

Fraud Alert - Text Message Scam

Written by Matt Weir | June 11, 2024 at 12:36:pm

The Saint John Police are warning the public about a text message scam occurring in our area.

How it works:

-Smishing is a combination of “SMS” and “Phishing”. It is a type of cyberattack that uses deceptive text messages to trick recipients into providing personal information or clicking malicious links.

-The fraudster assumes an identity that you might trust, making it more likely that individuals will succumb to their requests.

-It relies on human trust rather than technical exploits. By posing as legitimate individuals and organizations, cybercriminals lower their targets skepticism.

-The messages may be trying to trick you into downloading malicious software that installs itself on your phone. The SMS malware may masquerade as a legitimate app, tricking you into typing in confidential information and sending this data to the cybercriminals.

-The link may also lead to a fake site that requests you to type sensitive personal information.

-Once an infected link is clicked or you provide personal information, the scammer uses your compromised information to carry out further attacks or commit fraud.

-They often purport to be from your bank and ask you for personal or financial information such as your account or Pin number. Providing the information is equivalent to handing thieves the keys to your bank balance.

How do I prevent falling victim?

-Avoid responding to text messages from unknown or suspicious numbers.

-Always be cautious with any unexpected or suspicious text messages. If you are unsure about a message, research the company's phone number and call them

directly.

- Never click on random links sent to you via text messages. These links could lead to malicious websites or download harmful software onto your device.

- Update your devices regularly. Updates can provide critical protection against security threats.

The best defense against this type of fraud is awareness and caution.

Together a safe, secure, healthy community

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