HERMES CLOUD
MANAGED IT SERVICES

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TECH TALK

"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitable"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

QR CODE SCAMS: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO SPOT THEM

QUISHING: THE PHISHING ATTACK HIDING INSIDE A QR CODE

QR codes are part of everyday business now. You scan them for menus, payments, Wi-Fi, and shared files. Scammers know that, and they have started hiding malicious links inside QR codes to get past security controls that would normally catch a bad link in an email.

A QR code scam, sometimes called quishing, swaps a written link for a QR code. You scan it with your phone, it opens a web page, and you land on a fake login or payment screen designed to steal your details. The QR code is only the delivery method; the page on the other end is the same kind of fake used in traditional phishing attacks.

Two things make these scams effective. First, the malicious link is hidden inside an image, and not every phishing-detection tool scans images. Second, scanning moves you onto your phone, which may not have the same web filtering, endpoint protection, or DNS controls as your work computer.

HOW QR CODE SCAMS WORKS, AND THE PHISHING ATTACK HIDING INSIDE A QR CODE

01 THE SCAM HIDES THE LINK
A QR code turns a suspicious web address into an image, making the destination harder for some security filters to inspect.

02 THE ATTACK MOVES TO YOUR PHONE
Scanning can take users outside the protections deployed on a business computer, creating a new path to a malicious site.

03 THE FAKE PAGE LOOKS REAL
Attackers can imitate Microsoft 365, banks, payment pages, or other familiar services to capture credentials and financial information.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

Treat QR codes in emails with the same caution as unfamiliar links. Check the web address before entering information, skip the code and visit the site directly when in doubt, use phishing-resistant MFA, and give your team real examples of quishing attacks. If someone already scanned a malicious QR code and entered credentials, change the affected password immediately, enable MFA, alert your IT provider, and contact the bank if financial information was entered.

REMCO HERMES
OWNER

We're passionate about making technology work for you. Let's have a quick, friendly chat to see how we can enhance your IT and keep your data secure. Contact us today to schedule a consultation.

HOW TO STOP SCAMMERS SENDING EMAIL IN YOUR COMPANY'S NAME

EMAIL SPOOFING: THREE RECORDS THAT HELP STOP IT

Someone can send an email that looks like it came from your company and use it to request payment or banking changes. This is called email spoofing.

WHY SPF, DKIM AND DMARC MATTER SPF identifies authorized mail servers. DKIM adds a cryptographic signature. DMARC tells receiving systems what to do when authentication fails.

THREE STEPS TO STOP EMAIL IMPERSONATION

SPF
Authorizes the mail servers allowed to send for your domain.

DKIM
Adds a signature that helps prove a message was sent by an authorized system.

DMARC
Sets the policy for messages that fail SPF or DKIM checks.

WHAT TO DO IN THE FIRST HOUR OF A CYBERATTACK

1. Disconnect affected devices from the network.
2. Call your IT provider by phone.
3. Preserve evidence; do not wipe or reinstall.
4. If money was sent, contact the bank immediately.
5. Reset priority passwords from a clean device and enable MFA.

AI NOTE-TAKER PRIVACY & WINDOWS 10

AI NOTE-TAKERS

- Use one approved tool.
- Disable auto-join and get consent.
- Check whether meetings train the AI.
- Keep bots out of confidential meetings.

WINDOWS 10

- Security updates ended Oct. 2025.
- Inventory remaining devices.
- Upgrade eligible PCs to Windows 11.
- Replace device

PASSKEY MIGRATION CHECKLIST

START WITH ADMINISTRATORS, FINANCE AND OTHER HIGH-RISK USERS

01 AUDIT SUPPORT
Identify platforms that already support passkeys.

02 PRIORITIZE USERS
Start with administrators and finance teams.

03 KEEP A BACKUP
Use a second device or security key.

04 PHASE THE ROLLOUT
Add passkeys alongside passwords at first.

05 KEEP A FALLBACK
Retain passwords for unsupported systems.

06 TRAIN THE TEAM
Explain recovery and synced vs. device-bound passkeys.

TECHNOLOGY TRIVIA QUESTION

Win a $50 Amazon Gift Voucher by being the first person to email us the correct answer!

What does the acronym "LTE" mean on your phone?

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER: **Zune**

Email info@hermescloud.nl to win!

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$50 GIFT CARD