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Beware the Blind Spot in Phishing Education

A common blind spot in training corporate staff to identify and avoid cyber attacks is the targeted phishing attack. Trained employees might diligently ignore links in the standard phishing emails we all receive daily, but what about targeted attacks by spies?

Poor training can create overconfidence. Apathy toward cyber attacks can also contribute. Many of us won't believe that we can be compromised until our entire accounts are published online. But does phishing awareness training always work, or can it create over-confident employees?

The common business person has multiple accounts for multiple email engagements – social, office, entrepreneurship, community, etc. Often, accounts are linked to a large number of places and share a common password. At some point, monitoring these accounts and carefully screening email and social media becomes a tedious chore. Spies are most successful when the target is mired in monotony and complacency.