



## Social Security Phishing Scam

The Social Security Administration issued a warning about a new e-mail scam being circulated with the subject, "Cost-of-Living for 2007 Update." The message appears to be from the Social Security Administration and provides information about the benefit increase for 2007. It contains the following, "NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The reader is then directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website. Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information, and credit card information.

It is recommended that people always take precautions when giving out personal information. You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone.

To report receipt of this e-mail message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's Website, [www.socialsecurity.gov/oig](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oig).

Tips for handling possible phishing e-mails:

- Do not click on the link in the suspect e-mail.
- If you believe the contact is legitimate, go to the company's website by typing in the site address directly or using a page you have previously bookmarked, instead of a link provided in the e-mail.
- Do not open an attachment to an unsolicited e-mail unless you have verified the source.
- Confirm the validity of e-mails and phone calls by calling the phone number you usually use, not the number printed in the e-mail.
- Do not be intimidated by an e-mail or caller who suggest dire consequences if you do not immediately provide or verify information.

### REMEMBER:

**Quorum Federal Credit Union will never request personal or account information via e-mail or ask you to access a link and submit information. Should you receive a message of this nature, please contact us immediately at (800) 874-5544 to alert us or to confirm the validity of the message.**

*Source: CUNA Mutual report, November 2006*