

SPEARED

Jane, who advertised herself as a tutor, received an email from a parent who needed a tutor for his daughter in Jane's area of expertise. After exchanging several messages, the father proposed an unusual method of paying Jane for her time. He said he would send a check that would exceed Jane's total tutoring fee and requested that she just send him a check for the difference.

That's when Jane realized she was the target of a spear phishing attack. It turns out that perpetrators had researched the university and crafted custom emails targeted at tutors in Jane's department. If she or her co-workers had complied with the father's request, they would have been tricked out of hundreds of dollars and stuck with bad checks.

To learn how to avoid falling prey to spear phishing attacks and other unsafe types of email, go to

<http://www.colorado.edu/oit/it-security/security-awareness>



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