# GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
## CABINET SECRETRIAT, CABINET DIVISION
### NATIONAL TELECOM & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY BOARD
#### (NTISB)

No. 1-5/2003 (NTISB-II)                                              Islamabad 3 Sep 2020

Subject:    **Guidelines for Prevention Against Phishing Attacks / Scams Related to Trending Topics i.e. Coronavirus (COVID-19) and China-India Border Conflict (Advisory No. 15)**

1. **Introduction.** Recently, threat actors have been taking advantage of the interest surrounding trending topics such as COVID-19 and the border conflict between India and China to trick users into clicking on / downloading malicious email links and attachments in order to attack and invade corporate networks. Hostile elements spoof / impersonate email addresses to look legitimate. It is advised to follow instructions in para 2 to safeguard against phishing exploitation.

2. **Recommendations** Following are recommended measures against phishing attacks: -

   a. Always check complete URL before providing login credentials or clicking on a link and make sure that its https:// with no spelling mistakes in address.
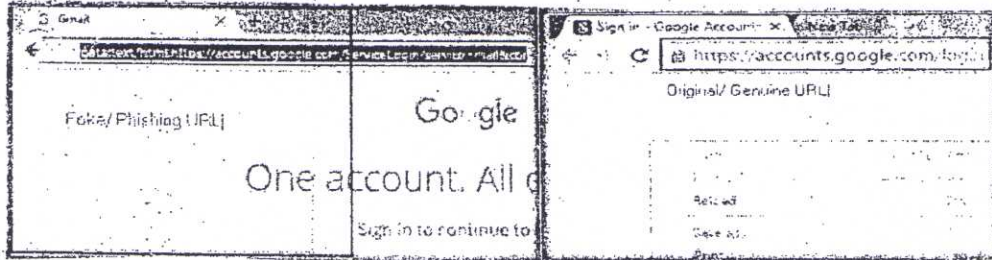


   b. Don't download **email attachments from untrusted sources or unfamiliar addresses**.

   c. Remain vigilant for **scams related to trending topics such as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**, or **China-India border conflict** as attackers may send emails with malicious attachments or links to **trick victims into revealing sensitive information**

   d. Download software applications form trusted source only. Especially abstain from **downloading / installing applications sent through SMS / WhatsApp messages.**

   e. Install licensed and **updated well-reputed anti-virus software**.

   f. Enable **personal / domain firewalls** on workstations.

SS(IT-I)

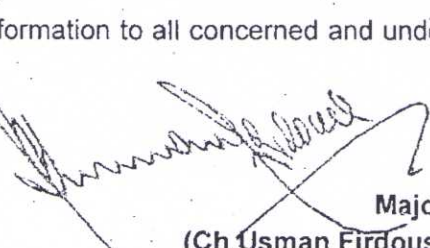g.  **Harden web browsers** to block execution of JavaScript and Adobe Flash which is used for most attacks on privacy.

h.  **Disable macros permanently**, as victims are actively targeted using macro based malware.

3.  Forwarded for perusal and dissemination of information to all concerned and under command, please.

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