



# THE TOP 5 PHISHING ATTACKS IN 2022 AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

It-sa, Oct-26<sup>th</sup>-2022

Palo Stacho



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Since 2015 dozens of awareness projects D / A / CH and UAE among others also for banks, Lufthansa Group, Bosch, FRoSTA, Swisscom or Mobiliar Insurance



# Hacked? LUCY Awareness Training powered by ThriveDX provides remedy...

THE security awareness solution  
to immunize employees!

Phishing Simulator, LMS, PhishButton,  
Analysis, 350 Courses, 150 Videos



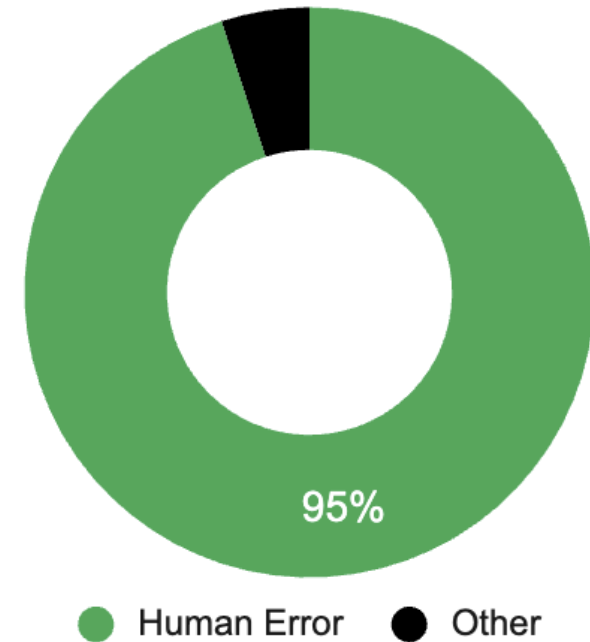
# Agenda

- 1. Top 5 Phishing Attacks**
2. Phishing Attack Trends
3. What to do against it?
4. Great Phishing Simulations, effective Trainings, Success Factors

**Did you know that...**

**95% of cyber incidents are attributed to human error**  
(IBM Cybersecurity Report)

Most Security Incidents in 2022 are based on Human Error



**Firewall, Antivirus & Co are not enough anymore!**

# Identity Theft Resource Center (USA) - First Quarter 2022 Data Breach Analysis

Phishing / Smishing / BEC remains most significant Attack Vector

Attack Vector	2022 YTD
<b>Cyberattacks</b>	<b>367</b>
Phishing/smishing/BEC	110
Ransomware	67
Malware	22
Non-secured Cloud Environment	3
Credential Stuffing	2
Unpatched software flaw	-
Zero Day Attack	-
Other	9
NA – not specified	154



**IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCE CENTER**  
[idtheftcenter.org](https://idtheftcenter.org)  
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### First Quarter 2022 Data Breach Analysis: Data Compromises Off to Fast Start; Victim Rates Continue to Drop

#### Summary

- Publicly reported data compromises totaled 404 through March 31, 2022, a 14 percent increase compared to Q1 2021.
- This is the third consecutive year when the number of total data compromises increased compared to Q1 of the previous year. It also represents the highest number of Q1 data compromises since 2020.
- The number of individual victims, though, dropped in Q1 2022. The 20.7M victims in this reporting period is a ~50 percent decrease compared to Q1 2021 and a 41 percent drop from Q4 2021.
- Approximately 92 percent of the data breaches in the first three months of 2022 were the result of cyberattacks.
- Phishing and Ransomware remain the #1 and #2 root causes of data compromises; however, a majority of data breach notices in Q1 2022 did not list a root cause of the breach.
- System & Human Errors represent ~8 percent of the Q1 2022 data compromises.
- Data breaches resulting from physical attacks such as document or device theft and skimming devices dropped to single digits (3) in Q1 2022.

