

Local

Lawyer warns of rising threat of online scams in Kuwait

Scams through bank money transfers can be tricky: Jasem

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Users of various social media platforms in Kuwait have reported an increase in online scams by fraudsters who use those platforms as their base, with a significant increase reported in dangerous and highly targeted online scams. Taking advantage of people's fears and concerns, scammers trick users into clicking on links or attachments that contain malware.

To understand the issue from a legal standpoint, Kuwait Times spoke to Mohammad Al-Jasem, lawyer and Interpol-accredited expert in international law enforcement cooperation. "Internet fraud has two sides: One where the money transfer happens inside the country, and one where the transfer happens outside the country," he said. "In all cases, there are two ways to track this crime through the IP address."

He added, "If the money transfer was within Kuwait, the victim can file a case with the scammer's username, and the Department of Cybercrime in Kuwait can trace him via the IP address. The department contacts website owners to collect data of the scammer. It tracks the internet line and reveals the data about the wanted person."

Jasem revealed that scams through bank money transfers could be tricky. In case the transfer was made within local banks, the government can trace the name of the bank account's holder and the exact transferred amount, Jasem explained. "On the other hand, if the money is transferred outside the country, once the IP address is determined, correspondence is carried out," he said. "But most social networking platforms or major companies do not cooperate in this regard under the pretext of maintaining their clients' privacy, except in mur-

der threat cases."

He indicated that scamming through social media platforms can be a real problem. There are cases in which the scammers' accounts could be blocked but the money of the victims could never be refunded. "The amount can be tracked through the bank, where sometimes there is a cooperation between the Cybercrime Department and the relevant departments in other countries of the Interpol offices," he explained.

"The scam's money is considered a form of money laundry, because the source of money is illegal," he pointed out.

"The crimes are linked to each other. The most difficult case is the unencrypted transfer. Transfers are delivered to anyone who has an ID, even if it is forged, and most scammers use this method. It is considered a smart scam."

Group-IB, one of the global leaders in cyber security, released a report, on Tuesday, saying that it has identified a wide-scale phishing campaign targeting users in the Middle East by impersonating well-known postal services from several Arab countries including Kuwait. Since as early as 2020, over 270 domains were discovered making use of the regional delivery and postal service brands. All the domains were part of a single massive phishing infrastructure.

The pandemic-driven explosive growth of online shopping created a perfect storm for threat actors, who found fertile ground for inventing new attack scenarios. Globally, CERT-GIB identified more than 400 domains impersonating postal brands as part of this phishing campaign, with more than half of them (276) intended for users in the Middle East. In the Middle East specifically, scammers have impersonated over 13 different delivery brands, postal operators, and public companies from at least eight different countries,



Mohammad Al-Jasem

including Kuwait and other Arab countries.

Recently, Trend Micro, a global cyber security leader, released its annual "Navigating Frontiers New" report for 2021, highlighting the growing threat of cyber-attacks targeting individuals and digital infrastructures in a hybrid business environment.

The report indicated that Trend Micro solutions responded to more than 94.2 billion threats globally during 2021, a 42 percent increase in the number of detected detections compared to 2020. The report also revealed a huge increase in the number of attacks, which reached more than 53 billion during the second half of last year, compared to 41 billion threats in the first half of 2021.

In Kuwait, Trend Micro solutions blocked nearly 15 million e-mail attacks, responded to more than 1.7 million malware attacks, and prevented more than 3.5 million attacks related to victims clicking on malicious links. In addition, the report stated that the networks households use in Kuwait were a magnet for cybercriminals who targeted systems, devices, and networks, and in this regard, Trend Micro's "Smart Home Network" solutions blocked nearly 400,000 internal and external attacks, as well as prevented more than 700,000 attacks from hackers, who are seeking to target or control home networks, from happening.



Two ways to track through IP address

Ignorance in societies

In my view

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"True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge, but the refusal to acquire it." - Karl R Popper

The first thing that comes to mind when we speak about ignorance and backwardness is the nature of ignorance, its reasons and results, whether there is a manufacturing of ignorance and its cost calculations, profits and losses, failure and success, or is it spontaneous due to time features that influenced the spread of knowledge, and the presence of ignorance in its place as an inevitable result due to what things will turn out later. Ignorance has its various forms in each era, and has its popular goods!

Maybe the most important reasons for the spread of ignorance is poverty, so you mostly find the spread of ignorance - from understanding religion to understanding life - in poor environment. Also, among the most important effects of ignorance is that it directly affects the individuals' manners, so because of the unavailable human being needs, he may resort to using banned matters. Notice with me that the most important reason for the spread of illegal drugs, prostitution and theft is poverty. When you find a drug pusher selling his goods through aids who were forced by poverty and need to carry out illegal acts, also when you ask anyone who is involved in prostitution, they instantly say it is out of need. Also, for those who commit illegal acts and embezzlements, you find the answer ready that it is poverty.

