



Information provided by the Ohio Credit Union League

Don't fall prey to phishing scams masquerading as Ohio credit unions

Information for Consumers:

On Aug. 26, a fraudulent e-mail survey began circulating. The e-mail purports to be from “Credit Union of Ohio [<mailto:notice@cuofohio.org>]” and includes a link to the survey. The link in the e-mail is fake and actually directs visitors to the scammers’ Web site. (If you hover your cursor over the link, you’ll see the actual address it routes to). At the bottom of the survey, the recipient is asked to input their account number in order to receive the \$99.99 deposit. However, they have actually just submitted their account number to the scammers.

Key clues/red flags to help spot these kinds of scams:

— When you click on the link, the URL is not consistent with the institution’s Web address. For example, Credit Union of Ohio’s Web site is www.CUofOhio.org. The link actually takes visitors to:

<http://216.119.238.198.nw.nuvox.net:84/cuofohio/index.htm>.

— Most importantly, whenever you are submitting account or credit card numbers online, make sure that it is through a secure Web site. Look for the little lock icon in the lower right-hand corner of the screen and <https://> in the Web address.

On Aug. 19, multiple phishing scams posing as various Ohio credit unions began circulating. Ohioans are receiving e-mails, cell phone text, and voice mail/answering machine messages informing them that their credit union accounts have been suspended. Recipients are given a phone number to call to re-instate their accounts (this is how the fraudsters steal their account information and potentially withdraw funds).

The following are known phishing messages being circulated:

- Text and e-mail messages saying, “Your CME F-C-U services was suspended for suspicious activity, call us at 6197934823”
- Text and e-mail messages saying, “Your Credit Union of Ohio services was suspended for suspicious activity, call us at 3054337563”
- Text and e-mail messages from •service1@superior.com advising Superior FCU members that “we have been unable to contact them concerning a compromise of their VISA card” to call 800-466-1728
- An auto dialer is calling Central Ohio phone numbers leaving a message stating that they are from “Credit Union of Ohio” and advising their credit card account has been compromised. They are directed to call 614-448-1303.

If you receive any of these messages, disregard them and do not call the phone number — Even if you have an account with CME Federal Credit Union, Credit Union of Ohio, or Superior Federal Credit Union. Report the message to your credit union or other financial institution.

For a list of credit union phone numbers, go to <http://www.ohiocreditunions.org/Directory/DirectoryA-C.htm>

CME Federal Credit Union and Credit union of Ohio have posted information about the scams on their Web sites, www.cmefcu.org, www.cuofohio.org, and www.superiorfcu.com, for consumers.