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Virus Attack!

Letter to the Editor

I am tired of being an Internet & PC friendly guy. Does the email: "You have just won the UK Lottery of \$1000 000?" sound familiar? YES!! I "allegedly" win various lotto competitions on a WEEKLY basis. Hahaha, I'm practically a millionaire! What a joke! What's more, I have NEVER played the lotto electronically, especially not in other countries. Spam... Spam... Spam. NB: One of the easiest ways of identifying these emails is to see where you have received the email from. Now this doesn't sound so bad does it? Wrong! Many people fall for this trick and end up at the wrong side of the rainbow. If you do reply and try to get through all

the paperwork, you will soon realise that they ask your personal details. This should be your first red light. Don't EVER give away your details, especially your banking details to someone random!!! Hackers these days are very sophisticated in their operations...

Linked to my second point, is Fraud emails. I have also received many of these... It makes me wonder where they got my email address in the first place??? Fraudsters articulate very professional emails, sometimes from different Banks, and they will have a message that you need to change your password, or reset your details or..... whatever. But in reality, your bank has never sent you an email in the first place. My tip: I have Internet Banking and it works very well for me, but NEVER have my bank corresponded to me via email concerning my internet banking transactions. So - don't trust them! I

mean, I have even received emails from banks where I do not even have an account! This is not fair!

Lastly I come with great sorrow as many of these fraud emails contains viruses, some so sophisticated that even the most updated anti-virus programme will not be able to pick it up. And before you know it, BOOM! Your computer is down. How can any business these days function without a computer?

This is really getting out of control! However, hope still exists. Apparently a new law has been developed in Japan (Tokio) to put any virus developer behind bars.

Anyone writing or spreading viruses with intent can go to jail for three years or receive a fine of 500 000 yen (basically R42 000). This is brilliant - but what about South Africa? What about the cyber fraudsters and/or criminals locally?

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