

# Spammers, Scammers and Frauds, Oh My

by  
Brian Campbell

As a side effect of my self-employment, working online and on social media, I receive a large number of e-mails which are... shall we say... dubious, suspicious, doubtful, hard to believe; to quote Number 5 from the movie Short Circuit. I have won more lotteries than I can remember, without ever having bought a single ticket. A multitude of incredibly wealthy people have wanted to either a) share their vast wealth with me or b) give it to me in its entirety. All I need to do is provide them with my banking information and they will gladly turn over more money than I could spend in my lifetime. Sure.



I have even received an e-mail death threat. Really! A Mr. Green Umar (undoubtedly a Middle Eastern relative of Kermit) sent an e-mail to advise me that a business associate of mine had hired him to kill me. He was hoping that I would make a counter offer in exchange for my life and the name of the person who hired him. He told me that, (Quote) "I am from a well trained group in the middle east that carries out suicide bombings and special killings of top government officials." Really? And you got me as your assignment! Not top of the class, were we? My options were, heed him or regret it. I chose door number three. Save the e-mail and laugh about it. I never heard from Mr. Umar again. Well, you know what they say, "It's not easy being Green."

From: Green Umar [green.umar@aol.com]  
Sent: February 14, 2008 9:14 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: NOTICE(BE WARNED)

Hello,  
How are you doing today?, I was paid to assassinate you, but I felt it will be right for me to inform you and bear from you, before carrying out my operations. I honestly tell you that this contract was given to me by a close business friend of yours, with effect to you reading this mail, note that you are not safe.  
I will appreciate if you to act very fast to this mail or else I will be forced to carry out my work.  
I have all your informations with me now, as am talking to you.  
If you feel contacting a security firm or the police will make you safe, I want to also let you know that it will not stop me, will rather make me to carry out my operations very fast, so stay cool and contact me if negotiations. Note that I sent this email after keeping an eye on you for over ten days, so you can see what I meant by telling you that a security firm can't save you. Just waiting to hear from you, so I know if I can change my mind under the grounds of negotiation, and I think, after negotiation I will be ready to inform you about who sent me.  
I am from a well trained group that in the middle east that carries out suicide bombings and special killings, for top government officials.  
Note that I am all around you, so make sure you don't do anything more that contacting me, if not you will regret it.  
I await your comment on this.  
Mr. Green Umar  
via: green.umar@sfy.com

Then there are the somewhat more believable ones. You know the ones I'm talking about. They claim to be from your bank warning you of a potential fraud on your account, or wanting to update your account to prevent online fraud. Some of these are quite good, using proper logos and bank ID, and often preying on justifiable fears of hacking and identity theft. For me, recognizing them as fake has been easy. Not once have they gotten my bank correctly in any of their attempts. I have considered contacting them and suggesting that if they could find money under my name in any of these accounts I would gladly share it with them. On top of that, I do minimal online banking and NEVER from my business e-mail.

For those of you who do receive banking information at your e-mail address, keep these things in mind. It is extremely

From: Royal Bank of Canada <businesscenter@rbccroyalbank.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 7:44 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RBC Business Account Management - Action Required  
Attachments: RBXCERTIFICATE04242015010930.html

Dear RBC Customer,

The RBC Business online Banking User Migration to a new Sign in process continues. Since September 24th, 2015 all users have been prompted to convert as they sign in.

All clients who have not signed in since September 24th, 2015 will now have until September 28th, 2015 to do so. After September 28th, 2015 any user that has not migrated will be blocked from signing in.

You will need to download the attached certificate file to proceed with the migration to our new Sign in process. Your attachments are saved to your computer in the default download location set by your browser.

Thank you for your business and we welcome any feedback or questions you may have through our Message Centre.

Technical Department  
RBC Business Center

If your account has been frozen and marked as dormant, any money in your account will remain there, and you'll continue to earn any interest that's due to you. However, you won't be able to make any transactions on it without contacting us and, in certain situations, providing acceptable identification.

