July 13, 2018

TO: University Systems Cybersecurity Communications
FROM: University Systems
RE: Blackmail Phishing Messages

We have received reports of phishing emails attempting to extort money from recipients; most are being blocked by our email filters but you may encounter one at home or on a personal email account. The emails claim to have sensitive personal information about individuals along with a valid username and password in the message as proof of compromise. An example is below:

If you receive a message like this, please do not respond. The valid username and password has likely been obtained through past external security breaches such as major public breaches impacting Yahoo, LinkedIn, MyFitnessPal, etc., and is being used as a tactic to pressure you into paying.

It is good a practice to change your passphrases regularly and create unique and complex passphrases across different services so that a breach in one service doesn’t impact your other services.

Regards,
Chandra

Chandra Beaveridge
Cybersecurity Working Group
University Systems
University of Victoria

To verify the authenticity of this message, visit:
www.uvic.ca/systems/verify