



## **SCAM ALERT!**

October 2020



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### **Scammers Are Using Black Lives Matter as "Phishbait"**

The process of "Phishing" is the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to trick individuals into revealing personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers. It's called phishing because the scammer baits you into opening the email.

A recent phishing campaign is using Black Lives Matter-themed phishing lures to trick people into installing malware, according to a Yahoo report. Adam Levin from Cyberscout told Yahoo that the phishing emails contain the subject line, "Vote anonymous about 'Black Lives Matter.'" The email states, "Leave a review confidentially about 'Black Lives Matter.' Claim in attached file."

If the user opens this document, they'll see a slide telling them to click "Enable Editing" and then "Enable Content" to view the content. If those buttons are clicked, that will trigger the malware's installation process, causing a damaging virus to be downloaded to the user's computer.

This campaign is TrickBot. TrickBot often looks like something familiar to the recipient, such as a Microsoft Word document or an Excel spreadsheet. When the user opens the document, it runs a macro that then downloads the virus. TrickBot is used by both criminals and some nation-state actors due to its effectiveness. In addition to stealing passwords and financial information, TrickBot can spread to other computers and download additional malware such as ransomware.

- **Do not open any emails from senders you do not know.**
- **Do NOT download or enable any changes to your electronic devices that you were not expecting.**

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#### **IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:**

Call the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Consumer Fraud Unit at 937-225-5757 and ask for our consumer fraud division.

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The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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