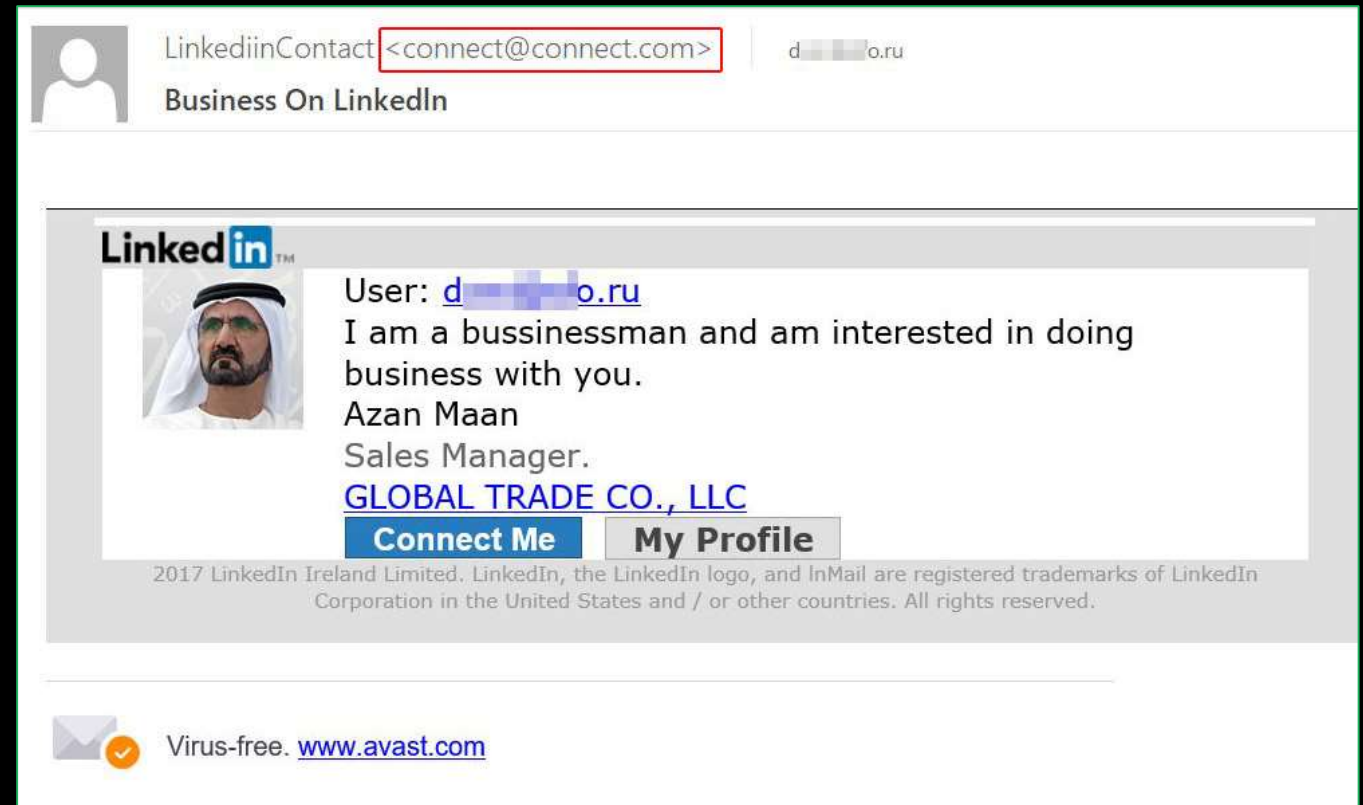
#### Discussion

- After a record-breaking year for data compromises in 2021 (1,662), Q1 of 2022 begins with the highest number of data compromises in the past three years. Traditionally, Q1 is the lowest number of data breaches reported each year.
- Cyberattacks that lead to data compromises continue to increase, representing ~52 percent of all data compromises. Phishing and related attack vectors, ransomware, and malware remain the top three root causes of cyberattack-related data breaches.
- However, continuing a trend that emerged in 2021, 154 out of 367 data breach notices did not include the cause of the breach. That makes "unknown" the single largest attack vector in Q1. That also represents a 40 percent increase of the total number of unknown breach causes for full-year 2021.
- While subsequent breach notice updates may include more attack information, the increasing lack of transparency in breach notices represents a risk to organizations as well as individual consumers.
- The only non-cyberattack-related attack vector in double digits during Q1 was related to email or letter correspondence with 12 instances.
- Healthcare, Financial Services, Manufacturing & Utilities, and Professional Services sectors had the most compromises in Q1 2022.

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# #1 - LinkedIn Phishing

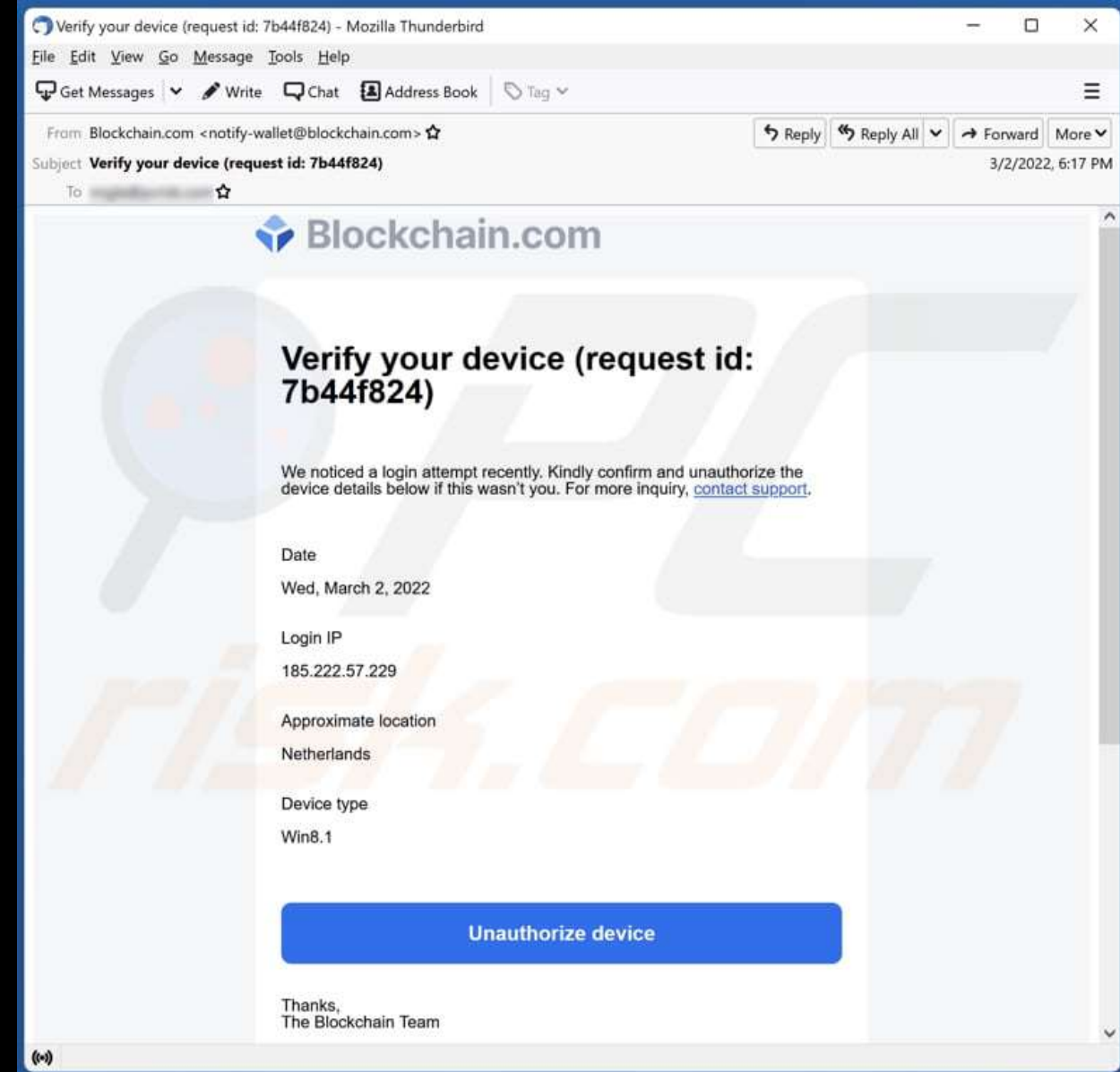
52% of all phishing attacks globally in Q1 2022





## #2 - Blockchain Phishing

Blockchain.com, Luno, and Cardano are the top-most phished crypto projects





# #3 - Microsoft Defender Support Scam

June 2022 299\$ subscription payment has been billed → VISHING

Previously impersonating brands like Norton, McAfee, and Microsoft, and later, Apple and Amazon

De: Pay@Team-Billing] [redacted]@gmail.com > ☆

Super: MS-Defender Generated Your Tx. Id #MSD75169435-28

Pour [redacted]

Copie cachée à [redacted]

Répondre Répondre à tous Transférer Autres 28/06/2022, 17:45

## MS-Defender/Auto-Paid

This is a significant notice that the MS-Defender/Auto-Paid membership is going to auto-recharge and your record will be pre-approved with the card related to your record. It has been auto-renewed according to the E-Sign Agreement Signed by you at the time of enlistment. Much thanks to you for the Completion of your 1 year.

We tried to contact you on your registered number for queries but could not get through.

This email affirms that you restored your 1-Year membership to MS-Defender/Auto-Paid for \$299.99 on June 28, 2022. This membership will naturally recharge every year except if you turn it off no later than 24 hours before the finish of the membership time frame.

