



SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Tradecraft Alert BOSTON DIVISION

Approved for Release: 05 October 2018

SIR Number: SIR-00324014814

(U//FOUO) Malicious Actors Using Fraudulent Job Postings on University Job Boards to Target Students

SOURCE: (U) A write-in to an official FBI website.

(U) FBI Boston is releasing this Situational Information Report for awareness regarding activities being conducted by perpetrators posting fraudulent job postings on university job boards to defraud students.

(U//FOUO) As of 8 June 2018, FBI Boston had noticed a pattern of fraudulent job postings made on several university job boards, including online and physical job boards, as well as e-mails sent to student accounts. E-mails from the perpetrators claimed that the sender worked in the United States, but was currently out of the country on business and needed a personal assistant to complete tasks while they were away.

(U//FOUO) Frequently the job postings stated money would be deposited in advance for the student to "complete tasks and make purchases," and frequently requested the student pay bills on the poster's behalf. Typically a large sum is sent by check and the student is instructed to deposit the check into their account, keep a weekly fee for themselves (usually \$300 or \$400), and then withdraw and transfer the remaining amount through MoneyGram or Western Union. Many victims noted that the checks deposited would bounce and the student would lose money or access to their account.

(U//FOUO) In some instances, the job posting requested the student reply with an application to include name, full address, cell phone number, age, occupation, and gender. Students often provided banking

(U) Warning: This is an information report, not finally evaluated intelligence. It is being shared for informational purposes but has not been fully evaluated, integrated with other information, interpreted or analyzed. Receiving agencies are requested not to take action based on this raw reporting without prior coordination with the FBI.

(U) Note: This product reflects the views of the BOSTON Division.

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information as well. Initial e-mails from perpetrators often contained a mixture of standard type and text in all caps.

(U) As a proactive measure, beware of job postings offering to send money and requesting a student receive money to purchase items or pay bills on another's behalf. Schools can also verify students' and posters' e-mail handles and have IT support check when a domain was initially registered. Control measures can be used for physical job boards around campus by encasing them behind glass or plastic, and having only employees of the employment office hang postings to prevent harmful actors hanging flyers before they can be confirmed by the university.

(U) Report instances of fraud to IC3 (www.ic3.gov) as soon as possible.

(U) This report has been prepared by the BOSTON Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the BOSTON Division at 857-386-2000.

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Customer and Product Information

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Dated: _____

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 - 5. Strongly Agree
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