

# 'Phishy' stuff abounds in UNH inboxes: Fraudulent e-mails a frequent occurrence for students

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Fraudulent e-mails, also known as "phishing" e-mails, are an animate problem on campus according to UNH's Computing and Information Services.

The department makes every possible attempt to block the messages, although the constant evolution of the e-mails and their increasing frequency make this impossible.

"This problem has been going on for several years," said Petr Brym, director of information technology security for the department. "It comes in waves, but it's becoming more and more common because there are more people generating this e-mails."

The messages ask for sensitive material such as usernames and passwords. If these e-mails are responded to, any accounts that require personal information may be

compromised.

About a month and a half ago a large wave of phishing e-mails came through UNH. This occurred due to the production of a new batch of messages, Brym said. Old messages are reconstructed and edited to look as legitimate as possible.

"There is no danger upon the arrival of one of these e-mails," Brym said. "If you respond to an e-mail and disclose your password or other information, that's the step where you get hurt."

Brym said it's accurate to assume any unknown party can access the information disclosed in a response to these e-mails. There is no sure way to identify the creators of these e-mails because he or she uses a non-specific, transient addresses.

A possible way track down the original creator is by submitting a court subpoena, or a police report, which is typically not done. The only dependent remedy for this problem is not responding to the e-mails.

"Take precaution and change your e-mail passwords," Brym said. "If your passwords are used for bank accounts, take additional steps by following advice and changing those account passwords too. Keep your eyes open for any unusual activity."

Phishing doesn't always target a specific geographic location or demography. People can receive these e-mails at home or at a different school. It's a widespread, national problem and UNH is one

of its victims.

Phishing e-mails come in a variety of forms.

For example, on Sept. 11, 2008, members of the UNH community reported receiving illegitimate e-mails from people claiming to be "The unnh.edu Webmail Account Team."

These account holders were asked to confirm their accounts due to unusual activity. On Nov. 11, 2008, the same type of e-mail was reported, but this time it was a message from an unknown source offering a tax refund.

"What's scary about these 'phishy' e-mails is that they're always changing," Brym said. "It changes over time, but way too many people respond to the messages. As an institution, UNH filters out as many e-mails as possible, but not all of them. We try to stop as many as possible without stopping legitimate e-mails."

Some of these e-mails have a high level of sophistication and specificity, and the unknown party is able to deceive its recipient.

"Luckily, I haven't received any of these e-mails, but I might've responded to one if I did," said UNH senior Mike Cummings. "I'd ask someone first, maybe my roommates. If they didn't know anything I'd probably respond."

CIS emphasizes that the UNH community focus on the e-mails that signal a high danger level, such as addressing the account holder by his or her first name. The ones that are generically addressed do not need to be reported.

The phishing attempts have gotten more dangerous over time, said Brym. Some recipients are being addressed by their first name, which means they are being personally targeted.

"Three percent of recipients will respond," said Brym. "That's saying that three out of 100 people will get into a car accident tonight. That's huge."

It may be difficult for someone to determine whether an e-mail is a legitimate one or a phishing e-mail, but there are ways to tell, according to Brym.

"If the messages look goofy, unspecific and there are grammar problems, it's not from UNH," Brym said. "UNH messages are more refined. If the e-mail is looking for your password, that's when a red flag should pop up. Even the president or police wouldn't ask for your password."

Examples of phishing attempts are posted at [www.cis.unh.edu/IT](http://www.cis.unh.edu/IT) to warn members of the UNH community about this growing concern. Any e-mails requesting information like birth dates and social security numbers should be reported immediately.

"Whoever creates these e-mails, it's a huge violation," said UNH senior Mallory Sustick. "If it looks legitimate though, I would respond to it. I know that if people are getting other private e-mails from the school, they would be more prone to responding to the e-mails too."



GRAPHIC BY MEREDITH LEE

# DAM: Future of Durham landmark spurs ecological, social debate

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plex debate over preservation of the historic site, or restoring the river to flow freely.

"This dam is a living record for over three centuries of life in Durham," said Andrea Bodo, a Newmarket resident and member of the HDC and Heritage Commission.

The Oyster River Dam has restrained the waterway adjacent to Newmarket Road in Durham for centuries. The present issue began on March 4, 1999, when the DES filed a letter of deficiency for the condition of the dam and again in 2002.