Detail Receipt

Payment Received:	299.99
Subscription Charge:	299.99
Invoice Total:	299.99
Payment Status:	Auto-Paid

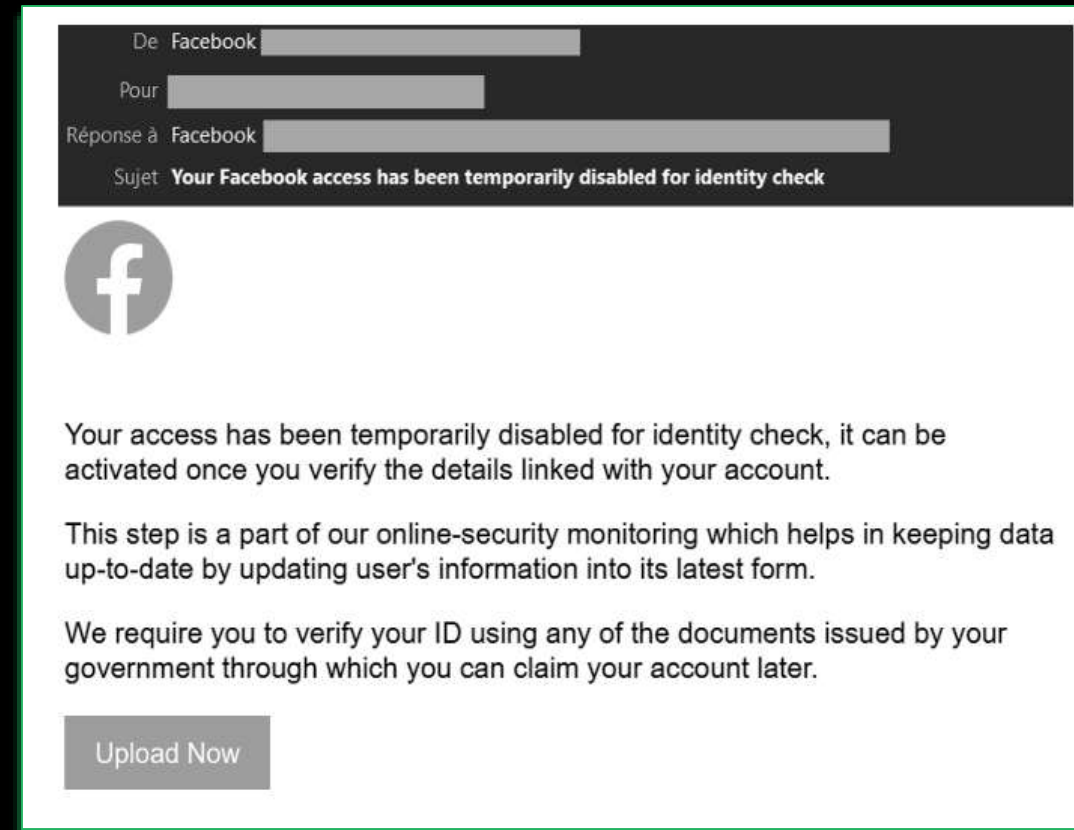
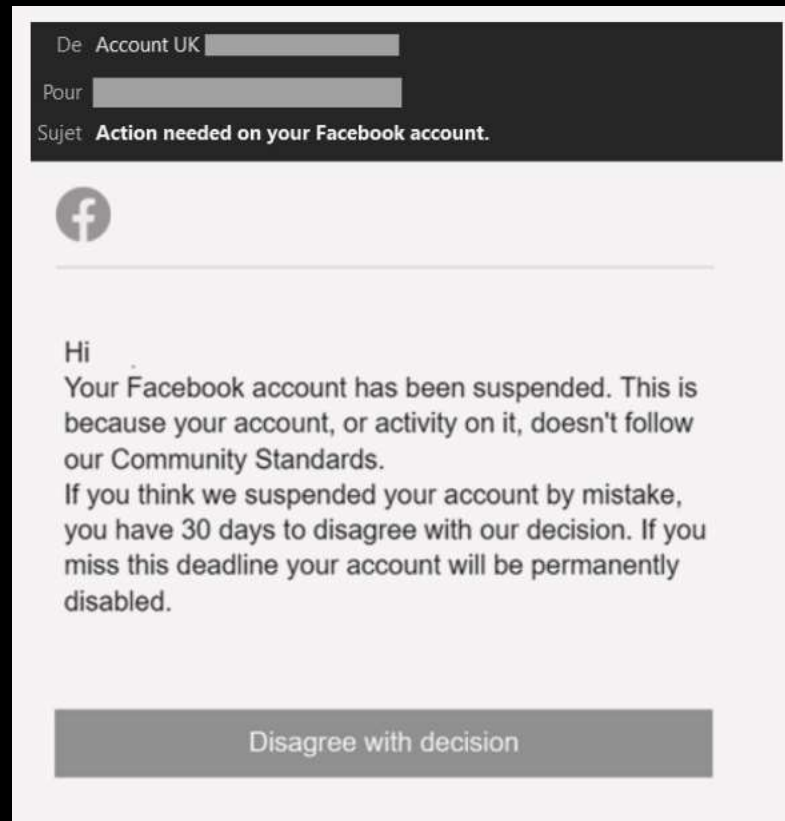
In case you have any further query or want to cancel, communicate with us

888 [redacted]

