

**October
is
Cybersecurity Awareness
Month**

**Senior Computer User Group of
Greater Kansas City**

October 9, 2026



October Cybersecurity Awareness

Some Numbers

Detection and Prevention

Where to find Help

October Cybersecurity Awareness

Top three scams by losses



Source: IC3 2025 Annual Report

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At the current pace, 2026 is on track to set a new annual record for the number of data compromises

- + **1,803** Total Data Compromises – H1 2026
- + **471,206,085** Victim Notices – H1 2026
- + **1,394** Data Breaches (vs. Exposures, Leaks and Unknown)
Makes up for 77% of total events in H1 2026.
- + **76 PERCENT (76%)** Breach Notice Lacking Attack Vector Detail
Up from 70 percent (70%) in full-year 2025.

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Are you

- Afraid?
- Concerned?
- Apprehensive?



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Detection

And

Prevention

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Scam Target Channels

Email + Text Messages

- **Toll scams**
- **Parcel/Delivery**
- **Refund scams**
- **Subscription traps**
- **Lottery Prize**
- **Financial Fraud**
- **Employment Scam**
- **Utility Scam**
- **Scareware (Extortion/Sextortion)**
- **Charity / Donation**
- **Crypto Scam**
- **Fake Shop / E-Commerce**
- **Malware**
- **Advance Fee**
- **SPAM**

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Scam Target Channels

Social Media & Instant Messaging (IM)

Cybercriminals favor social platforms and chat apps for relationship-building and software traps.

- **Malicious APKs (Android Package Kit)**
- **Fake Giveaways**
- **Romance Scams**
- **Investment Scams**

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Scam Target Channels

Phone Call

Voice communication remains the primary tool for authority-based and high-urgency intimidation.

- **Tax/IRS scams**
- **Utility Fraud**

Split Channels

Evenly split between traditional text/email alerts and phone calls

- **Gift Card**
- **Tech Support**

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Detection and Prevention



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Unknown Callers

Block Unknown Callers

Ask Reason for Calling

Silence unknown numbers

Screen Unknown Callers

Never

Calls from unsaved numbers will ring, and missed calls will be displayed on the Recents list.

Ask Reason for Calling

Calls from unsaved numbers will be asked for more information before iPhone rings. Calling and data rates may apply.