So, ignorance and poverty are synonymous, and it is very difficult to find ignorance in a country where development and good education is available. Of course, I am talking to you about a medium not accurate standard, because there must be holes in some walls, but education closes the holes and mends the basic structure for the development of the human being. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was asked, why does the majority of Germany's budget go for education, culture, arts and most human knowledge, and salaries of teachers, intellectuals, innovators in Germany? She answered: Simply because the cost of ignorance is too high!

The main cost of ignorance is the spread of all types of crimes, and possibly the corruption of administrative and financial systems in the state, and the weak tendency for all types of development in many of the citizens. Also, in such environment that is rich with corruption, the fake academic certificates will be something widespread. Imagine if the person treating you is a fake doctor who received his qualification illegally, and the engineer who builds your house, then the foundation collapses because the engineer's degree is not genuine, the teacher who is in reality an employee and not a teacher and the responsibility of educating the future generations is on his shoulders. Imagine the destiny of those upcoming generations that were in the trust of a so-called teacher but in fact he does not have true academic qualifications, and because of that, private lessons are widespread, and at the end the main goal for going to school becomes to receive a certificate and not to learn, and you can imagine the future of this generation!

In countries where ignorance and backwardness is common, we find the sectarian expression in abundance, and the status of the corrupt is high, rather they will be in the forefront of the social political scene, and you find bribes everywhere, and you find the trade in religion, principles and sectarianism, on which the fraudulent are living, as ignorance became slogans that do not represent open societies where co-living exists as well as the tolerance of others. In the ignorant society, we find those who resort to religion to make a living, and those who are sincere only to the social group he belongs to, and finally we find the majority of those succeed because ignorance instilled its roots and the naive and ignorant are convinced with the credibility of those liars!

In the society where ignorance is spreading, you find the failed person fighting the successful person, because he does not imagine the presence of a successful person in his environment. Even at work in failed countries, evaluation will be done on basis that are not related to productivity or achievement, rather it will be on different basis that are far from that, mainly jealousy.

When the human being in the ignorant and backward society wakes up and decides to learn and improve himself, he will be fought everywhere starting from closer circle to the learning place, and obstacles will be put for him in order to make him fail and keep him from improving, because it is hard for the ignorant to see those who shed ignorance! In our current era, within the spread of social media and various applications, we find ignorance present, and among the forms of ignorance is to honor the fools as the famous on social media.



KUWAIT: This file photo shows rain clouds above Kuwait City. —KUNA

Chance of rain on Friday as 'unusual weather' hits Kuwait

KUWAIT: Kuwait is expected to be affected by unusual weather conditions in the next few days,

including a chance of rain and thunderstorms on Friday that may last for several days, veteran meteorologist Essa Ramadan said. A maritime air mass originating from the Arabian Sea and Arabian Gulf is expected to hit Kuwait on Thursday, raising humidity and chances for accumulation of rain clouds, Ramadan explained in a statement, noting that this phenomenon happens very rarely in Kuwait at this time of the year.

Ramadan explained that the humid "Marzam"

season will start Thursday, signaling the start of a period of high humidity and temperatures, before the appearance of Suhail star at the end of August. Ramadan said humidity is expected to rise and winds to become southeasterly starting Wednesday evening, noting that humidity would increase Thursday and continue for a week, accompanied by hot weather with a chance of rain in some areas. He said chance for rain starts Friday and continues for several days and horizontal vision would drop.

Manpower authority officials meet Sri Lankan Ambassador



KUWAIT: Acting Director of Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) Dr Mubarak Al-Azmi received Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Jowhar on Tuesday. Azmi welcomed the guests, lauded the

historic relations between the two countries and expressed keenness on strengthening them. The two sides discussed ways to improve cooperation on matters related to Sri Lankan manpower in Kuwait.



Commerce and Industry Minister Fahad Al-Shurairan.

Minister extends official's suspension

KUWAIT: Commerce and Industry Minister Fahad Al-Shurairan issued a new decision extending the suspension of the Director General of Kuwait Ports Authority for three months starting July 28, 2022 and paying him half of his salary during the suspension period. The minister first suspended the director on April 28th. Former Commerce and Industry Minister Dr Abdallah Al-Salman issued a ministerial decision to suspend the director Sheikh Yousuf Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah in favor of investigations for three months or until the investigating committee completes its work.