

Cyber update

Phishing attacks on the rise in 2019

Incidents of phishing attacks continue to rise and while law enforcement agencies and legislators attempt to quell online criminals at the source, the reality is that in most cases hackers remain one step ahead.

According to NAS Insurance's analysis of 2017 claims, phishing remained the most common method of cyber crime. 62% of the cybercrime claims reported to NAS were caused by phishing.

"Phishing involves a criminal actor who fraudulently uses electronic communications, like email or a malicious website, to impersonate a business, a representative of the business, or its brand, products or services to steal private information or money," says Jeremy Barnett, senior vice president of marketing at [NAS Insurance](#). "The average loss for a claim caused by phishing was \$96,270."

To illustrate how phishing scams work Barnett gives the example of an unknown person who obtained corporate email credentials and began impersonating a company executive. The hacker then sent an email to the executive's finance department asking for a wire transfer of approximately \$50,000. Following regular protocol, the finance department responded with questions to confirm the request, such as how the request should be codified in the internal accounting system.