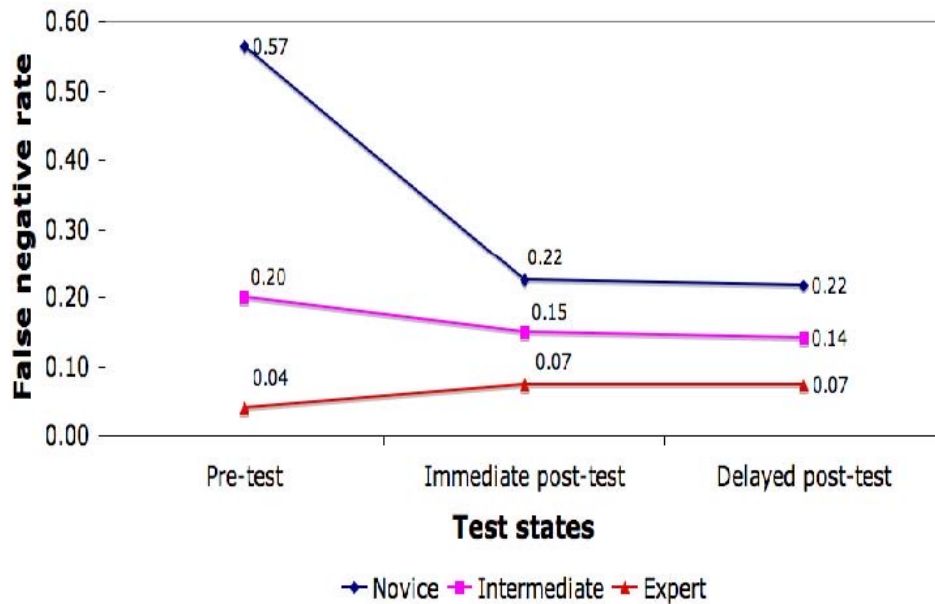
# User Study 2

- Test participants' ability to identify phishing web sites before/after training
  - 6 URLs each: before game, after game, 1 week later (randomized)
- 2,021 participants completed first phase, 674 completed 1 week later
  - Screened out security experts
  - Younger, college students

# Anti-Phishing Phil in the Wild

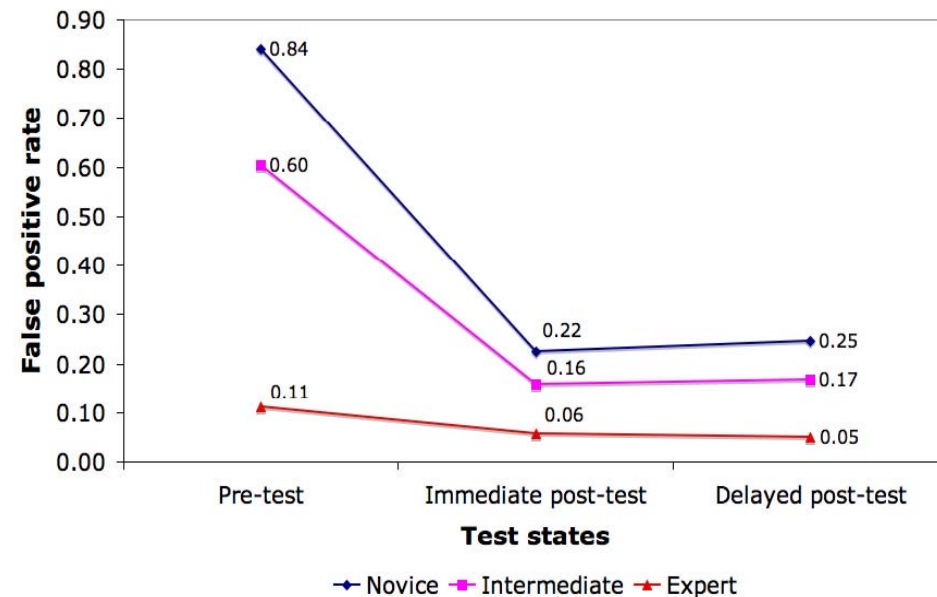
## False negatives

### False negative



## False positives

### False positive



# Comments

- “I liked the game! It was fun to play and had a useful message.”
- “Excellent game. Getting people to actually learn is the tough part.”
- “Is it available to training for compliance and Internet t
- “I plan to direct my mothe

## Coollest Security Tool Ever! - Online game to teach cyber-security

By: Alexandru Dumitru, Security News Editor

[Ads by Google](#) [Network Security Blogs](#) [New Security](#) [Security Alerts](#) [Security Awareness](#)



[Enlarge picture](#)

Now this is certainly something really nice! Researchers are advising users kindergarden-style! These people are going out of their way to help people stay secure. Of course, the best way of protecting yourself against the [threats](#) on the web is to know what they are and how to act against them. That's why the brainy dudes at [Carnegie Mellon University](#) have designed a game to help people out!

Now, I knew that some warnings and pieces of news were for the tech-savvy users that knew too much about security already, but they're dumbing down security measures so much that even a 10-year-old could stay safe on the web. If this doesn't make a difference, then I don't know what will!

The game is called Anti-Phishing Phil, and you can play it by clicking on this [link](#). Not only is it entertaining - I really like that fish - but it's also going to [teach](#) you a lot. So, this is a great initiative - these people are making it stupid-proof - web users should understand [phishing](#) threats and know how to watch out against them a lot better after playing the game. And you can play it just for fun, if you're a security geek. Or you can play it just to test your knowledge - in any case, I like this initiative a lot.

I've seen a similar thing on Agnitum's [website](#) - it's a quiz that will tell you if you're a security wizard or not. That was pretty cool, but this fish beats the crap out of any other web threat awareness tool ever!

Be my guest and click on the link above to Anti-Phishing Phil. You're bound to like it! And I wonder what's next, are researchers going to come up with a game with "Sexy Lisa" warning against "porn-related spam"?

**SONY**

The Sony VAIO® TZ

With Intel® Centrino® Duo Processor Technology

► Learn more

like.no.other™

[www.sonymstyle.com](http://www.sonymstyle.com)

Ads by Google

# Why is Phil so popular?

- Addresses a problem people are concerned about
- Teaches actionable steps
- Get trained fast (about 10 minutes)
- Fun to play
- People like to win things (or even just get points)
- Interactive, reinforces learning

# Security user education is possible

- Conventional wisdom: end-user security training does not work
- Anti-phishing work shows otherwise
  - You can teach Johnny not to fall for phish
- We should still aim to reduce or eliminate computer security threats through technology and enforcement
- But these efforts should be complemented with user education





# User education in security/privacy

- What areas would most benefit from user education? How might you design effective educational tools for that domain?

# Phishing Prevention