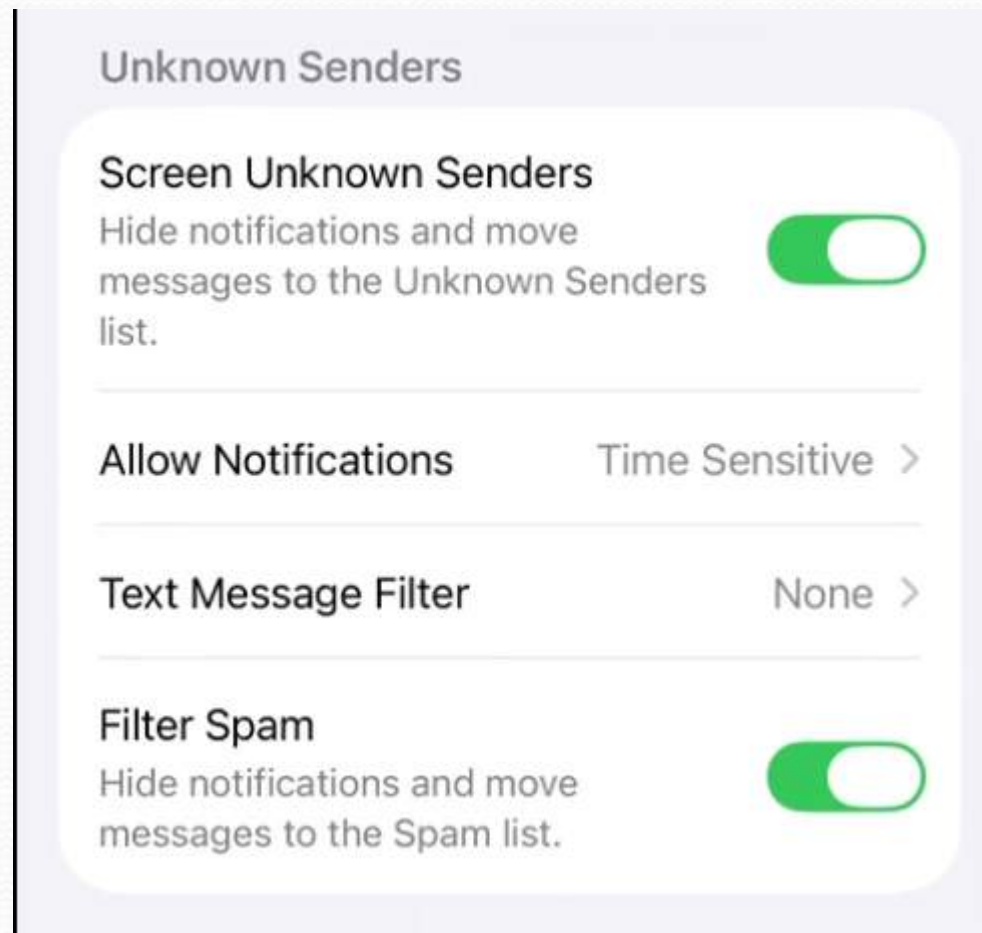
Silence

Calls from unsaved numbers will be silenced, sent to voicemail, and displayed on the Recents list. Calling and data rates may apply.



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Unknown Text Messages



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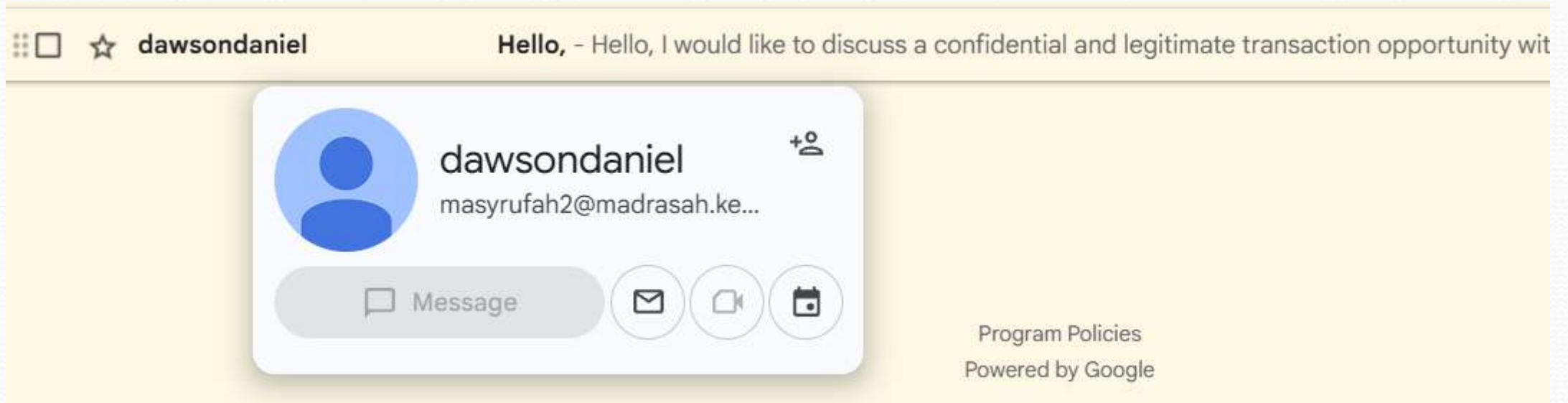
SPAM - Phishing

Some Examples.....



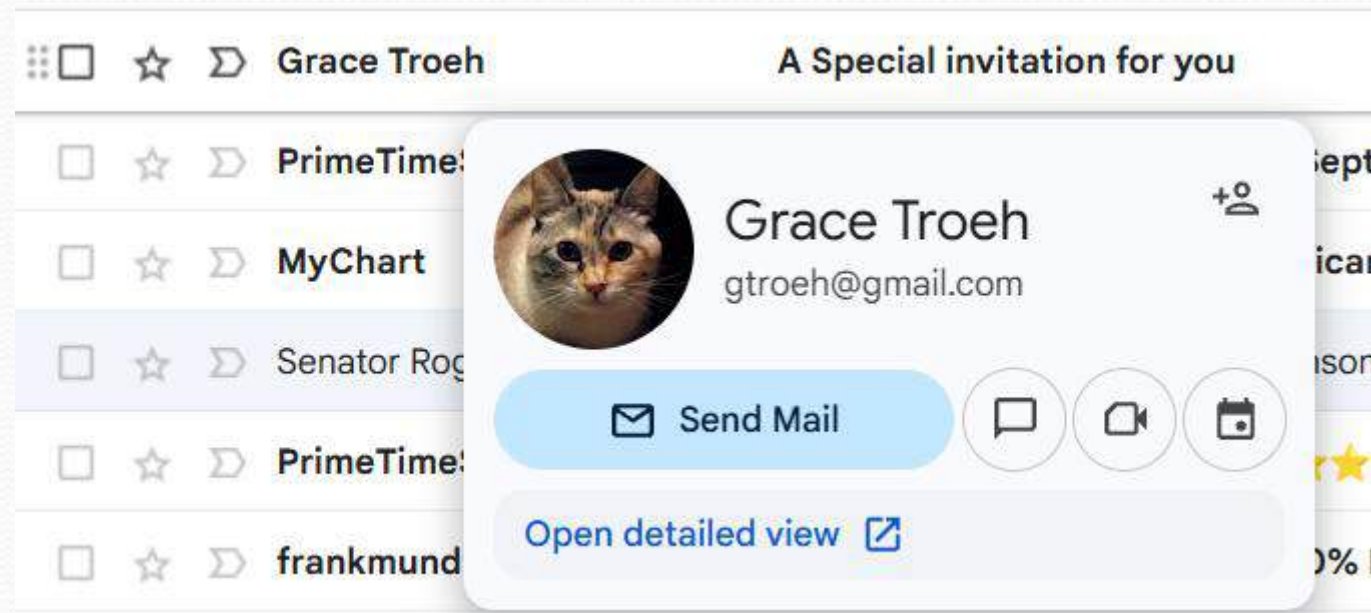
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SPAM - Phishing



