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ALERT!

Beware Windows Hotmail Customers!

A new scam is being circulated via Hotmail account users. I received this e-mail from a friend of mine here in Akron and knew right away that something wasn't right. After calling him, he confessed that he had been scammed.

Hotmail users receive an e-mail that if they don't update their account within two weeks, their account will be shut down. Unknowingly, when a person fills out the requested information, it sets a scheme into motion intended to scam an individual out of thousands of dollars.

By responding to this e-mail, it automatically accesses your private e-mail address book and contact list. An e-mail is then sent to your contact list asking that emergency money be sent right away. The recipient, seeing that it is from someone they know, opens the e-mail.

If the recipient falls for the scam and responds to the e-mail, it goes directly to the criminal.

If you get an e-mail from Hotmail saying that your account is going to be disconnected unless you fill some information out, don't fall for it!

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.

Sherri Bevan Walsh
Summit County Prosecutor

The Actual e-mail follows:

Dear Account User

This Email is from Hotmail Customer Care and we are sending it to every Hotmail Email User Accounts Owner for safety. we are having congestions due to the anonymous registration of Hotmail accounts so we are shutting down some Hotmail accounts and your account was among those to be deleted. We are sending this email to you so that you can verify and let us know if you still want to use this account. If you are still interested please confirm your account by filling the space below. Your User name, password, date of birth and your country information would be needed to verify your account.

Due to the congestion in all Hotmail users and removal of all unused Hotmail Accounts, Hotmail would be shutting down all unused Accounts, You will have to confirm your E-mail by filling out your Login Information below after clicking the reply button, or your account will be suspended within 24 hours for security reasons.

- * Username:
- * Password:
- * Date of Birth:
- * Country Or Territory:

After following the instructions in the sheet, your account will not be interrupted and will continue as normal. Thanks for your attention to this request. We apologize for any inconveniences.

Warning!!! Account owner that refuses to update his/her account after two weeks of receiving this warning will lose his or her account permanently.

Sincerely,
The Windows Live Hotmail Team

Address book receives this e-mail:

Hello,

How are you doing? Hope all is well with you and family, I am sorry I didn't inform you about my traveling to England for a Seminar.

I need a favor from you because I misplaced my wallet on my way to the hotel where my money, and other valuable things were kept I will like you to assist me with a soft loan urgently with the sum of \$2,500 US Dollars to sort-out my hotel bills and get myself back home.

I will appreciate whatever you can afford and I'll pay you back as soon as I return, Kindly let me know if you can be of help? So that I can send you the Details to use when sending the money through western union. Thanks so much.