

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SCAMMED?

By Brian Zarzycki, MP Integrated Solutions

In today's electronic communication world – lots of people fall for the email hoaxes that populate our email inboxes. There are various types of email scams:

1. Please send me money, I am stuck overseas.
2. I am a soldier that came across some money and wanted you to help me get it back to my family.
3. Political campaign smearing.
4. Please login to your bank account. We have made a mistake and need you to help us.
5. UPS, Fed-Ex, DHL needs you to login and help us deliver the package that we tried to deliver today.

These are all emails trying to gain your personal information. They even have identical websites setup to mimic a legitimate place that you normally would go to. Such as www.wellsfargo.com's website. The problem is when you enter your information it does not go anywhere except into a file that is stored for a hacker later. The hacker then takes your legitimate information logs into the real Wells Fargo website and starts transferring money to their accounts.

So how do you stop from getting scammed, even when it is your closest friend that sends you the email? First, pick up the phone or replay back to your friend and ask them if they really sent it to you. Second, if there is a link in the email, do not click on it, but hover over it – it will show you where you really are going to be taken. If the email stated you are going to <https://www.wellsfargo.com> but when you hover over the link it says <https://mywells.fargo.com> you know it is not safe.

In addition, the majority of places like banks, delivery truck services, etc. do not send you emails asking for your personal information, regardless if your mom, brother, or son sent you the email. You can also go to www.snopes.com and do search on the subject line of the email. Snopes will tell you how long the email is been passed around the Internet and how truthful the email actually is.

When it comes to spending your money, be wise and spend it on something you know is true. Or in a pinch, contact a trustworthy computer consulting firm like MP Integrated Solutions.