

Spot, The Phish

Overview

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote cybersecurity awareness, the Social Security Administration’s Security and Policy Awareness Team created an interactive booth at the SSA HQ Showcase event called “Spot, the Phish” – a hands-on game designed to educate employees about phishing threats in a fun and engaging way. The event aimed to enhance awareness of phishing tactics, encourage vigilance, and provide employees with practical skills to recognize malicious emails. Employees were rewarded with their very own fish stress toy, named “Spot, the Phish!”

Event Concept

Employees were invited to visit our booth, where they participated in Spot, the Phish. The game challenged participants to analyze printouts of real phishing examples sent to agency personnel as part of our Phish Your Colleague program, identify suspicious elements, and circle clues that indicated potential fraud. Those who successfully spotted key phishing indicators won a small toy fish as a prize, reinforcing the theme of being able to “spot the phish.”

- The following poster hung at our team’s booth:



Objectives

- Educate employees on prevalent phishing tactics, such as urgent language, suspicious links, and spoofed sender addresses
- Encourage critical thinking when reviewing emails and messages.
- Foster a cybersecurity-conscious workplace culture through an engaging and memorable activity.

Results & Impact

The event drew enthusiastic participation, with employees actively engaging in discussions about phishing threats and best practices. Many participants expressed greater confidence in their ability to spot phishing attempts in their daily work. The toy fish prize served as a fun reminder to stay vigilant and always think before clicking.

Takeaways

Spot, the Phish proved to be an effective and enjoyable way to reinforce phishing awareness. Based on positive feedback, we plan to explore future cybersecurity themed activities to keep awareness high and learning interactive. Our social engineering team plans to continue the use of Spot, the Phish to help drive enthusiasm about cybersecurity awareness.