While the Department of Public Works appraised the cost of dam repairs upwards of \$1.5 million, supporters of removal have advocated the state provides funding for dam removal while no compensation is provided for restoration.

The dam spillway runs 140 feet wide, with a fish ladder on the left abutment. The right abutment and embankment was the original site of concern for the DES where the concrete has shown deterioration, cracking and exposed rebar that has shown poor joints and interior spillage.

While there are 3,074 nationally- and state-recognized dams in the state, the Oyster River Dam is one of 18 head of tide dams. The DES explained in the meeting Wednesday night these dams have a low blockage where fish occasional pass under them in high flows.

Cheri Patterson from New Hampshire Fish and Game spoke at the meeting on the fisheries present in the Oyster River. She advocated that dams trap sediment, pollute water quality, promote algae growth and reduce oxygen levels in the water and that, while there are five dams on the Oyster River and 31 on the watershed, the Oyster

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*Andrea Bodo*

River Dam is the only head of tide passage.

"By removing the dam it would allow natural processes to occur, and the sediment will flush through," said Patterson.

Durham residents who have lived alongside the river embankment and Mill Pond weren't shy with their speculation, riddling off questions quicker than they could be answered from presenters.

"What would your position be if beavers dammed up the same spot after your organization tore it down?" asked one man in the crowd.

While the Durham residents seemed predominately in favor of

preserving the dam, there is no arguing the complexity of the decision.

"This is the most important thing to happen in Durham in a long time," said Bodo.

Bodo, who presented about the historical significance of the dam, said there were timber dams put in place around the 1600s for settlers. The current structure, known as the Durham Falls Dam, was constructed in 1913 to replace the last of a series of timber dams as a gift to the town from Edith Congreve Onderdonk to honor her stepfather of Hamilton Smith. She hoped to maintain the beauty of the Mill Pond, where her family estate was located.

It was Hamilton Smith who originally fell in love with the Mill Pond and had a major influence on the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

He spent many hours out on the pond and while he had no children of his own Smith became very attached to his dogs. While Smith was out on Little Bay on July 4, 1900, his dog Hannah jumped into the water. Smith went in after her, but his heart couldn't take the struggle to shore and he drowned on the shoreline.

The construction of the dam was by Daniel Chelsey, a Durham resident, and Charles Elbert Hewitt, the first head of the department of electrical engineering at the university.

Another speaker urged the

town council to consider the possibility of hydropower for the low-risk dam. While the river flows at 20 cubic feet per second, a small hydroelectric generator could generate up to 6.7 kilowatts per hour, which would translate into \$12,000 per year in power.

"This state was founded on hydropower," said Jerry Whiteleather, a professional engineer. "I demand DES to look at a strategic implementation of hydropower. All the little towns in New Hampshire need to think globally."

This being the first informational town meeting, it will be up to the town council to determine the outcome of the historic dam.

"The town will need to go through the consultative process," said Deb Lorsche, river restoration coordinator for the Dam Bureau, a component of the DES.

Four to five informational meetings usually follow this process, which began with the DES administrative order, where the town will decide to restore the river or preserve the dam.

After the town makes a decision on the dam, the project will enter the planning and design stage. If the Durham town council decides to preserve the dam the Department of Historical Review will then have to oversee the restoration of the dams historical properties. Before any construction, the town must apply for the appropriate permits from the NHDES.

## Two Texas A&M students shot and killed in off campus neighborhood

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Texas A&M students Travis Wilson Joiner, 23, and his sister Rachel Kate Joiner, 21, were shot Friday afternoon in the 100 block of Walcourt Loop.

Rachel Joiner was found in the garage of the house. She sustained injuries to the chest and hand. According to police reports, when she was asked who shot her, she responded that her boyfriend, John, did it.

The suspect, John Darrell Thuesen, 25, was a Blinn College student and Rachel's boyfriend. Police reports said he called 911 and was found at the scene. When police arrived, he was charged with two counts of capital murder.

Thuesen is being detained in Brazos County Detention Center with no bail.

"There was a strange maroon car sitting there when we got home Thursday night and was still there Friday morning when I left for work," said Tabitha Foreman, neighbor to the Joiners.

Foreman reported hearing gunshots when she came home on her lunch break.

"I heard about five bangs upon getting out of my car. At first you think, 'Oh my gosh,' and then it's so quiet. I didn't think much of it because there's construction going on," Foreman said.

When she left home that day, Foreman said she saw a police car sitting outside her house.