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New eBay phishing mail scares users into revealing information

By **ZDNet India Staff**, MicroWorld Technologies, the antivirus, antispam and content security solution provider, says a new e-mail in circulation tries to pilfer confidential account information of eBay customers by sending them a tricky phishing mail.

Appearing as a routine confirmation message from eBay, it tells the recipient that she has sent \$249.20 to an email address at aol.com.

Then it shows a transaction id and subject to numb the unsuspecting victim. To view the details of the transaction, she is told to click on a link. The mail ends with a 'thank you for using eBay' line, deliberately written to aggravate the user. Once she clicks on the 'view details' link, a new page opens up where her account information will be captured by online criminals behind the scam.

"At the end of the day, a phisher's goal is to make you visit the spoof website of any reputable organization, and they will try every trick in the trade to achieve this end," observes Sunil Kripalani, Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing, MicroWorld Technologies, "With so much awareness being spread by various agencies and considerable coverage in mainstream media, one would tend to think that it's hard to fool people in this fashion any more. But the facts tell you a different story."

According to Sunil, Phishing scams still manage to loot millions out of people's bank and other accounts every year, while the far reaching impact of loss of personal information like social security number, date of birth and mother' maiden name goes largely unnoticed by many.

"The most disturbing trend in Phishing in recent times is the rise of man-in-the-middle attacks which enable an online criminal to sit live between the spoof site and the original, and manipulate the stolen data to his advantage in real time. It means a few seconds after the criminal gets the data from the Phishing site, he loots the victims account. With customizable kits available in the online grey market, even a not-so tech-savvy guy can run such an attack," explains Sunil.

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