

Word to the Wise – Redirect and phishing schemes – 12/24/24

Auditor of State – Keith Faber recently released The General Standard – December 2024 – Central Region communication.

Ohio is facing a growing threat from cybercriminals using payment redirect and phishing schemes to impersonate trusted vendors or employees. These crimes have resulted in **significant financial losses** at public institutions across the state.

Preventing these attacks requires robust safeguards and a security-conscious culture. I encourage every organization to verify any changes to vendor or employee payment information using only independent, **in-person** confirmation, and to implement dual authorization procedures to approve and initiate payments.

You can learn more about these schemes (including real life examples) and how to protect your organization here:

[How to Protect Your Organization from Spear Phishing and Payment Redirect Scams](#)

To support your efforts, we've created a [simple, downloadable checklist](#) that employees can use to reinforce secure payment practices.

“Stop, think, verify, and validate before signing off on any payouts of public funds. Make sure you know who you are sending money to before hitting send.” – Auditor of State Keith Faber

In July 2024, the County Auditor's office shared [Auditor of State Bulletin 2024-003 – Payment Re-Direct and Business Email Compromise Schemes](#) to bring awareness of the increasing threat by cybercriminals.

- The resources may be found under [Publications and Forms - Auditor - Fairfield County, Ohio](#).

We all must be vigilant by having awareness and ensuring proper stewardship of our public dollars.