Regards,  
The MS-Defender/Auto-Paid team

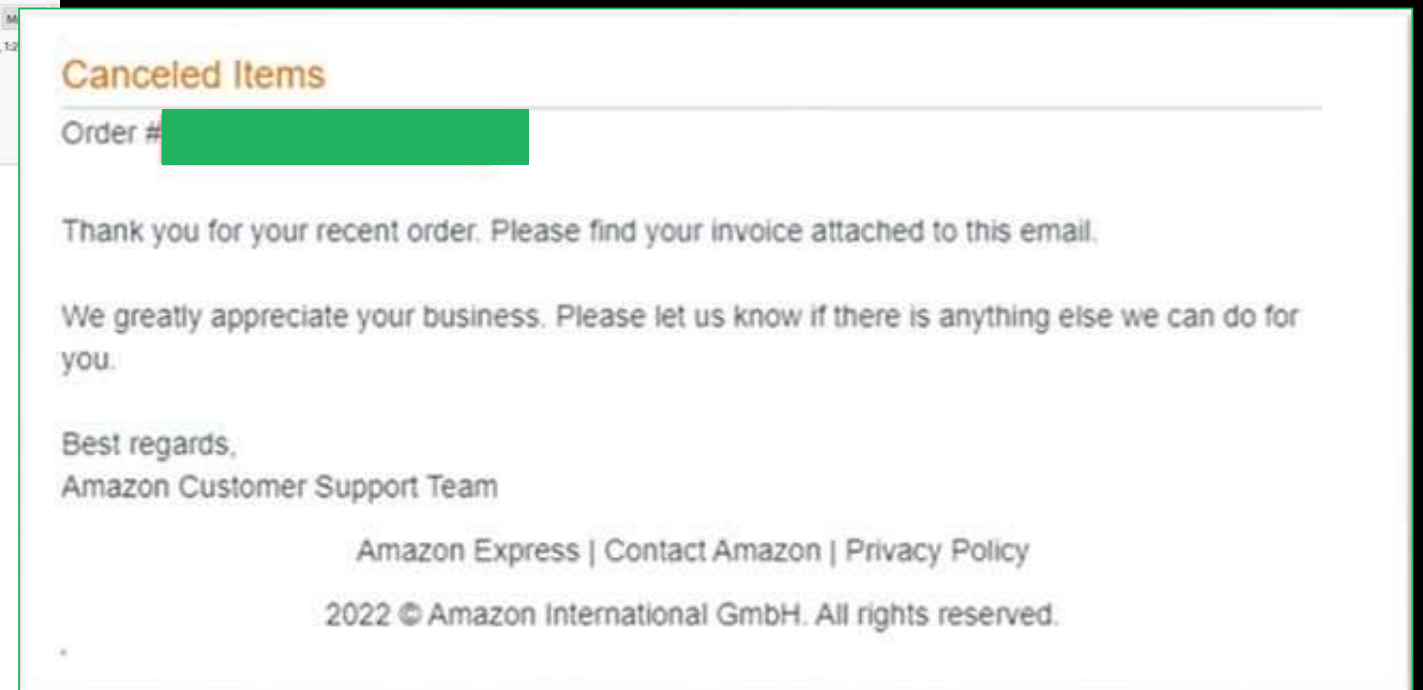
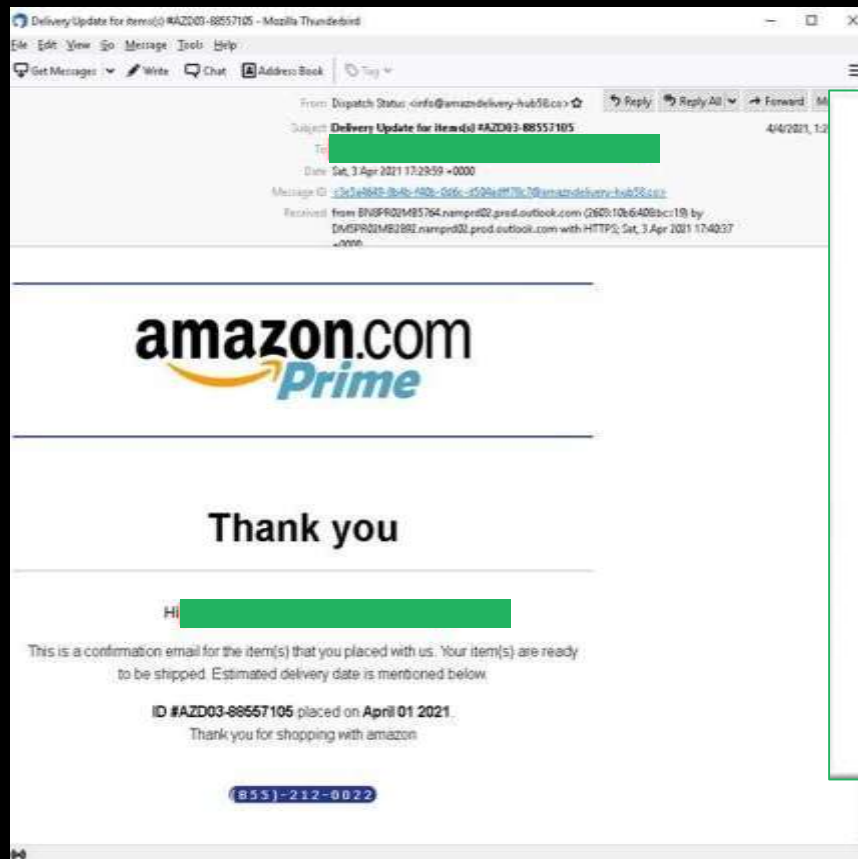
## #4 - Facebook community standards violation

FB Account has been suspended due to a violation of “Community Standards.”



# #5 – Amazon Prime Day Phishing

Most frequently impersonated - Roughly Phishing 900 Sites detected globally in 2022



# # Bonus – Top Subject Lines

Lot of phishes with empty subject lines!

Research finds that 67% of cybercriminals leave the subject line blank when sending malicious emails!

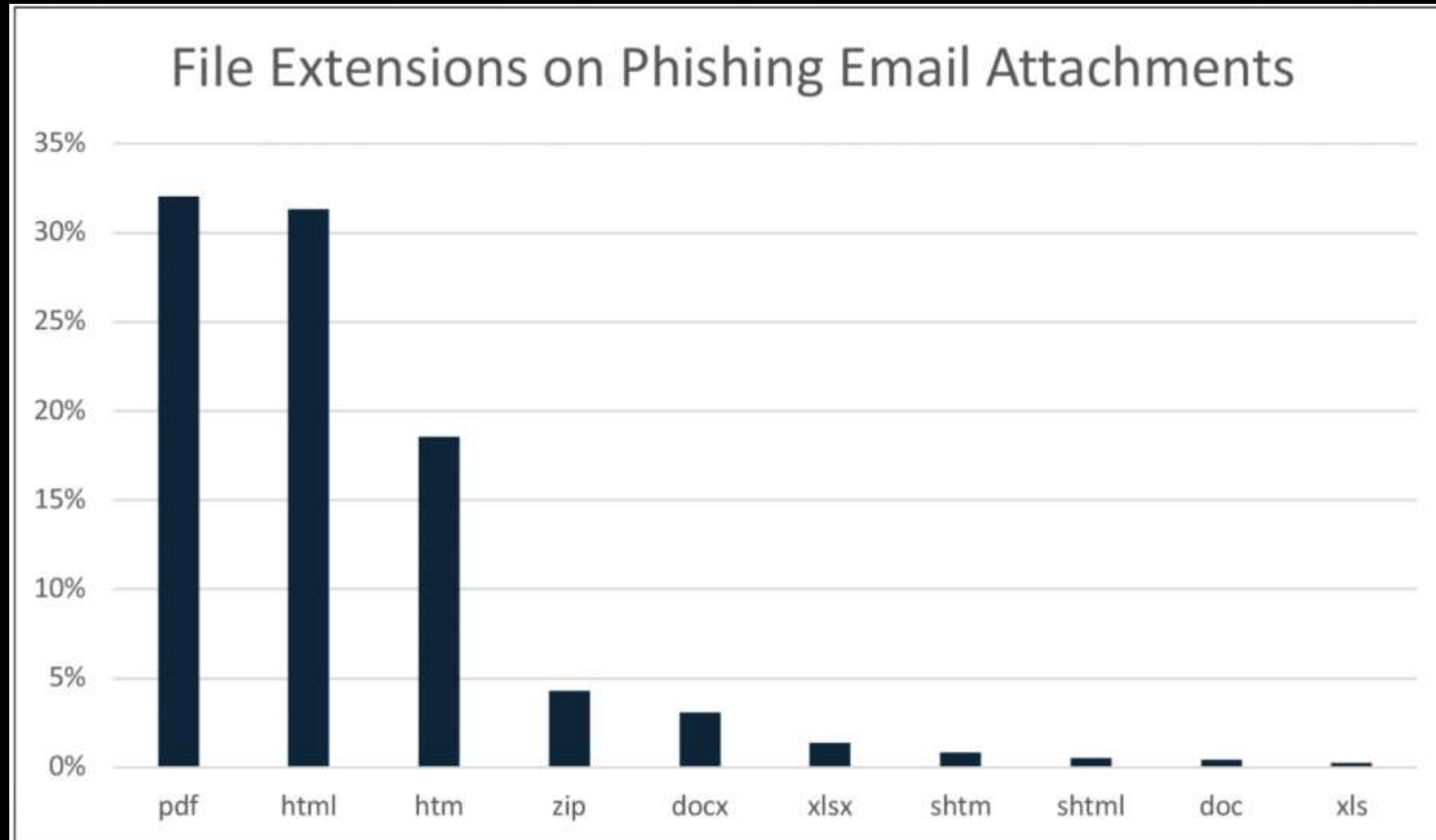
Other subject lines include

- Fax Delivery Report (9%)
- Business Proposal Request (6%)
- Request (4%)
- Meeting (4%)
- You have (1\*) New Voice Message (3.5%)
- Re: Request (2%)
- Urgent request (2%)
- Order Confirmation (2%)

