

From: [Simeon Ananou, Chief Information Officer](#)
To: [Kiersten Tavares \(she/her\)](#)
Subject: Cybersecurity Threats in the News: What You Can Do
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The University
of Vermont

ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

March 28, 2022

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

UVM technology leaders and staff are monitoring the news around emerging global cybersecurity threats as a result of recent sanctions against Russia. We continuously engage with partners across higher education and in law enforcement to improve UVM's defensive posture. As always, though, we need your help, and "the usual advice" is now more important than ever in efforts to keep our risk low. Please ...

- DO remain cautious of attachments and links that come from a stranger or that you were not expecting; when in doubt, ask the sender via some other channel (phone? Teams?) or contact iso@uvm.edu.
- DO be suspicious of any message demanding that you "verify your account" or otherwise threatening to cut off your access to UVM; these may be attacks attempting to steal your access to UVM or your personal information.
- DO be skeptical of unfamiliar errors arising on your computing devices, *especially if they offer a "click here for help" option*, as these can lead to financial fraud and malicious access to your device/data.
- DO keep your computers and mobile devices up to date with the latest patches to operating systems and applications.
- DO NOT allow anyone other than approved UVM support staff—ETS Client Services or LCOM Technology Services—to remotely control *any computer with access to UVM systems and data*, particularly if they contacted you first. And ...
- DO ask questions if you're unsure about an online interaction or computer anomaly by emailing iso@uvm.edu.

Finally: Law enforcement partners have asked for early warning if our community observes active disinformation campaigns, especially on social media platforms. Please email iso@uvm.edu.

More details about each of these points can be found on the Information Security Office's [Why?security blog](#).

Thanks,
Simeon Ananou
Chief Information Officer

