

Social Engineering Red Flags

FROM

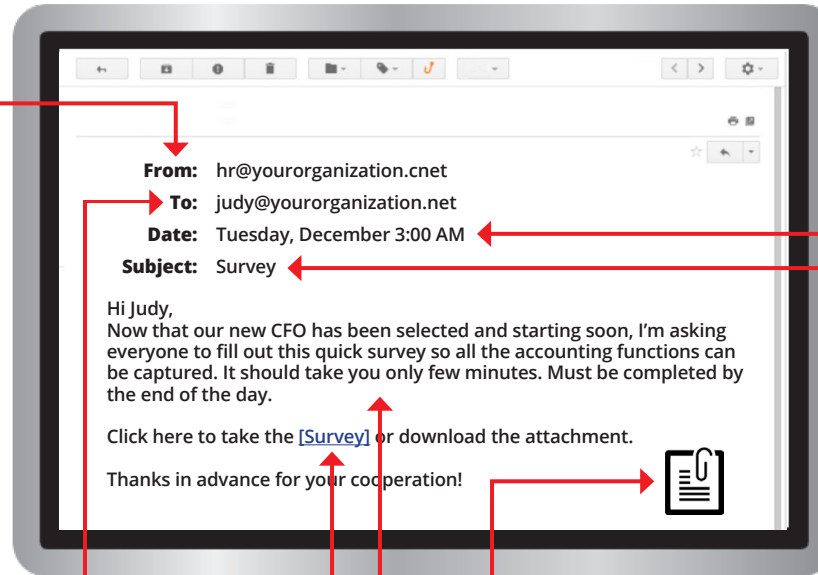
- I don't recognize the sender's email address as someone **I ordinarily communicate with**.
- This email was sent from **someone inside the organization** or from a customer, vendor, or partner and is **very unusual or out of character**.
- Is the sender's email address from a **suspicious domain** (like micorsoft-support.com)?

TO

- I was cc'd on an email sent to one or more people, but **I don't personally know** the other people it was sent to.
- I received an email that was also sent to an **unusual mix of people**. For instance, it might be sent to a random group of people at my organization whose last names start with the same letter, or a whole list of unrelated addresses.

HYPERLINKS

- I hover my mouse over a hyperlink that's displayed in the email message, but the **link-to address is for a different website**. (This is a **big** red flag.)
- I received an email that only has **long hyperlinks with no further information**, and the rest of the email is completely blank.
- I received an email with a **hyperlink that is a misspelling** of a known website. For instance, www.bankofarnerica.com — the "m" is really two characters — "r" and "n."



DATE

- Did I receive an email that I normally would get during regular business hours, but it was **sent at an unusual time** like 3 a.m.?

SUBJECT

- Is the email message a reply to something **I never sent or requested**?

ATTACHMENTS

- The sender included an email attachment that **I was not expecting** or that **makes no sense**.

CONTENT

- Is the email **out of the ordinary**, or does it have **bad grammar** or **spelling errors**?
- Do I have an **uncomfortable gut feeling** about the sender's request?

The Number 1 RULE for EMAIL!

If you receive an email with a **hyperlink** or **an attachment**; assume it is spam unless you know 100% certain otherwise.