

COMPO EXPERT GmbH · Krögerweg 10 · 48155 Münster

Dear customers, vendors and business contacts,

We are experiencing a raised level of fraud attempts in our environment. The basic method is always the same: An attacker is sending a mail, informing about a change of bank account by the recipient's vendor for future transactions. Sometimes, there is even a PDF with an informal letter attached, carrying the logo of the vendor. However, the mentioned bank account belongs to the attacker and not to the company supposedly writing this mail or letter.

These attempts are sophisticated: Via social media (Facebook, Xing, LinkedIn...), the attacker gains information about valid business contacts within the corresponding companies to address the responsible recipient and fake responsible senders to make the communication look as legit as possible.

Such fraud cases are by now accumulating worldwide. For example, the Royal Bank of Scotland provides some security advises and description of the fraud method itself:

<http://www.rbs.co.uk/corporate/banking/g6/online/common-scams/change-of-bank-detail-scams.ashx>

Basically, there are two steps to protect yourself from such frauds:

Organizational:

- Verify the authenticity of such mailings and its content via a separate communication channel, such as phone call, fax or personal meeting. **Never directly reply to such emails.** These mails are created in a way that the recipient looks valid while the actually addressed Reply-To address belongs to the attacker.

Technical:

- You can avoid receiving mails that fake the sender's domain. The technical setup is called Sender Policy Framework (SPF) and is just an easy to make configuration in your mail server and your domain account.

SPF records have to be checked by the receiving party of communication. COMPO EXPERT has already set up SPF records for its domain, so you can immediately start verifying mails originating from @compo-expert.com. But you have to take action **on the receiving side, i.e. your side.**

**We strongly recommend to implement SPF records and the corresponding SPF record check in your incoming mail communication. Contact your IT consultants now and avoid being scammed.**

Informational web sites:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sender\\_Policy\\_Framework](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sender_Policy_Framework) - Wikipedia Information about SPF

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4408> - RFC for SPF

<http://www.openspf.org/> - Sender Policy Framework Project Site

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