From the ‘IT’ Department

To begin……

I work with the retiree association from where I once worked. I’ve started submitting anti-spam/scam articles to our newsletter as well as periodically sending out variations via e-mail.

So since I’ve done that and the subject of scamming came up in a recent BCRC meeting, I figured what the heck. So here we start a collection of those articles for your perusal.

We’ll cover computer issues both hardware and software but will try for lite non-technical items. And of course, coverage of scams, phishing, spam (the non-meat kind), and whatever tickles our fancy.

Chapter 1a Advertising (spam) and your browser.

It you’re a regular internet browser user like me, you get tired of all the pop-ups whenever you’re looking around.

There are several advert blockers out there that do a fine job of stopping that crap from filling your screen. The problem is that many sites will detect that you’ve got an adblocker running and will protest greatly. Many media sites, locally and around the world may even block you from viewing their postings. Even YouTube will block you unless you turn off the blocker. And believe it or not, some Youtube advertisers push blockers.

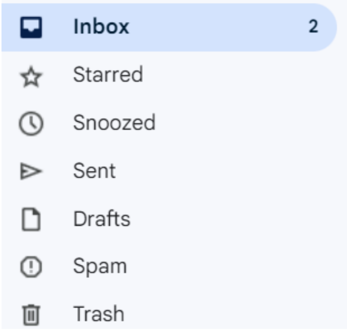
A couple of my solutions…..and likely there are others…..

- Leave one browser such as EDGE without an adblocker. For the rest, Chrome or Firefox for examples, install an adblocker. If the website protests, use EDGE instead. So at least you won’t be bothered full-time.
- Try a popup-restricting browser like “Duck Duck Go”. It’s a little more persnickety than the others but you may get used to it. It includes a viewer for YouTube videos that turns off all the annoying advertising – 30 seconds here; thirty seconds there…it adds up.

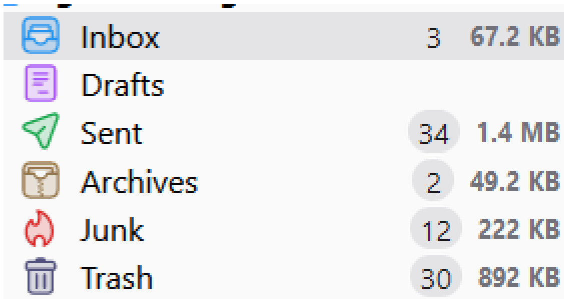
Chapter 1b Advertising (spam) and your email.

Many email systems are adept at filtering out questionable emails. You likely have never checked a **Spam or Junk folder** to see what’s residing there. Some filters may place the message directly into Trash.

GMAIL:



Thunderbird:



Inbox	3	67.2 KB
Drafts		
Sent	34	1.4 MB
Archives	2	49.2 KB
Junk	12	222 KB
Trash	30	892 KB

Sometimes though, your email system, like Gmail or something local like Thunderbird, need to learn what they're looking for. So if something pops into your Inbox and it is spam, move it to 'spam' or flag it as '*spam*' so the mail system can remember. Then, it you see a non-spam message in your Spam folder, move it back to the Inbox or flag it as *not-spam*.

The presence of a message in your junk or spam folder may make it back to the originating system and may start blocking delivery to you.

So much for Chapter 1. Till next time.

To note…… You may/will see some degree of duplication between different documents. Scams do repeat themselves, so if these events get repeated, there's a better chance you'll remember.

Ken G. ETR

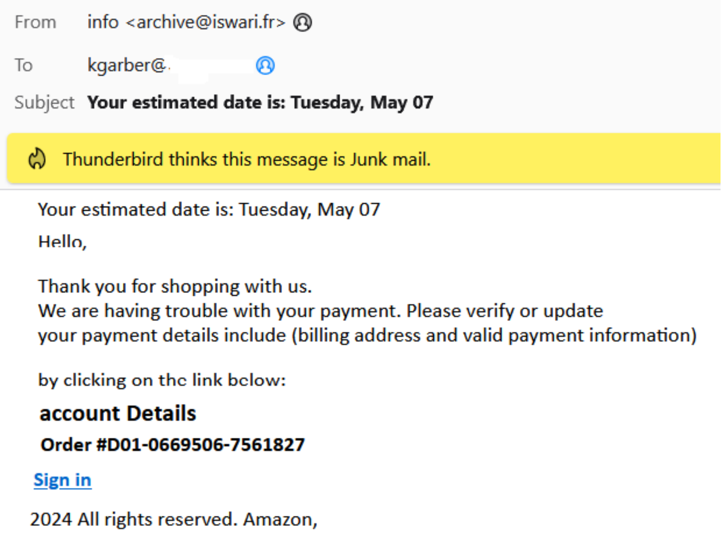
From ‘IT’

Chapter 2 Recognizing a Scam or Phish message.

It’s a way of life in that you cannot stop a spam, scam or phish message from ending up in your inbox. You can’t respond to the sender because they ain’t the sender. It’s all made-up (aka spoof).

So here are a few things to watch out for to protect yourself from being victimized.

A. **Compare the message body/subject to the sender address**
   For Example: A message from a French email address about an Amazon order problem
B. **Compare the message body/subject to the Sign-In/Click-Here link**
   Do this by hovering your mouse over the link showing.
   In a recent Amazon example, the link is pointing to a NON-Amazon site.



From info <archive@iswari.fr>

To kgarber@[redacted]

Subject **Your estimated date is: Tuesday, May 07**

Thunderbird thinks this message is Junk mail.

Your estimated date is: Tuesday, May 07

Hello,

Thank you for shopping with us.
We are having trouble with your payment. Please verify or update
your payment details include (billing address and valid payment information)

by clicking on the link below:

account Details

Order #D01-0669506-7561827

Sign in

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There are a multitude of examples (my junk folder is full of them) but we’ll keep them to a minimum for now.