

# 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:



- Examples of Spot, the Phish worksheets:

**Phish Your Colleague is Back!**

Last year, OIS received over 300 submissions to the Phish Your Colleague challenge. This October, as part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we are holding the contest again!

**Directions:** Dive into some of last year's winning catches and reel in at least six clues that these emails are more fishy than fresh!

**#3**

[EXTERNAL] OIS Rewards Program

Amerson, Timothy

SSA is implementing a new reward program for exceptional work. Your manager had submitted your name entering you into the drawing to win a free PlayStation 5.

Congratulations, you've won! [Click here to claim your prize!](#) Be sure to fill out the form before November 17th or you will be withdrawn from the contest.

Thank you from everyone at SSA for your exceptional work!

[Click on tag to follow link.](#)

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**#1**

[EXTERNAL] Systems Account Termination - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

System Admin Branch - admin.systems.account.termination@ssa.gov

Good Day,

It has come to our attention that you attempt to access protected PI files on your company issued computer. Please use link below to see log of activity and set up meeting to discuss PENDING termination for your account with system admin branch team lead director.

[System Account Log and Meeting Invitation](#)

Thanks,  
System Admin Branch Team Lead Director

**Phish Your Colleague is Back!**

[EXTERNAL] VPN update

Security Support Team - securitysupport@ssa.gov

Dear employee,

Your AGENCY VPN authorization will expire in 24 hours. To renew your access to AGENCY VPN, please [click here](#) and provide your:

- 1) full name,
- 2) social security number, and
- 3) employee PIN

Failure to renew your AGENCY VPN will result in loss of access to AGENCY VPN!

-Security Support Team

**Phish Your Colleague is Back!**

[EXTERNAL] CAM Participant

CCSD - ccscd@ssa.gov

Thank you for your interest in partaking in this years Cyber Awareness Month activities!

As Social Security Employees; stewards of the nations critical data, it is paramount that we remain vigilant in our Cyber Hygiene.

In order to receive credit for your efforts and to attain your badge(s), please follow this link and register: [CAM Registry](#)

[https://ssa.discreet-encrypt.com/registry/d5a016/cc439047-8b63-413a-b38c-c784c3e6b19f?event=1](#)

[Click or tap to follow link.](#)

- A Picture of members from the Security and Policy Awareness team holding their Spot, the Phish stress toys:



## **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.