

Tip of the Month – May, 2010

“BOTNETS” What are they?

By now you should know that “**spam**” and “**phishing**” scams are some of the more common ways used by criminals to trick you into clicking onto an infectious web link. A relatively new term known as “**bot**” is becoming more popular in the cyber world environment.

A “bot” is the term used for an infected PC which gets slotted into a network of thousands of other bots. These “**botnets**” are then directed to execute all forms of cybercrime, from petty scams to cyber espionage.

USA Today Research reports that “Botnets supply the computing power to pitch worthless products, hijack online banking accounts and steal corporate data.” This tells us that if you want to protect your personal information, CARE is essential when opening email from unknown persons particularly when using the many social networking sites which Bahamians have taken on by storm!

Here are a few PC User Safety Tips:

Do not use social networking sites on the job!

If you receive a message with a phrase like “This is you” or “LOL is this you” followed by a link, do not click through because there is a phishing site on the other side.

What to do if you’ve been hit?

Run antivirus software and be sure to use the most current version of your browser, which contains the most up-to-date protection features.

Reset your password.

Never click suspicious links even if they appear to have come from a friend.

Do not run any “exe” files on your computer without knowing what they are.

REMEMBER – ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY!

Feel free to email us at dataprotection@bahamas.go.bs.