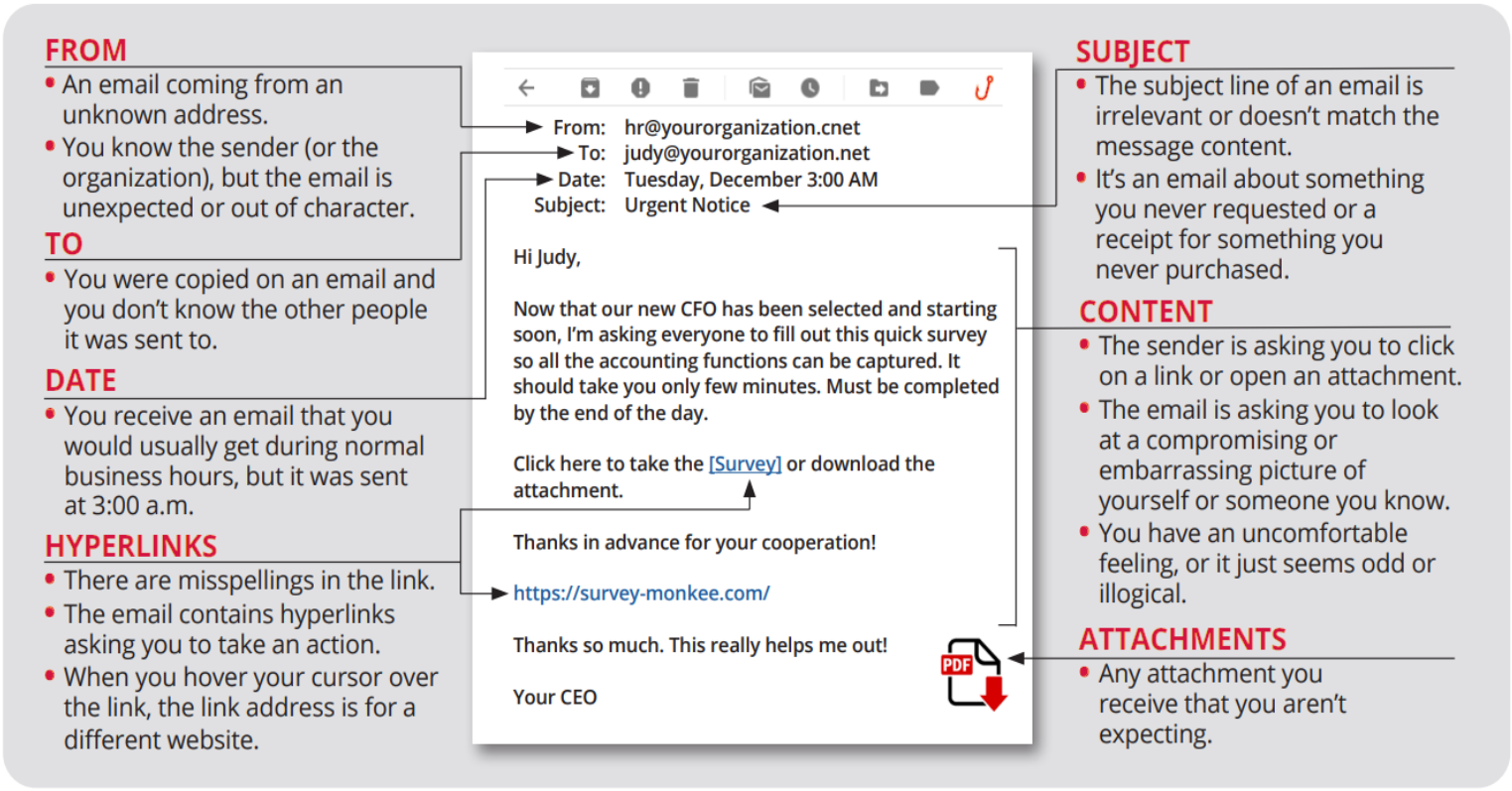

Phishing Email Warning Signs

Phishing is when a cybercriminal uses an email to trick you into giving them private information or taking a dangerous action. The consequences for falling for a phishing attack can be catastrophic to you and to the college.

Protect yourself and the College of Central Florida by learning to track down these signs of phishing emails!

- **Mysterious Messages**—Phishing emails often appear to come from someone you know or trust, but they can also come from an unknown sender. Always check the sender's email address and make sure it matches the trusted source's email address. ***All official communications from the college will have a cf.edu domain, with very few exceptions. Be especially cautious of emails with a banner stating it's from an external source.***
- **Urgent Demands**—Phishing messages often direct you to take action immediately, implying that something negative will happen if you don't. These messages are meant to get you to react before you think.. ***Always stop and think before taking an action. Does the request make sense?***
- **Sneaky Links**—One of the most common signs of phishing is the request to open an unexpected link or attachment that can be used to steal your login info or other data. ***Never open links or attachments from unknown or suspicious senders. If you need to sign in to a website, go directly to the known, legitimate address.***

Before taking an action, stop, look, and think!

If you can answer yes to any of the following, you should take steps to confirm that the request is legitimate before taking any action:

- Did the message arrive unexpectedly?
- Is it the first time the sender has asked you to perform the requested action?
- Does the request include a stressor, such as "you need to do this now"?
- Can performing the request harm your interests?

You are our first line of defense against cybercriminals! Stay vigilant and help us to keep our learning environment focused on providing the best possible outcomes to our students and staff.

Thank you,

Jason A. Griffis

Information Security Manager

COLLEGE of CENTRAL FLORIDA