

Phishing Attacks on Credit Unions Increase in September; Bank Attacks Drop 10:46am

BEDFORD, Mass. - Bad news for credit unions in the online world-they are seeing increased phishing attacks, while attacks against banks are declining.

Nearly 50% of the brands targeted for phishing attacks in September were credit unions, a 6% spike since last month, according to the new RSA Monthly Online Fraud Intelligence Report. Meanwhile, attacks on nationwide and regional banks showed a slight decrease to 17% and 35% respectively. Some security experts contend that credit unions are viewed as having weaker security than banks, and thus become a prime target.

Most of the credit unions targeted were phished less than five times each. Phishers keep the scale of these attacks against smaller institutions low, however they tend to use more refined spam lists, the report said.

In the last four months RSA has identified a 48% increase in the number of phishing attacks and that number should continue to rise, reported RSA experts. Sixty-three percent of the attacks were hosted from the U.S., which is up 15% from last month. It is the highest level of attacks hosted in the U.S. this year.

The RSA Anti-Fraud Command Center detects, monitors, tracks and shuts down phishing, pharming and Trojan attacks worldwide. It has shut down over 18,000 phishing attacks to date.