## # Bonus – Top 11 spoofed Brands

- 1. Microsoft
- 2. Apple
- 3. Google
- 4. BMO Harris Bank (BMO)
- 5. Chase
- 6. Amazon
- 7. Dropbox
- 8. DHL
- 9. CNN
- 10. Hotmail
- 11. Facebook

## # Bonus – Top 10 File Extensions 2022



# Sources:

- LinkedIn Phishing <https://www.kaspersky.de/blog/linkedin-phishing/27713/>
- Blockchain Phishing <https://www.pcrisk.de/ratgeber-zum-entfernen/11273-blockchain-com-email-scam>
- Microsoft Defender Support Scam <https://www.vadesecure.com/en/blog/phishers-favorites-top-25-h1-2022>
- Facebook community standards violation <https://www.vadesecure.com/en/blog/phishers-favorites-top-25-h1-2022>
- Amazon Prime Day Phishing [https://www.trendmicro.com/zh\\_hk/research/21/f/amazon-prime-day-big-sales--big-scams.html](https://www.trendmicro.com/zh_hk/research/21/f/amazon-prime-day-big-sales--big-scams.html)
- Lot of phishes with empty Subject Line <https://www.globalsecuritymag.com/Top-5-phishing-statistics-of-2022,20220801,128455.html>
- <https://www.globalsecuritymag.com/Top-5-phishing-statistics-of-2022,20220801,128455.html>
- <https://www.vadesecure.com/en/blog/phishers-favorites-top-25-h1-2022>
- Phishing Intelligence Trends Review Q1 2022 Cofense
- Top Domains: IBM Security X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2022



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# What are the Attack Trends?

## 3X

Click effectiveness for targeted phishing campaigns that add phone calls: The click rate for the average targeted phishing campaign was 17.8%, but targeted phishing campaigns that added phone calls (vishing or voice phishing) were three times more effective, **netting a click from 53.2% of victims.**

# What are the Attack Trends?

Based on synthesis from multiple internal & external sources:

- **VISHING** and Vish+Phish on the rise
- Voice Cloning (Deep Fake) will gain popularity
- Smishing and CFO/CEO Fraud very popular
- Fake Parcel delivery services, sextortion, and tech support scams still trending in 2022
- Brand impersonation continues to lure victims through phishing pages. Microsoft, Apple, Google and LinkedIn will remain the topmost impersonated brands
- Ukraine-themed phishing emails
- Crypto and NFTs becoming more and more a favorite
- Phishing and Ransomware remain the top root causes of data breaches in the first quarter of 2022 (ITRC)
- HTML attachments still most common files deployed by attackers.
- EMOTET, a go-to cybercrime service for malicious actors is back on stage and trending

# Sources:

- <https://securityintelligence.com/articles/biggest-phishing-trends-2022/>
- <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/97498-4-phishing-trends-observed-in-q1-2022>
- Smishing and cfo/ceo fraud very popular: <https://www.all-about-security.de/threats-und-co/security-trends-2022/>
- Phishing reaches all time high 2022 - <https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/06/15/2022-total-phishing-attacks/>
- <https://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/security-data-protection/phishing-threat-trends-intelligence-report/>
- <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/97498-4-phishing-trends-observed-in-q1-2022>
- Voice Cloning FBI warning April 2022 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq\\_EWWVPTTrE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq_EWWVPTTrE)
- <https://blog.avast.com/trending-phishing-scams-2022>
- <https://www.all-about-security.de/threats-und-co/security-trends-2022/>
- IBM Security X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2022 Full Report

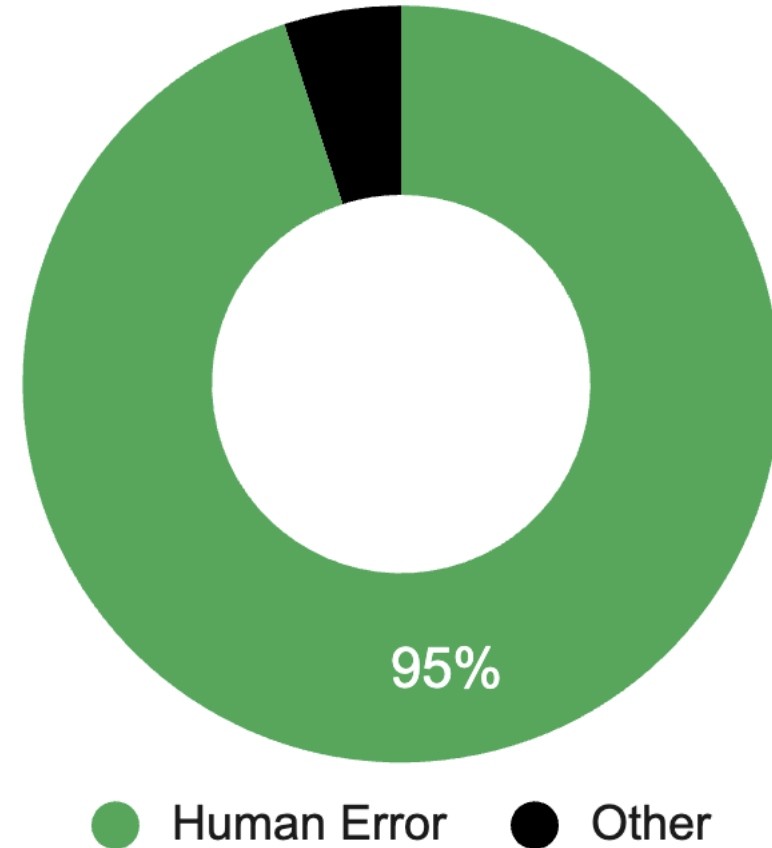
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Again:  
Most Security  
Incidents start with  
Human Error!

## Most Incidents start with Human Error

IBM Cyber Security Intelligence Index



So what actions can we take to counter that?

A photograph of a man and a woman in a modern office setting. The man, wearing a dark suit and white shirt, is leaning over a desk, smiling at a laptop. The woman, wearing a light-colored blazer, is sitting at the desk, also smiling at the laptop. The office has large windows, glass partitions, and modern lighting. A potted plant is visible on the desk.

