



Part of the Washington SBDC Podcast Series

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Hoax Busters:

Government Website: Hoaxbusters under the Computer Incident Advisory Capability which is a Department of Energy Division

<http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>

These messages cost small businesses \$42 million a minute. Remember that many employees cost a business more than \$50 an hour with overhead and benefits.

Why they send these messages:

- To see how far a letter will go just for the fun of it.
- To harass another person.
- To bilk money out of people using a pyramid scheme.
- To kill some other chain letter.
- To damage a reputation.

How to recognize these messages:

1. A message that asks you to send this to everyone you know.
2. A message with very technical sounding language.
3. Know the source of the message. Don't assume that a message from a business email is from that business.

Tips to pass on to employees:

- 1) Do not spread chain letters or hoaxes by sending copies to everyone you know
- 2) If you find one of these messages, report your system administrator
- 3) Check these messages out on the sending company website

- 4) If the message contains the name of a product or company go to their website for verification
- 5) Check with an authoritative source like your IT professional if in doubt

Spammers

Bulk mailers of unsolicited mail. After the email has gone through 6 generations, it has enough data to return to the spammer so that they can use your email addresses.

Summary: When in doubt, don't send it out!

Visit your local SBDC for no-cost, confidential advising services: www.wsfdc.org