

OR News - Monday, February 2, 2015  
Targeted Spear Phishing



News

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## Targeted Spear Phishing

*What it is and how to avoid being a victim.*

[Targeted Spear Phishing](#) is an email spoofing fraud attempt that targets a specific company or individual with the goal of accessing confidential data. The "spear phisher" thrives on familiarity. He knows your name, your email address and at least a little bit about you. The email appears to be from a business or individual you know, *but it isn't*.

An example of how a "spear phisher" could take advantage of a title company is by piecing together information such as the ALTA Best Practices documentation and combining it with your email address, logins and passwords. Thereafter, with a concentrated effort and a little luck they could gain access to escrow/trust accounts. While the likelihood of this occurring is rare, it is important to be aware of it.

We encourage you to be alert and diligent. When sharing ALTA's Best Practice material with a third party not associated with a title and/or settlement transaction, think twice about sharing the personal information found on bank statements, licenses, insurance policies and more. Other due diligence activities include...

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