

TSD INFO BULLETIN

by the TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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EMAIL HEADERS

Their importance in the fight against scammers

Scamming, in all shapes and forms, is a game of deception, with the sole purpose of getting money. The victim's money. That's it! Nothing more! Scammers will play (or try to play) confidence tricks (synonyms include *confidence game*, *confidence scheme*, *scam* and *stratagem*) in an attempt to defraud a person or group after first gaining their **confidence**, used in the classical sense of **trust**.

Confidence tricks exploit typical human characteristics such as dishonesty, honesty, vanity, compassion, solidarity, misfortune, credulity, irresponsibility, naïveté and greed. Scammers will tug at your heartstrings with made-up stories about how they need (your) money — for emergencies, hospital bills, or to cover those unexpected costs... And, because we are human, we can fall prey to this psychological manipulation.

Consider the following email: Barbara is stranded in Cyprus, and she lost all her “*artículos vitales, teléfono y dinero*”. Again, because we are human, we can relate to the state of despair Barbara is going through... Typical impulse: let's help Barbara! — *What kind of stony-hearted person wouldn't do that for me, right?*

-----Mensaje original-----

De: Barbara Werderitsch [mailto:barbarawerderitsch@gmail.com]

Enviado el: lunes, 23 de noviembre de 2015 11:18

Para: undisclosed-recipients:

Asunto: Hola

**NAME AND EMAIL FROM
THE REAL BARBARA**

Perdona que te moleste, estoy en una situación terrible en este momento y voy a necesitar su ayuda con urgencia. Estoy en Limassol, Chipre, en este momento y yo sólo perdí mi bolsa que contenía todos mis artículos vitales, teléfono y dinero en la estación de autobuses. Soy un poco varado en este momento y necesitar un poco de ayuda de usted.

Saludos,
Barbara

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Barbara Werderitsch

*Dipl. Fachübersetzerin und Konferenzdolmetscherin**Intérprete de Conferencias y Traductora Técnica Autónoma* *Technical Translator and Conference Interpreter at Freelance*

[REDACTED]

**ADDRESS AND PHONE FROM
THE REAL BARBARA**

Tfno.: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: barbaravvderitsch@gmail.com **RED FLAG**

The first rule about fighting scammers: **READ. ATTENTIVELY!** Scammers count on you not to. Let' read, then: you google Barbara's name and email address, and both point to a legitimate page on a translator's portal.

— *That's it! I'm going to help the poor damsel in distress* (misfortune, compassion, solidarity, credulity...).

But, before you send Barbara any money (what else can you do?), remember we said **READ. ATTENTIVELY.**

Let's read again, then: see that email address in the last line: barbaravvderitsch@gmail.com? With **VV** instead of a **W** like in the email address in the first line? Congratulations! You've just busted another scammer: “Barbara” is not stranded in Cyprus without her “*artículos vitales*” after all.

Always remember: ALL scams are about money! Your money! If your online sweetheart or Barbara in Cyprus asks for money, you can expect it's a scam.

Sometimes, scammers are not so careless as to give you such a prominent red flag in the open. That's why, at the least doubt about the genuineness of any message that lands in your inbox, you should always analyze its header. The email header contains a detailed log of the network path taken by the message between the mail sender and the mail receiver(s) (i.e., the email servers).

[CLICK to learn how to open the email headers on your webmail provider or email client/program.](#)

Let's open the header of "Barbara's" message:

```
Received: by 10.202.231.71 with HTTP; Mon, 23 Nov 2015 02:18:13 -0800 (PST)
Reply-To: barbarawerdersch@gmail.com THIS IS THE REAL SENDING ADDRESS
Date: Mon, 23 Nov 2015 11:18:13 +0100
Message-ID: <CAOyTS0foppv61_WN9hpaDcr=fZr2bOs_1iG_OVYADTUdHxpiw@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Hola
From: Barbara Werderitsch <barbarawerdersch@gmail.com> EMAIL APPEARS TO BE SENT FROM THIS ADDRESS
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Bcc: barbarawerdersch@gmail.com RECIPIENTS IN BCC = SCAMMERS' TACTIC
X-Original-Sender: barbarawerdersch@gmail.com
X-Original-Authentication-Results: mx.google.com; spf=pass (google.com: domain of barbarawerdersch@gmail.com designates 2607:f8b0:4003:c06::244 as permitted sender) smtp.mailfrom=barbarawerdersch@gmail.com; dkim=pass header.i=@gmail.com; dmarc=pass (p=NONE dis=NONE) header.from=gmail.com
```

There you have it (from top to bottom):

Reply to: the address you'll respond to (in this case, the SCAMMER'S ADDRESS).

X-Original sender: the sender of "Barbara's" message (in this case, by means of SPOOFING). Email spoofing is the creation of email messages with a forged sender address. It is easy to do because the Internet email protocols do not have any mechanism for authentication. It can be accomplished from within a LAN, from an external environment using Trojan horses, or from anonymous or pseudonymous remailers.

We should know! It's easy to find online numerous anonymous or pseudonymous remailers that allow the sending of emails from ANY email address WHATSOEVER. Yes, you read it right: ANY EMAIL ADDRESS WHATSOEVER.