Train your employees!



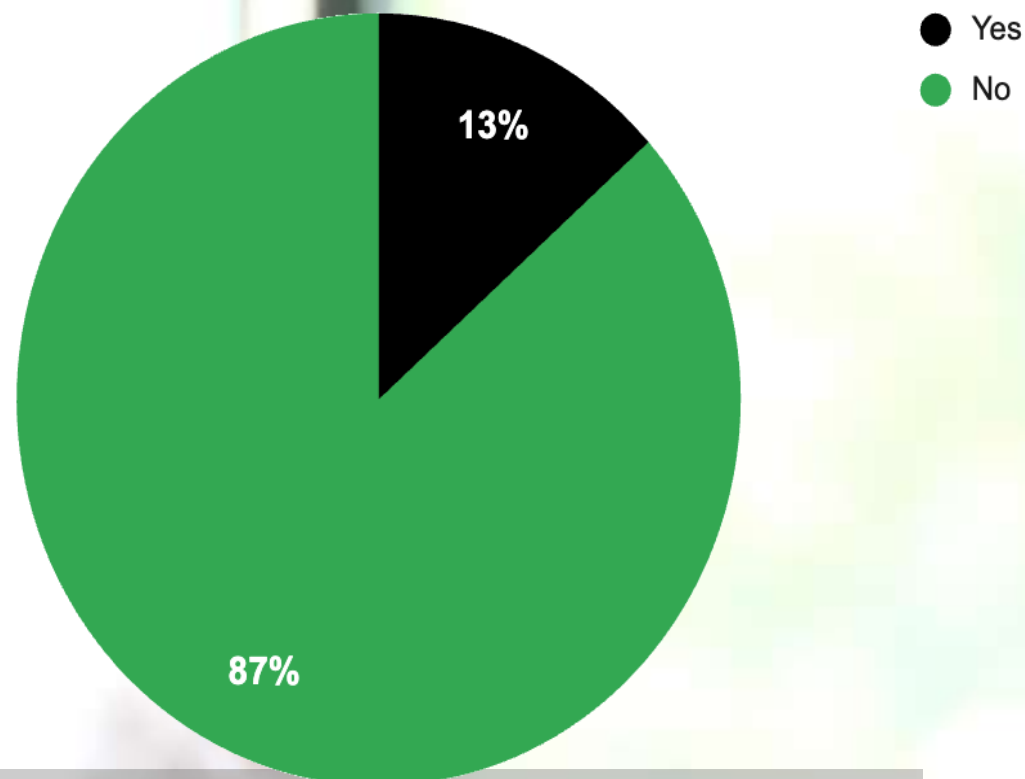
And how do you do that?

A man with short, graying hair, wearing a dark suit and white shirt, is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred office environment with other people working.

Build an Awareness  
Program using the right tool

# Is it possible to maintain an adequate level of IT security without employees?

Can you maintain a decent security level your organization investing only in technology?



ThriveDX Cybersecurity Awareness Training Study 2022



# The 3 Building Blocks of an effective Cybersecurity Awareness Program

*Phishing Alert Button  
& Analysis Process*

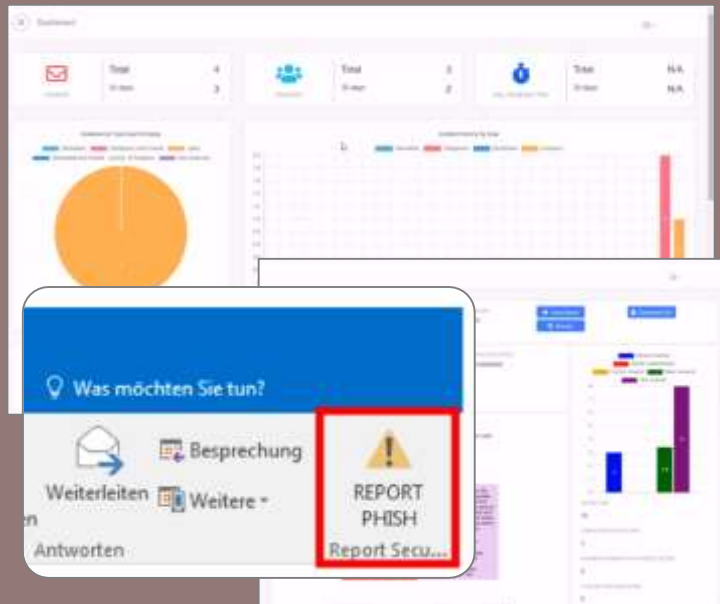
***Training***

***[Sm]Phishing Simulations***

***Enabler: Lucy Awareness Training powered by  
ThriveDX - Cloud or On-Premise***

# Implementation of an Awareness Program

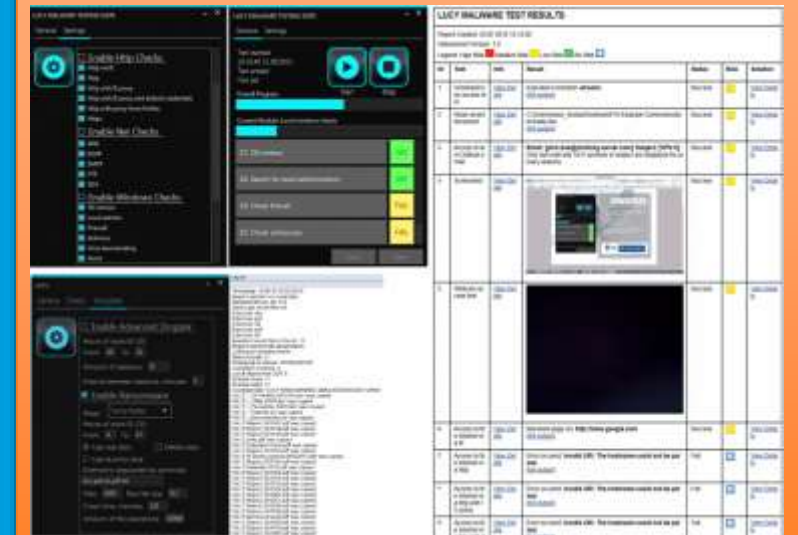
## Email Threat Management „Engage, Alarm & Analyse“



## Awareness Campaigns „Test & Train“



## Infrastructure Audits „Malware-Sim / Mailfilter Test“



## Reporting

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# 2022 Global Cybersecurity Awareness Training Study