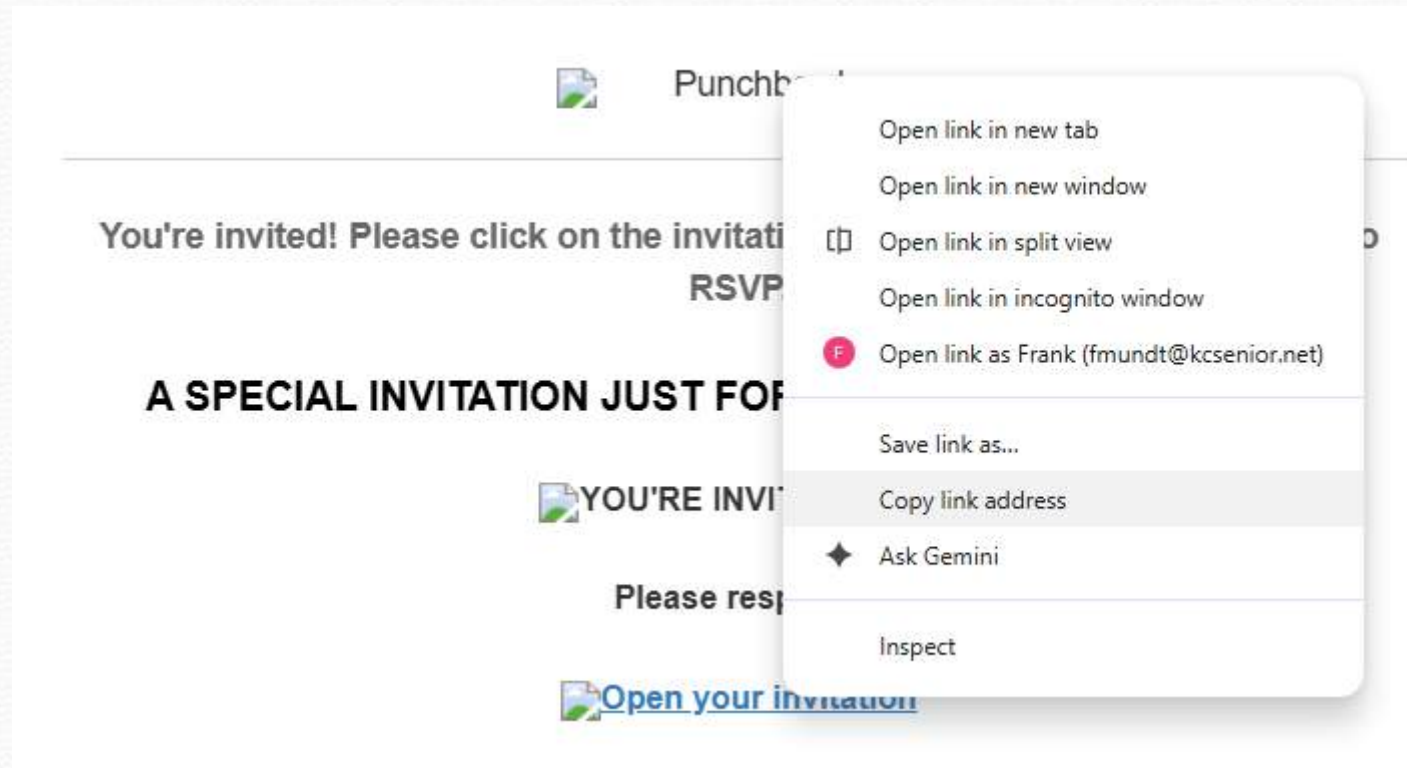
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SPAM - Phishing



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SPAM - Phishing



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SPAM - Phishing

<https://nordvpn.com/link-checker/>


Link Checker


File Checker


Scam Text Checker

Analyze

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SPAM - Phishing

Is this link safe?