Let's now see another interesting email received from a Ukrainian "translator":

```
Received: from unknown (HELO vps.linguisticstheorys.com) ([78.128.8.71])
(envelope-sender <luciano.ketki@gmail.com>)
by mta03 (qmail-ptmail-1.0.0) with SMTP
for <[REDACTED]>; 18 Nov 2015 23:14:52 -0000
Received-SPF: softfail (mta03: transitioning SPF record at _netblocks3.google.com does not designate 78.128.8.71 as permitted sender)
X-PTMail-RemoteIP: 78.128.8.71
X-PTMail-AllowedSender-Action:
X-PTMail-Service: default
Received: from [78.128.43.249] (port=48761 helo=linguisticstheorys.com)
by vps.linguisticstheorys.com with esmtp (Exim 4.86)
(envelope-from <luciano.ketki@gmail.com>)
id 1ZzC6P-0002Ii-Fq
for <[REDACTED]>; Wed, 18 Nov 2015 18:25:25 -0500
To: <[REDACTED]>
Subject: English-Russian and English-Ukrainian translations
Message-ID: <f1b4b0eb0591eecf4f47705ef368d7f0@linguisticstheorys.com>
Date: Wed, 18 Nov 2015 23:03:30 +0000
From: "Luciano Ketki" <luciano.ketki@gmail.com> FAKE TRANSLATOR ADDRESS ON CV (FAKE): MOSCOW, RUSSIA COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: UKRAINE !!!
Reply-To: luciano.ketki@gmail.com
```

1 SCAMMERS MAIL FROM A VIRTUAL PRIVATE SERVER (VPS) INSTALLED ON THIS DOMAIN
2 IP ADDRESS FROM BULGARIA
3 SCAMMERS' EMAIL ADDRESS
4 DOMAIN CREATED BY SCAMMERS IN GAZA (SEE OUR DIRECTORY)

Let's read another email header. Remember: **ATTENTIVELY.**

```
Received: from gmailsmtp by server1.gmailsmtp.net with local (Exim 4.87)
(envelope-from <m4translation84@gmail.com>)
id 1bOg8A-0005Vf-Rw
for <[REDACTED]> Sun, 17 Jul 2016 03:04:50 -0400
To: <[REDACTED]>
Subject: English & French Language Support
Message-ID: <f4f782b50cfc28e2e1064f7239279683@gmailsmtp.net>
Date: Sun, 17 Jul 2016 02:00:07 -0500
From: Martin Issak <m4translation84@gmail.com> SCAMMER ALSO USES: Martine Issak
Reply-To: <m4translation84@gmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer-LID: 181
List-Unsubscribe: <http://gmailsmtp.net/ahmed\_root/unsubscribe.php?M=799094&C=30035a198785e0007acab5b5d644f912&L=181&N=810>
X-Mailer-RecptId: 799094
X-Mailer-SID: 810 ahmed? WHAT IS "AHMED" DOING HERE?
gmailsmtp.net is a BULK MAIL SITE / www.gorillabulkemail.com
```

We told you: email headers contain a lot of useful information. Read it. And use it.

And a final one, even scarier:

```
Received: from DBXPR06MB431.eurprd06.prod.outlook.com ([10.141.14.27]) by
DBXPR06MB431.eurprd06.prod.outlook.com ([10.141.14.27]) with mapi id
15.01.0506.009; Tue, 24 May 2016 22:05:22 +0000
From: karla adeson <karla0adeson0@hotmail.com>
Subject: Job App for Norwegian <> English professional freelancer translator
Thread-Topic: Job App for Norwegian <> English professional freelancer
translator
Thread-Index: AQHRoRtxhQJNLyHAzka7ctbEa22Dqp
+e9P6HgAQsE8yAAiSVS4AAAPNLgAEMXIGABCRPP4AF
+oZAgAI2dG2AAOMzIIAKSrZUgAGSPd//zc8U4AHA3bsgADEJpWAAZ4CIQ==
Date: Tue, 24 May 2016 22:05:22 +0000
Message-ID:
<DBXPR06MB431A15CBA12726525606517A84F0@DBXPR06MB431.eurprd06.pro
d.outlook.com>
References:DBXPR06MB43155A5E1602D91C7BAB9AAA8650@DBXPR06MB431.
eurprd06.prod.outlook.com>;<DBXPR06MB43139346AB5FDCD7CB2C8FDA8650@
DBXPR06MB431.eurprd06.prod.outlook.com>eurprd06.prod.outlook.com>;<AM3PR0
6MB42096D27492BC3C3F04A509A84E0@AM3PR06MB420.eurprd06.prod.outlook.
com>
In-Reply-To:
<AM3PR06MB42096D27492BC3C3F04A509A84E0@AM3PR06MB420.eurprd06.pr
od.outlook.com>
Accept-Language: en-CA, ar-SA, en-US
Content-Language: en-CA
X-MS-Has-Attach: yes
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator: authentication-results: spf=softfail (sender IP is 25.152.0.58)
smtp.mailfrom=hotmail.com; thetranscriptionagency.com; dkim=none (message
not signed) header.d=none;thetranscriptionagency.com; dmarc=fail action=none
header.from=hotmail.com;
received-spf: SoftFail (protection.outlook.com: domain of transitioning
hotmail.com discourages use of 25.152.0.58 as permitted sender)
x-tmn: [2Se+s1qQSNvyohPn/loynZE+MDaJT4isseN4m4eJ4zg=]
x-eopattributedmessage: 1
```

Now, let's read, **ATTENTIVELY**:

IN YELLOW: data from false translator created by Gaza scammers.

IN BLUE: evidence of abusive use of the email server from **thetranscriptionagency.com**.

The sender IP is 25.152.0.58 (UK Ministry of Defence ???)

Info at: <https://db-ip.com/25.152.0.58>

FINAL NOTE

To avoid detection, CV scammers and translator impersonators frequently operate two (sometimes, even more) email addresses for each identity they hijack or create. If the scammer sends his email from a Gmail address, this is probably the only one created/used for his operation (but not always). Because their email is usually sent from a Gmail account (or another free email account), scammers close this account (once exposed, or just to bypass spam filters) and create a new Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, Proton Mail, etc. address to keep sending their fake CVs or communicate with their victims.

For more information, read our guide [SCAMMERS, EMAILS AND EMAIL HEADERS](#).

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