Research and  
data collected  
collaboration v

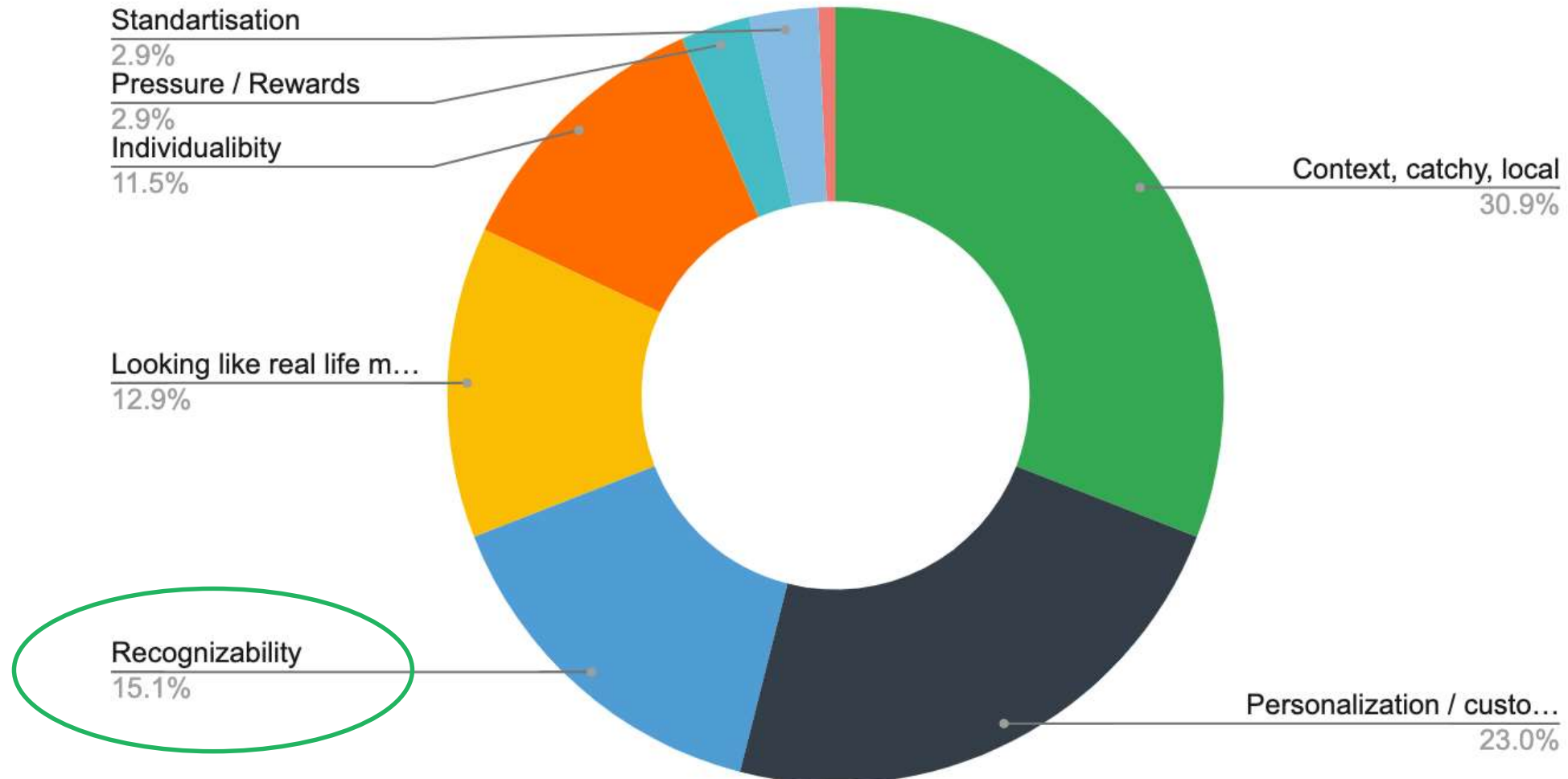
“ What is a good phishing simulation? One where as many as possible 'fall in' or a simulation with the highest possible reporting rates. ”

