

Email Spoofing

Have you received an alert from an acquaintance that they received a peculiar email from you? And, you didn't send it?

This eventually happens to nearly everyone. (Business emails are more commonly affected than personal emails.)

Your likely first reaction is that you are the victim of a hacker.

This is sort of true.

The Good News

Your email or server has mostly likely NOT been hacked. Look in your Sent mail folder. If you don't see the culprit emails, then the emails likely were not sent from you. A very good hacker would cover their tracks. But we're dealing with bulk spammers, and they don't spend the time to clean up after their dirty work. They simply don't care.

- ⇒ If you do see the culprit emails in your Send mail, change your password immediately and contact Nextworks.

The Bad News

There isn't much you can do about it. The spammer is simply using your name. They use software that develops a database of relationships. They mostly get this from social media, web sites, or hacking large organizations (which you see in the news from time to time).

They figure out who you know. They then send "spoofed" emails to your acquaintances posing to be you.

And, there is nothing you, nor Nextworks, can do to stop it. It's likely they opened a Gmail, Yahoo, or other account, and simply entered your name. They are anonymous. Gmail (for example) will detect the fake account and delete it. But they then just make another.

Conclusion

As a result, be cautious of emails you receive. We have written an additional short whitepaper, "Email Security Awareness" helping you to stay alert.



Q & A

Why doesn't my spam filter help?

These are personal emails. They are written from one individual to another. They are sent from a legitimate mail provider such as Google, Yahoo, Outlook.com, etc. It's difficult for a spam filter to detect them all. Many get blocked. Some don't.

Isn't there anything at all I can do to clear my good name?

Other than reaching out to people you know, which is likely a rather large list, there isn't much anyone can do.