

Whaling

What is Whaling?

Whaling is a type of fraud that targets high-profile end users such as C-level corporate executives.

Why it is done?

As with any phishing endeavour, the goal of whaling is to trick someone into disclosing personal/ corporate information or trick into taking some action through social engineering, email spoofing, or content spoofing efforts.

How it is done?

The con artist may send his target an email which appears as if it's from a trusted source, or lure the target to a website that has been created specifically for the attack - similar to a phishing attack. But, unlike phishing emails, whaling emails and websites are highly customised and personalised.

How can whaling be prevented?

Basic precautions can be taken to avoid falling prey to whaling:

- Please check the email ID of the sender carefully: a minor mismatch could give away the fraudster.
- Always verify any unusual requests by an alternative method of communication (e.g. telephone, text message or in person)