Notice on Email "Phishing" Attacks

Adapted from mail sent to the college community by Information Technology on Tuesday, January 21, 2014.

During the past few months faculty and staff have received numerous messages with subject lines such as: END OF YEAR EMAIL ACCOUNT NOTIFICATION. As you may know, these are fraudulent emails intended to collect information and allow access to your computer. These are not sent by Lehman College or CUNY staff.

These emails are known as a "phishing" attacks. They appear to be sent from a familiar source, are designed to encourage you to provide personal information and may threaten to disable your access to a service if you fail to respond. The settings on compromised accounts are typically modified. At worst, your computer can be used by the attacker to obtain intellectual property, and more often, your account is used to send out mail that appears to be coming from your email address.

If you disclosed your username and password in attacks of this type, or suspect that your account has been compromised, please change your password immediately, at: http://www.lehman.edu/sspm.

Please also contact the Help Desk at help.desk@lehman.cuny.edu to have your computer scanned.

Lehman's anti-spam service blocks most email of this type but there can be a lag as the origins of the email continue to change. We appreciate your diligence in notifying IT of suspicious email and urge you to follow these guidelines:

1) Never reply to any email that asks you for your personal information such as social security number, usernames and passwords, account numbers, and date of birth, regardless of how official it may appear. Lehman or CUNY should never ask you to submit personal information by email.
2) Remain vigilant when reviewing email from sources requesting that you click on an embedded link.
3) Choose complex but memorable passwords and keep them secure. Good practices in password selection may be found on the Password Manager site (http://www.lehman.edu/itr/password-guidelines.php) and are appended to the Lehman password expiration reminders.