



MCAC | MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BULLETIN

24 February 2021

MCAC202102-00572

CYBER THREAT ACTORS ARE IMPERSONATING MARYLAND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN PHISHING SCHEMES

The following information is designated **TLP:WHITE**. It may be distributed without restriction and is subject to copyright rules.

As of early February 2021, cyber criminals have engaged in multiple phishing schemes while posing as Maryland State Government entities.

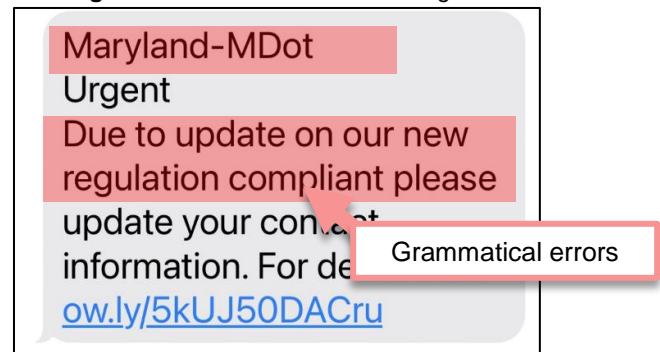
Known schemes have posed as:

- The Maryland Department of Transportation
- The Maryland Department of Labor
- The Office of the Secretary of State

Known methods have included:

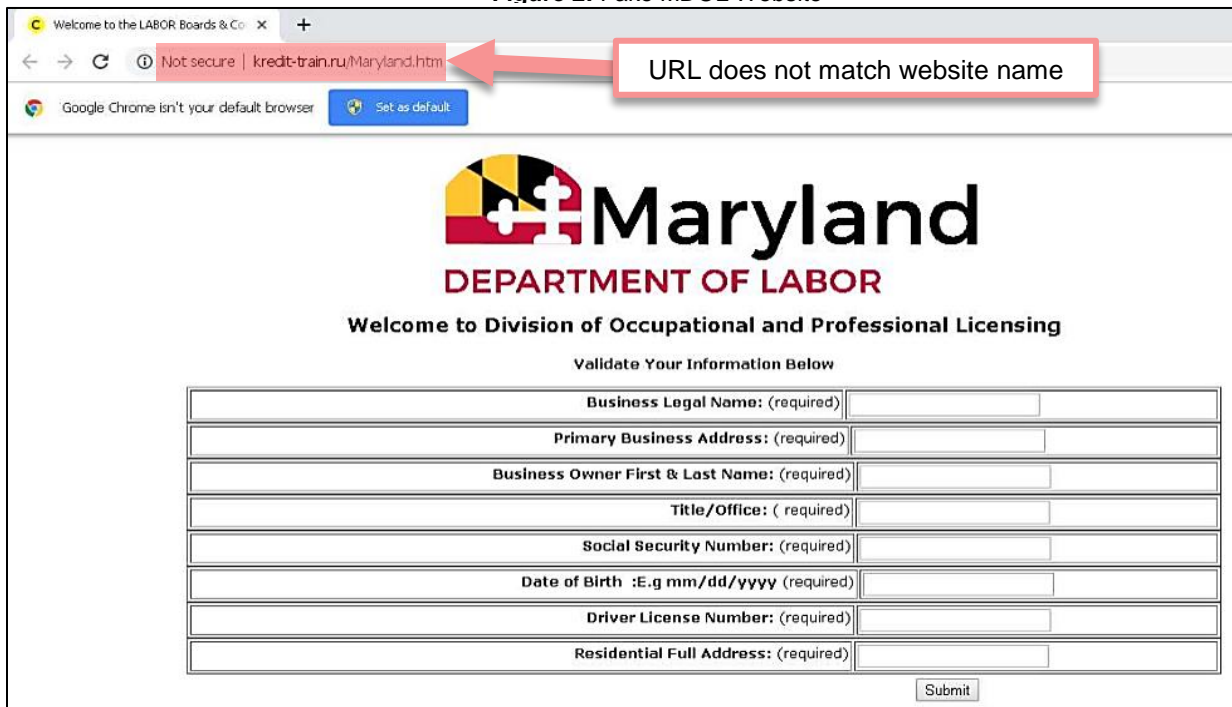
- Fraudulent text messages (see Figure 1)
- Fake government websites (see Figure 2)
- Phishing email (see Figure 3)

Figure 1: Fake MDOT Text Message



Source: wmar2news.com

Figure 2: Fake MDOL Website



Source: DOIT

Figure 3: Phishing email

From: Office of the Secretary of State - Maryland <[redacted]@[redacted].edu>
Sent: Jan 20, 2021, 2:11:51 PM
To: [redacted]@gmail.com
Subject: Maryland Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing Import

Effective January 30, 2021 Maryland Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing require that all legally conduct businesses in the state should verify their profin to avoid experiencing delay and future problems in renewing their license

Grammatical errors

Please click on Validate Profile below to login to your account and begin the profile validation process.

[VALIDATE PROFILE HERE](https://tinyurl.com/[redacted])

Hovering over text reveals [https://tinyurl.com/\[redacted\]](https://tinyurl.com/[redacted])

Incorrect domain .edu instead of .gov

Maryland Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

Note: This is an automated email. Do NOT reply to this message.

IMPORTANT UPDATE!!! PLEASE DO THE NEEDFUL

Source: DOIT

The likely intent of these schemes is to elicit personally identifiable information (PII) that can be used in other forms of cybercrime.

The Maryland Department of Information Technology recommends that all Maryland citizens examine any unsolicited digital communications (text messages, email, etc.) for indicators of phishing including:

- Grammatical errors in the text (see Figures 1 and 3)
- Website URL does not match the webpage name (see Figure 2)
- Links that do not go to a maryland.gov domain (see Figures 1 and 3)
- Email name and domain does not match sender name (see Figure 3)

If you suspect that the digital message you have received from a Maryland State Government entity is fraudulent, contact the agency to verify the legitimacy of the message. DO NOT USE ANY LINKS OR PHONE NUMBERS PROVIDED IN THE SUSPECT MESSAGE.

Please report any phishing texts or emails posing as a Maryland State Government entity to the Maryland Department of Information Technology Service Desk at 410-697-9700 or Service.Desk@maryland.gov.

MCAC FEEDBACK SURVEY

Please take a moment to complete this [on-line survey](#) to help evaluate the quality and value of this MCAC product. Your response will help us serve you more effectively in the future.

