RECOGNIZING AND AVOIDING INTERNET FRAUD AND PHISHING

by:

Maricel S. Morales
Teacher III – E.C. Bernabe NHS

The internet bubble burst in the late 90’s where it became the information superhighway of accessing numerous data and turned into a platform to engage with others virtually. The internet, although intangible, has done a drastic change on how people engage on their daily lives.

While the internet has benefited us and brought unimaginable innovation to the human race, it also has its dark side. In relation to this, internet fraud and phishing exist and prosper. Scammers use a logo of a well-known company in order to lure you into unknowingly providing your private information. Then, the said information will be saved into their database and they will use it to gain access to your profile and even your personal computer by installing a malware or spyware.

Numerous internet fraudulent attacks have occurred ever since and the cases alarmingly rose amidst this pandemic. According to the data gathered by TransUnion, a study of global information and insights company, there was a 31% increase in fraudulent attacks compared to the data pre-pandemic.

Recognizing internet fraud and phishing is easy in order to avoid your precious information from falling into the hands of scammers. Always check the link what you’re going to click before typing in your private data. If it looks like a generic greeting or that there’s a promo and you have to log in your data, you might as well think twice and check the official website of the company.
Moreover, always make sure that your gadgets are updated and equipped with the latest security software. This is useful to prevent your PC with malwares, viruses, and other online threats. Turning on automatic updates on your PC will ensure that your operating system is updated.

Internet scams could easily be prevented by being vigilant and careful with our personal information. When in doubt, take a quick pause and think, “Is this legit?” Bear in mind that it is easier to keep your guard and go through the whole process of being extra careful than to deal with the consequences of being a victim of any internet fraud scammer.

Reference:

Digital fraud attempts in PH rise amid pandemic by Kris Crismundo, March 24, 2021, 6:09 pm

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1134735