We'll continue to send you statements and attempt to contact you to remind you of the status of your account.

Thank you for choosing RBC Royal Bank Of Canada. We look forward to sharing your success

Brenda Hall  
RBC Accounting Manager  
Financial Security Department

unlikely that the security division of your bank would contact you by e-mail. It is even more unlikely that your bank would ask for confidential information by e-mail. Thirdly, and most obviously, if your name isn't attached to the e-mail, it isn't for you. This is a "phishing" ploy used to see how many suckers they can catch, and always your first warning that something is "phishy". When in doubt, pick up the phone and call your bank, credit card company, or whatever official institution the person on the other end of the e-mail is supposed to represent, to verify it is real. Look up any number you aren't sure about, don't use any numbers supplied in the e-mail.

Which brings us to my personal favourites, and the type I get most often because I am self-employed. These are the ones who want to help me and my business, usually by updating my website, SEO, social media or web content. For me this is both a joke and a warning sign, because if they have studied my website at all, which every one of them claims they have, they would know that web content and social media support are what I do for a living, so I certainly wouldn't need their help. Once again, seeing my name missing from the introduction is a sure sign that something is "phishy." Poor spelling and grammar not only warns me of the likelihood of a scam, it advises me that I wouldn't want them working on my website even if it wasn't a scam. However, a big thing that catches my attention is that the majority of these offers to help me with my website fail to contain a business name or website and the e-mail addresses are often Hotmail, Outlook, Yahoo, Gmail or something similar. Excuse me, but why would I trust you to design or upgrade my website when you obviously don't have one of your own? I was born on a day, but yesterday wasn't it.

I hope this rant will help you to identify the spammers, scammers and phishers out there. There are a lot of tricksters out there and the internet has made it much easier for them to find and target you. It is becoming increasingly harder to distinguish truth from fiction, so stay on your toes, double check everything and remember that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. In closing, remember that Abraham Lincoln has been quoted as saying, "Don't believe everything you read on the internet just because there's a picture with a quote next to it."

**From:** Sia Singh <sia.imktg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:45 AM  
**Subject:** Want to have top page ranking in Google?

Dear Sir/Mam,  
 I hope you are  
 I am Sia Singh  
 Advertising in t  
 Hi,  
 We are leading  
 SEO services wi  
 submission arti  
 Hope  
 Our Expertise i  
 1- Digital Mark  
 2- Mobile App  
 3- Web Develo  
 4- Web Design  
 5- eCommerce  
 We c  
 We a  
 Let me know if  
 company but a  
 Feel free to cor  
 Let n  
 Kind Regards,  
 Sia Singh  
 Note:- We are i  
 simple "NO".  
 I loo

**From:** Pooja Sharma <poojamarketingmanager@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9:14 AM  
**Subject:** 1st Page of Google !

**From:** Annu <annuroymoapp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:51 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SEO Proposal !!!!

<http://localhost:8080/g.html?uid=1.8.3zb7.0.1frhvfzoz> Hello Sir/Madam,  
 Do you want a reliable, creative and experience team for digital marketing of your website?

**From:** anuradhasyagi@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 4:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Web Re-Design & Maintenance Proposal.!

Hi,  
 Are you aware of the fact that mobile apps have completely changed the business scenario today?  
 You know that billions of new apps being developed everyday, the future has finally evolved. Why are Businesses Creating Mobile Apps?  
 We are creating different type amazing apps of requirement of our clients.  
 So what are you waiting for? Don't have an idea/concept yet?  
 If you would like to see the apps we create and other requirement & our price list feel free to contact us.  
 Our pricing is very reasonable.  
 Thank you,  
 Anuradha  
 App and Website Development

[Untitled form](#)  
[FILL OUT FORM](#)  
 Create your own Google Form

If you find this mail unsolicited, please reply with "Remove" in the subject line and we will take care that you do not receive any further promotional mail

