CEO
Fraud Scams

CEO fraud is a type of Business Email Compromise (BEC) where criminals impersonate senior leaders to pressure staff into acting quickly. Because requests appear to come from authority figures, employees may feel compelled to comply without question.

How the Scam Works

Urgent Payment Requests

Fraudsters send emails or messages pretending to be CEOs or executives, demanding immediate electronic/wire transfers or invoice payments. The sense of urgency discourages employees from double-checking.

Tip: *Always verify unusual financial requests by calling or confirming in person.*

Gift Card Scams

Attackers sometimes ask employees to buy gift cards "on behalf of the CEO", claiming it's for clients or emergencies. Once the codes are sent, the funds are lost.

Tip: *Be wary of secrecy or urgency in requests, especially involving gift cards.*

Lookalike Emails

Criminals often use email addresses that look almost identical to real ones (e.g., ceo@compaany.com). These small differences are easy to miss.

Tip: *Carefully check sender addresses for subtle spelling changes.*

Protecting Yourself and the Company

CEO fraud relies on trust and the fear of disobeying authority. Awareness and verification are the strongest defences.

Tip: *Report suspected attempts immediately to IT or security teams.*