5 easy ways to **protect employees** from **phishing scams**

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Introduction

Let's paint you a picture.

You're in your office, juggling emails, invoices, and meetings when suddenly, one of your employees comes in panicked.

They tell you that a supplier sent an urgent email about an outstanding payment, and your employee—thinking they were just doing their job—processed the payment. But now, the real supplier is on the phone, confused because they never sent the request.

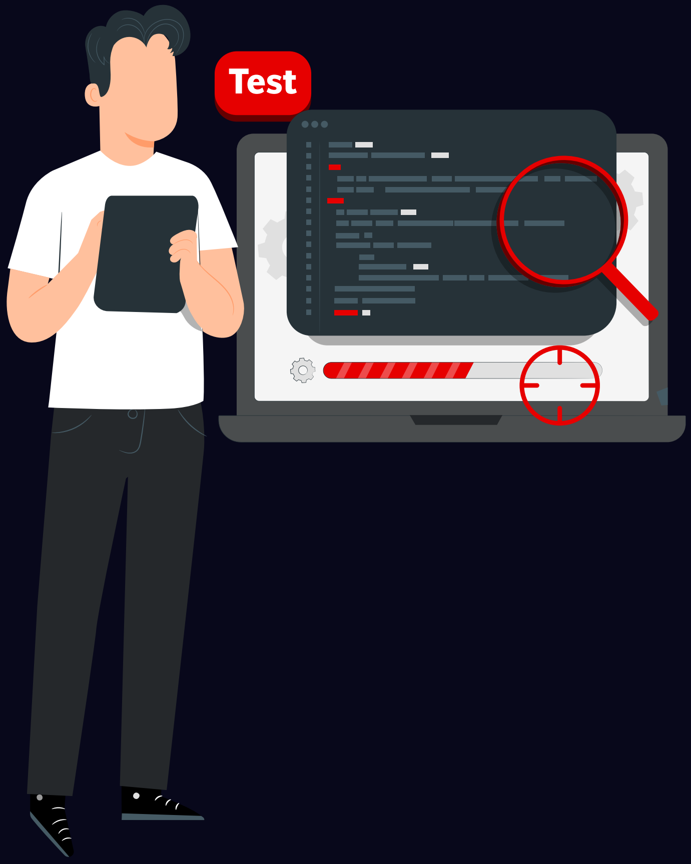
Just like that, **your business is a victim of a phishing scam.** That money? **Gone.** The email? **Fake.** And now you're left figuring out how this happened, **what other data was compromised,** and **how to stop it from happening again.**

Unfortunately, phishing scams are a reality for many South African businesses - **40% in fact.** And the **biggest vulnerability is your employees.** And in a small business - one mistake, one click - can be **devastating.**

So, how can you ensure your employees and business don't fall **victim?** Here are **five easy ways** to **protect** your business from **phishing attacks.**

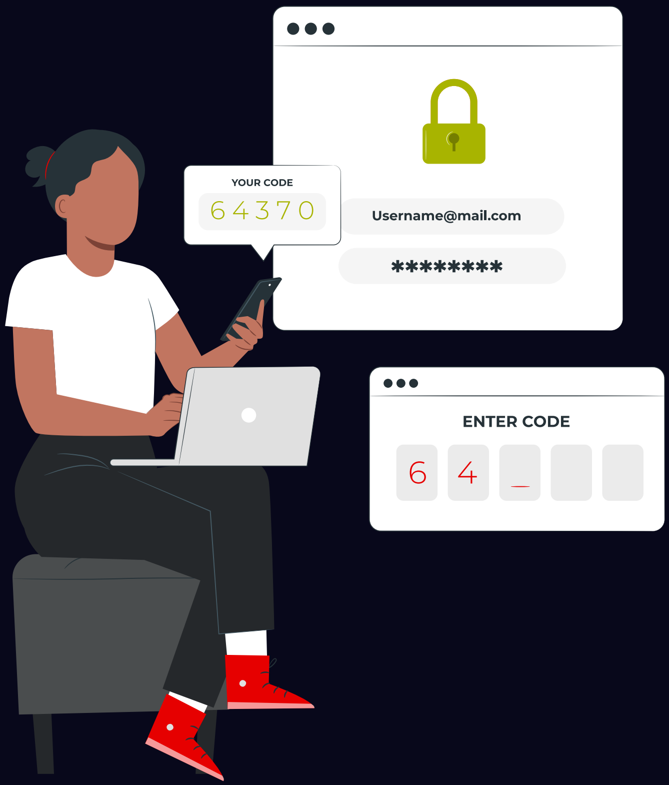
1. Phishing simulations

Phishing scams work because they look real. A well-crafted fake email from the "bank," "CEO," or "supplier" can be convincing enough to fool employees. That's why training and simulations are essential—if employees know what to look for, they're much less likely to fall for scams.



How it helps:

Much like a fire drill, regular phishing simulations train employees to spot phishing emails, and prepare them for real attempt. It works by having a system in place that sends employees fake phishing emails to see how they react. If they report the email as a phishing scam—great, they know the signs. If they fall for it, then you know that employee needs more training.



2. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Passwords alone aren't enough to protect business accounts. If a hacker gets hold of an employee's password, it's like finding a house key left under the doormat—they can walk right in. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) acts a second lock, making it much harder for attackers to gain access.

How it helps:

MFA works by requiring two of three pieces of proof to log in: One - something you know (a password). Two - something you have (a one-time code, fingerprint, or authentication app). Three – something you are (This simple extra step can prevent phishing attacks from succeeding.

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3. Email security filters

Most phishing scams arrive via email. They often look like urgent requests from a boss, client, or bank, asking employees to click a link or download an attachment. A strong email security filter acts like a bouncer, keeping these scam emails out of inboxes in the first place.

How it helps:

Much like a spam filter for junk mail, email security filters scan incoming messages for suspicious senders, unusual wording, and harmful attachments. Emails that match phishing patterns are automatically blocked or flagged with a warning before employees even see them.

By reducing the number of phishing emails employees receive, you lower the chances of someone clicking on a malicious link or sharing sensitive information.

4. Website and link protection

Many phishing scams trick employees into entering their credentials on fake websites that look identical to real ones. It's like walking up to an ATM that looks normal—but is a scam device that steals your card details.

How it helps:

Web protection tools act like a warning sign on a dangerous road, blocking access to suspicious websites before an employee can enter it. If an employee clicks a phishing link, they'll be redirected to a warning page instead of the fake site, stopping the attack before any damage is done.

5. Strong password managers

Many employees reuse weak passwords across multiple accounts, making them an easy target for hackers.

A password manager works like a vault, generating and storing strong, unique passwords for every account. Employees only need to remember one master password, and the tool securely fills in the rest when logging in.

This eliminates the need for employees to write down passwords, reuse old ones, or create simple, easy-to-guess passwords—all of which reduce the risk of phishing-related breaches.

Conclusion

You can't afford to take chances with cybersecurity. One mistake can cost you a lot of money and time. And with phishing scams becoming more sophisticated, the chances of your employees getting fooled increases.

By training employees, enabling MFA, securing emails, blocking dangerous sites, and enforcing strong passwords, you can protect your business from these rampant threats.

If you want to **protect your employees and business** from **phishing attacks**, **Vodacom Business** offers robust solutions that can fit your needs and budget. request a call from us now.

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