Scan a URL you want to visit to detect malware, fake websites, and phishing attacks.



Potential phishing signs detected

<https://zekan.click/Login/Ecard/>

This site was identified as a phishing site. It could trick you into revealing your personal information, like login credentials and credit card details.

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SPAM - Phishing

What to do next?

Notify Grace that her Gmail account has possibly been hacked.

Time for Grace to change passwords!

Delete the Email.

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SPAM - Phishing

Alert: B0fA
A \$19,329.99 wire transfer to
Fatimah Abdullah was
submitted from your checking
account on 09/02. If you did
not authorize this transaction,
please contact us immediately
at 888-412-2036.

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Phishing – OAuth Consent Screen

- Starts with Email or Text with a link
- Link is for a legitimate provider (Microsoft / Apple / Google)
- BUT App is Malicious
- After authenticating, routed to a permission screen
 - Access to
 - Contacts
 - Calendar
 - Etc.
- Permissions remain after password change
- You must remove the permissions from your account

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AI Chatbots & Election Information Reliability



The Core Threat: "Pink Slime" Local News Sites

- **The Deception:** Partisan websites are actively masquerading as independent, local news outlets to influence the midterm campaign.
- **Balanced Disinformation:** An audit tracked **12 partisan sites** split equally across political lines—six left-leaning and six right-leaning.

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AI Chatbots & Election Information Reliability

- 
- Key Finding: AI Tools are Failing to Filter Misinformation**
- **The Audit:** NewsGuard analysts tested **seven leading AI tools** with queries regarding candidates and campaign issues.
 - **The Results:** Collectively, the chatbots cited these deceptive "pink slime" sites alongside other sources in **48.2% of their responses**.
 - **The Impact:** AI tools rely on partisan misinformation **nearly half the time** when answering critical election queries.

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Prevention

Recognize Common Red Flags

- Unexpected Contact
- Emotional Manipulation
- Pressure to Act Quickly
- Hard-to-reverse Payment
- Insistence on Secrecy

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Prevention

- Slow Down – Don't Panic
- Use Common Sense
- Do not trust links in text / email
- Do not trust phone numbers in text / email
- Go to actual websites

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Prevention

- Ask a Trusted Contact
- Do Some Research
- Sounds too Good to be True – IT Probably IS!
- Limit Social Media Sharing

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Prevention

- Embrace Friction
- Use Multi Factor Authentication
 - Passkeys
 - Time-based One-Time Passwords
 - Text messages
- Setup account recovery methods
 - Secondary Email
 - Secondary Phone Number

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Prevention

- Enable Phone SIM Swap Protection
- Freeze Credit Reports
- Regularly Check Bank and Credit Card Statements
- Keep Software Updated
- Use Anti Virus / Malware protection
- Have a 2nd Computer only for Financial

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Caught in a Scam

- Cut off Communication
- Contact Financial Institutions
- Freeze Credit (if not already done)
- Change Passwords
- Report to Law Enforcement ([IC3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov))
- Share your story!

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Just PAUSE!



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Where to Find Help

- SenCom
 - <https://kcsenior.net>
- AARP
 - <https://aarp.org>
- Senior Planet
 - <https://seniorplanet.org/search-results?query=fraud>
- Identity Theft Resource Center
 - <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/victim-help-center/>
- Cyber Seniors
 - <https://cyberseniors.org/>

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More Information

- Identity Theft Resource Center
 - <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/>
- Internet Crime Complaint Center
 - <https://www.ic3.gov/>
- Banks Never Ask That
 - <https://www.banksneveraskthat.com/>
- Malwarebytes Report
 - <https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/scams/2026/09/scammers-are-getting-smarter-about-where-they-target-you>
- National Elder Fraud Helpline
 - 1-833-372-8311

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More Information

- Federal Trade Commission
 - <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>
- Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft
 - <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>
- BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust
 - <https://scamsurvivaltoolkit.bbbmarketplacetrust.org/>
- Bitdefender Link Checker
 - <https://www.bitdefender.com/en-us/consumer/link-checker>
- NordVPN Is this link safe?
 - <https://nordvpn.com/link-checker/>



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Thank you

And

Safe Computing!