

Watch that Spam email!

In that loving spirit for the Valentine's season, a new virus has been unleashed and a new round of spam is targeting recipients with inviting emails.

The latest round of email messages carry a "love" or Valentine's Day theme. The link is often just an IP or web address. When the receiver clicks on what turns out to be a malicious link in the email, your machine becomes infected with one of the variations of Stormworm, a malicious piece of software that causes your machine to become part of a botnet.

These scams are capable of causing significant damage to an individual's system. Users are encouraged not to click on links within emails from unknown users. If you receive a "Valentine" spam, delete it immediately.

The perpetrators of this scam are rapidly changing their malware in an effort to thwart anti-virus software. With that in mind, make sure that your anti-virus software is current. If your AV software is current, you have a better chance of stopping the malware if you inadvertently click on a link.

If you believe your system has been compromised or if you have questions about these latest scams, contact an IT professional.

-taken from Iowa State University Information Technology web page