Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
((tifr   Computer Center and Communication Facility

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Measures to reduce spear phishing

CC had conducted a series of cybersecurity user awareness trainings and is putting in focused efforts to reduce incidents of users surrendering their credentials to phishing emails. With spear phishing in rampant state, some more measures are introduced. Photos and mobile numbers of users are not displayed in WAN whereas these details are displayed at TIFR LAN display.

Now, email display is also being taken off the People Finder at WAN. Instead, a tool has been developed to facilitate genuine end users trying to send email to TIFR users. To prevent robotic abuse, captcha is also included in the tool. This tool is accessible in place of display of email as shown below at People Finder when accessed from WAN.

Email   ☑ Send Mail

WAN user has to fill in his/her name, email, the relevant message, enter captcha and send. We aim to reduce targeted email spams and spear phishing emails with the introduction of this tool.

How will the email arrived at a user inbox through the tool look like?
Message subject: <subject> [Message from <name>]
From: TIFR People Finder

The fields in red font reflect the data filled at the emailing tool by the sender.

Users are still advised to exercise caution to still analyze the genuineness of such mails received through the tool and act accordingly. Please refrain from acting impulsively.

In case of any doubt, please contact CC at 2121

(Kausalya S.)
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