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September 27, 2020

English 1121 (OL012)

Unit 1 Writing Assignment

Word count: 1242

September 23, 2020

Dr. Russell K. Hotzler

President

New York City College of Technology

300 Jay Street, Room N-319

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

RE: Students are being scammed.

Dear Dr. Hotzler,

I hope this letter finds you well, my name is Isaac Diaz and I have been a student at New York City College of Technology for three years, during this time at city tech I, like many other students have received dozens of emails targeting us, trying to scam us and unfortunately many have fall for them.

Unwanted messages and solicitations bombard us on a regular basis. Most of us hit ignore or delete or toss junk mail in the trash knowing that these messages and solicitations are most likely market scams. Others are not so lucky. Scams cost individuals and organizations

trillions of dollars each year, and it has “cost college students over 50 billion” according to the Best Business Bureau

A majority of students are likely already aware of some of today’s most prevalent fraud scheme, and thanks to the emails we receive from the Student Helpdesk we can be on the lookout for those unwanted messages, but it has come to my attention that although the college is working hard against this type of spam emails, we still have work to do.

There are two types of scam schemes, and just today I received one of those, an email offering a job, and unfortunately if a new student does not pay close attention, he or she could be scammed of valuable resources especially during this difficult time. This email comes as if it was from city tech, it contains the college logos, images and headings, and more so than anything else comes from the university’s email domain “ saying that I could make \$300 for 3 hours or work at week”, and asking students to “contact Dr. Paul from “CITYTECH” for consideration” these scammers often advertise fraudulent jobs opportunities, administrative or work from home type positions, which could be attractive to freshmen. This presents a problem to all of us, since they are using city tech emails and images to portrait themselves as legitimate

A second type of scam is this so call tuition payment, lots of students at city tech received these kinds of emails last semester where scammers tried to get them to log in through a provided link, which will eventually lead to getting their info stolen and ultimately their tuition money which will leave the student in debt. According to the Better Business Bureau “Scammers are using phishing emails to get college students’ personal information.... claiming to be from the financial department and encouraging student to click on a portal link to pay or receive funds”. How do we spot legit emails that comes from New York City College of Technology? And, how do we spot these scams when they are not being filtered by the IT department?

This is a big issue for students today as we are living through one of the most difficult times in American history, and yet for whatever reason, we must endure our troubles uncomplainingly on top of the challenges we are facing. Students are the backbone of society, why do we have to live with yet another burden, why do students have to put up to so many challenges throughout their school years.

As you know funding a college education is often one of the most evident roadblocks potential students work against, and for many students these resources are valuable, as they are a first in the family, often times going to college is a first experience out of the house for students and so this makes them the most vulnerable, and for this reason I would like to get your help, we need to work together against this issue and ensure that students are taken care of, one of the problems I have notice that New York City College of Technology has is the massive breach in personal information, why are students being emailed in mass, this is a breach of personal information, students should be given the chance to share their school email with any other student and only use that email for education purposes, why is the college's email domain public, by having a public email domain, we are more susceptible to being targeted and finally being scammed.

How can student's information be secure when their personal information is being share with others? How can we be secure when the email domain is public, and anyone can access our personal information? This is something that needs to be look into and needs a comprehensive and at the same time an aggressive approach.

For this reason, I have come to the conclusion that first of all we need to ensure reinforcement of the IT security measures the college have implemented, second we have to

secure the college's email domain, and last but not least we need to monitor any illegal activity on student's account.

By reinforcing the college's IT security measures, we are making sure that students, teachers, parents, and law enforcement personnel's personal information is safe. The ability to securely connect to virtual systems is an important element within a safe and supportive learning environment. This is particularly true today, where we as students are learning in digital format, and faculty, staff are constantly sharing information online. By sending emails in massive amount, the college is sharing other student personal information, this presents a challenge and no matter the occasion before the college sends bulk emails, the IT department needs to ensure its compliance with any data protection laws.

Second, the public vs private domain for emails can become a problematic topic, the truth is that by having a public domain, personal information can be stolen by scammers and this can subsequently be used against the individuals the information was stolen from, it also presents a problem because people feel a public domain email address controlled by the college could be intrusive, although students are to agree to the use of public domain email address in order to use it. On the other hand, by having a private domain, college can ensure that no illegal activity is being committed by students, staff, or faculty. By having a private domain, email accounts can remain private but can present a challenge when trying to get information if you the college thinks students or faculty is involved in any sort of misconduct but the private domain can help in the prevention of students being scammed.

Third, by monitoring students, faculty and staff email accounts, and trying to be as discrete and not as intrusive as to respect their right, ensures that the college is doing their job in protecting students and working towards eradicating the schemes that students face.

So with this said, I believe that by working with students and knowing their needs can help us develop programs and services not only for students but staff and faculty and by implementing these steps ensuring everyone's security, and help us deliver the promise of a safe environment within the campus community. You have an obligation to provide adequate and secure facility to everyone assisting New York City College of Technology, let it be students, faculty, or staff, and even parents and future students visiting the facilities.

Biography

Team, WCAX News, et al. "Scammers Targeting College Students."

<https://www.wcax.com>, www.wcax.com/2020/09/23/scammers-targeting-college-students/.

"BBB Scam Alert: Employment Scams Target College Students." BBB,

www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/20710-scam-alert-employment-scams-target-college-students.