Phishing: Don't fall for the hook, line or sinker.

Phishing is a term used to describe a form of Internet identity theft. Here's how it works. Thieves will send out an email message to victims telling them that they need to visit a website to verify or update their accounts. The email will appear to come from a legitimate email address but it is really just forged. The email will often threaten that if action is not taken then the account will be terminated. The website listed in the email masks the true website address and sends the victim to a site that looks official but whose sole purpose is to get the victim to enter his/her userid and password. Of course once the thieves have the victim's bank account number or credit card number along with the userid and password, they are off on a spending spree. In fact, the crooks have gotten so clever at masquerading legitimate companies, that it is has been estimated that almost 2 million adults have experienced this sort of crime in the past year resulting in losses of approximately $2.4 billion US. That's about $1,200 US per victim.

Phishing is very difficult to prevent but there are some things you can do to avoid it:

- If you get an email that warns you, with little or no notice, that an account of yours will be shut down unless you reconfirm your billing information, do not reply or click on the link in the email. Instead, contact the company directly using a telephone number or Web site address you know to be genuine.

- Check the full source of the email... there is likely some evidence in the headers that the email is forged. The web site is also apt to have numbers such as 123.456.789.012 in the link. If it has numbers such as these, do NOT click the link.

- Never transmit your userid/password via email. When visiting web sites you know to be legitimate, always make sure that you use the secure website. You should see a lock icon on the bottom status bar of the window and the URL should start with https://

- Keep your Windows up-to-date. Microsoft recently released a security update that helps prevent phishing scams.

- And it is always good practice to be very sure of the link in an email before clicking!

UW-ACE Fall Launch in AHS

UW-ACE (named for the University of Waterloo’s Angel Course Environment) has graduated from its trial run of 30 courses with 1500 students in the spring 2004 term and will launch into full operation this fall with almost 200 courses at UW. ACE is being used for a variety of course activities ranging from accessing course notes and resource links, course announcements, communicating with fellow students, and submitting assignments to online dropboxes. Professors and instructors use UW-ACE as their course home site, to distribute marks, and to communicate with students. Some instructors are using more advanced activities such as pre-class preparation quizzes, weekly discussion topics, and project group work. UW-ACE easily brings all these types of activities together. To login to UW-ACE, go to uwace.uwaterloo.ca. An online Help option is available at this site. For questions regarding UW-ACE call or email Katherine Lithgow (klithgow@uwaterloo.ca, ext. 7076)
Managing Your Home Computer

Remote Desktop

The Remote Desktop client allows a user to connect directly to a Windows XP computer. It is like you are sitting at your office pc but you are at home! Depending on your connection speed and the vintage of your home computer, remote desktop will respond differently. High-speed connections via Rogers or Bell emulate the office setting quite well.

Why would I want to run Remote Desktop???
Running Remote Desktop allows you to access software that you might not have on your home computer. The ease of accessing files from your workstation and dealing with your email (as it appears at work), are the main benefits of Remote Desktop.

How to run Remote Desktop
You need to have your office pc setup for this service, by default it is not turned on. If you are running Windows XP, look for the remote desktop connection through the menus
Start — Programs — Accessories — Communication — Remote Desktop Client
OR, go to Run - mstsc

For more information, please reference http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/seminars

UWDir

The UW Directory is a database of information that IST maintains and publishes about all UW faculty, staff, and students. The database can be queried from computers in the UW campus network and throughout the Internet.

The UWDIR database includes: your unique UW userid (which is the same as your email userid), full name, department, office number, phone number, email address and web site (if you have one).

To view your own information or anyone else’s, go to: http://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwdir/LookUp.html
If any of your information is not correct, you can edit it at: https://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwdir/Update
Don't know your UWDIR password? Visit: http://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwdir/UnLock.html
and authenticate yourself against healthy or ahsmail and a new password will be assigned to you. UWDir is also used to authenticate users for Quest (the student information system), myHRinfo (Human Resources web site), UW dial-up service, and other campus resources. Because your UWDIR password gains you access to these high level sites, it is important that your password be complex and that you never share it with anyone.

Did you know?
This first independent version of Microsoft Windows, version 1.0, released in 1985, lacked a degree of functionality and achieved little popularity. Windows 1.0 did not provide a complete operating system, but rather extended MS-DOS. Moreover, the programs that shipped with the early version included “toy” applications with little or limited appeal to business users. Version 2 still used the real-mode memory model, which confined it to a maximum of 1 megabyte of memory. Microsoft Windows scored a serious success with Windows 3.0, released in 1990. In addition to improved capabilities given to native applications, Windows also allowed a user to better multitask older MS-DOS based software compared to Windows/386, thanks to the introduction of virtual memory. PC compatibles became serious competitors to the Apple Macintosh. Why? (1) the improved graphics available on PCs (2) Protected/Enhanced mode which allowed Windows applications to use more memory in a more painless manner than their DOS counterparts could.

Source:
http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/electromag/computers/compactdiscs/cd.html