Study participant

August 2022



# What are the success factors for a 'good' Phishing Simulation?

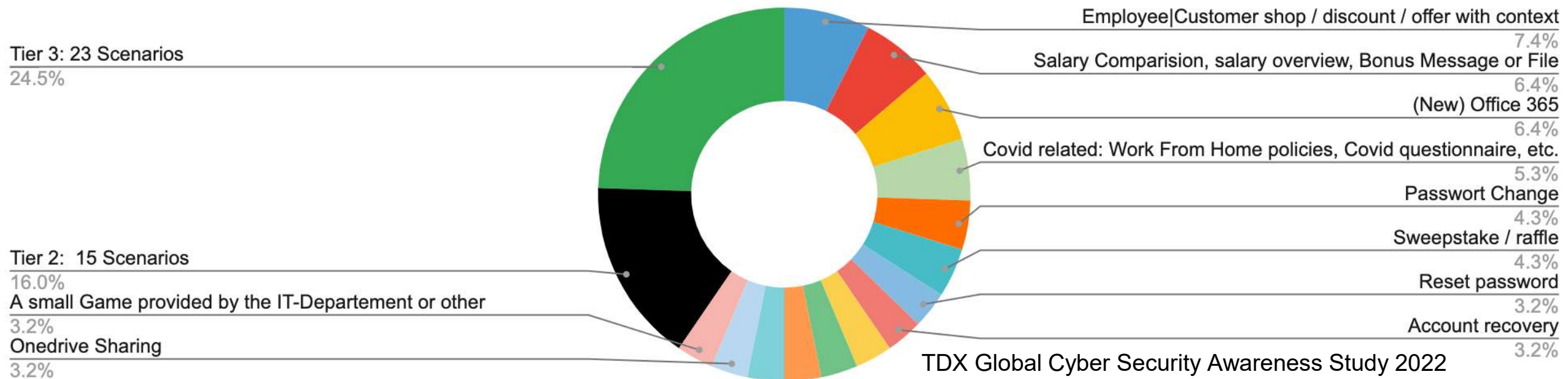




# What was your most 'successful' Phishing Simulation?

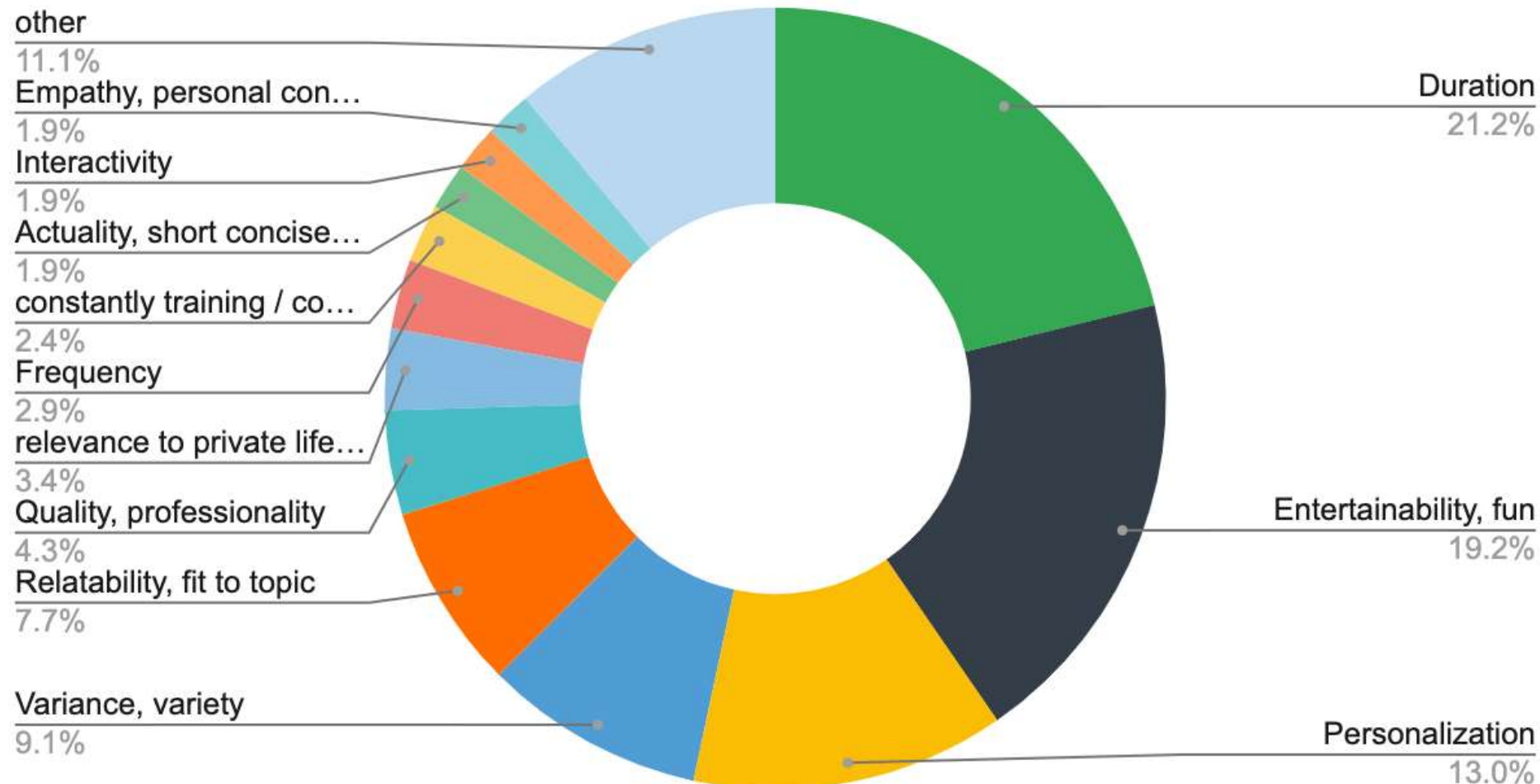
What have been your most 'successful' (effective) phishing simulation ?

Fourteen attack scenarios with many multiple mentions at Tier 1. Close to 50 'efficient' scenarios in total

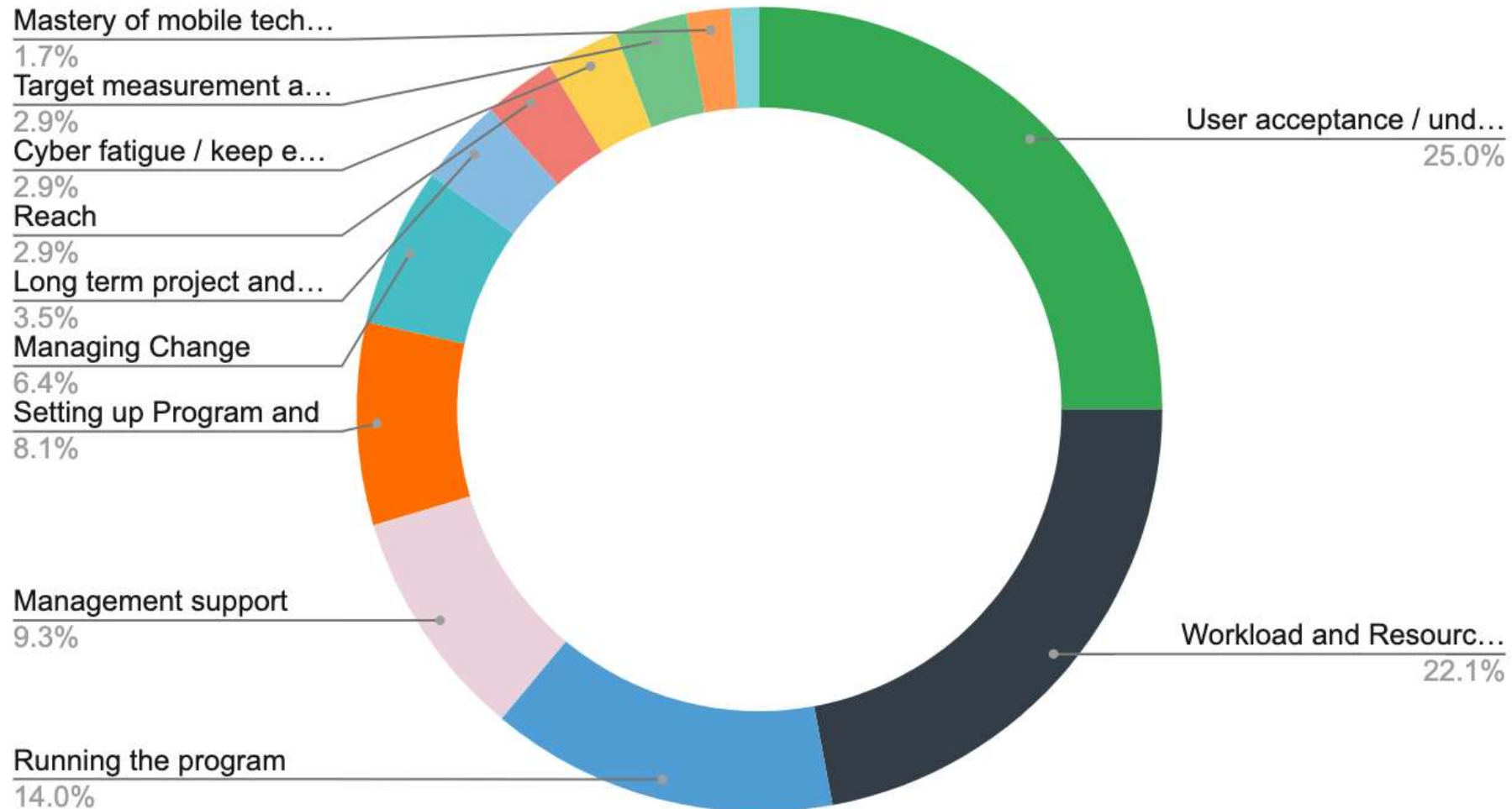


It was often mentioned that basically 'all' phishing simulations seem to work if a **plausible company context** with the right language can be established in the attack scenario. The most successful scenarios are those that appeal to the **emotional level: Curiosity, sense of duty, urgency, helpfulness, greed, profit, empathy and personal appeal.**

# What are the key success factors for a good training



# Challenges when implementing Awareness



Get the study!

# Thank you!

Meet us or get the full study at

**booth 7-301**

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**andreas.hoberg@thrivedx.com**

**palo.stacho@securityawareness.guru**

