

THE NetworkGuy

JULY 2025 \ VOLUME 6 \ ISSUE 7

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Learn from The Network Guy

What is spear phishing?

The Network Guy:

Spear phishing is a sophisticated type of phishing attack that involves extensive research on the intended victim to create a believable story that would increase the likelihood of success. It involves a targeted attack on individuals or organizations through highly personalized and convincing email messages, designed to trick recipients into giving away sensitive information or downloading malware onto their system. This type of message may be more difficult to recognize because of their personalized content, such as your name, job title, or references to recent events or conversations. Senders may also impersonate trusted individuals or organizations, like your boss, a coworker, or a vendor.

A Few Words of Advice about QR Codes

QR codes are becoming more and more common all the time. They appear on gift cards, tickets, menus, advertisements, games, and more. QR stands for “Quick Response” and can be scanned to display download information. Usually this is a business’ website. Unfortunately, hackers can use imposter codes, which are indistinguishable from legitimate ones.

The biggest danger of QR codes is that you can’t read them; you have to scan them to see where they go. By that point, it’s too late. Attackers take advantage of this and will often place their own QR codes over legitimate ones in popular places, such as restaurants, hotels, or parking meters. Other times, hackers distribute fake prize giveaways with QR codes on them. They may have websites that look like the real thing and load them with QR codes. Social media is another angle of attack. They’ll send messages that appeal to your curiosity, such as “Check out this photo I took of you.” or “Act quickly: you missed a package. Scan this code for tracking information.” You scan the QR code and that’s when the trouble begins. There could be a phishing attack or a scam website. It could be a realistic looking login page, a prize redemption, or any number of other attempts at your information or money. Once the hackers have access to your device, they can install fake contacts, send emails from your account and spread malware.

The lesson is that every QR code is suspicious. Only scan them from a trusted source. Free food or other promotional offers are great but aren’t enough to risk having your data compromised.

The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge by **July 31, 2025** to answer the contest question. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

Click the Quiz Challenge link to figure out which option is not true about QR Codes.

Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

According to a survey conducted between September 13 to 24, 2024, 58% of technology leaders globally reported artificial intelligence as the most important technology in 2025. Cloud computing followed, with 26 percent of respondents considering it the most influential technology. Robotics ranked third, with 24 percent of tech users ranking it as a key area of technology for the year 2025.

Roblox is a free-to-play (F2P) online gaming platform that offers user-generated gaming content and other immersive virtual experiences. Initially released for PC in 2006, the platform is now also available for mobile devices and Xbox One and draws millions of players from across the globe each day. The daily user count for Roblox games reached 88.9 million active players during the third quarter of 2024, and user engagement on Roblox is high.

Town RPG Brookhaven was the most popular Roblox game of all time, with over 58 billion visits as of January 2025. Second-ranked, anime-inspired Blox Fruits amassed 45.6 billion visits, respectively.

Augmented reality (AR) technology integrates digital information with the physical environment, live and in real-time. Through the addition of graphics, sounds, haptic feedback, or even smell to the natural world as it exists, AR can combine real life with a super-imposed image or animation using the camera on a mobile device or AR headset. As part of the wider XR industry, the global AR market is expected to grow considerably in the coming years.

The global extended reality (XR) market was valued at 25.7 billion U.S. dollars in 2024, an industry that includes augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR). Forecasts suggest that by 2028, the XR market could be worth 41.8 billion U.S. dollars.

Regarded as the next iteration of the internet, the metaverse is where the physical and digital worlds come together. As an evolution of social technologies, the metaverse allows digital representations of people, avatars, to interact with each other in various settings. Whether it be at work, in an office, going to concerts or sports events, or even trying on clothes, the metaverse provides a space for endless, interconnected virtual communities using VR headsets, AR glasses, smartphone apps, or other devices.

(Source: www.statista.com)



"Compromise where you can. Where you can't, don't. Even if everyone is telling you that something wrong is something right."

- Sharon Carter, Captain America: Civil War

PenTeleData is Proud to Serve Carbondale, PA

Carbondale, Pennsylvania, known as "The Pioneer City," was the spark that ignited the Industrial Revolution more than a century ago. Its city founders led the way to unearth the site of the first deep underground coal mine in the United States, giving rise to the industry and economic force to one of the most prosperous chapters in American history and shaped its region for generations.

Carbondale is located fifteen miles northeast of Scranton, PA. It was founded in 1824 and incorporated on March 15, 1851, making it the oldest city in Lackawanna County and the fourth oldest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's a city of other "firsts" too. In 1829, the Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale began the first commercially successful railroad to operate in America and the first million-dollar corporation in the United States. In 1831, Carbondale became the home of the first deep underground shaft anthracite coal mine in America. In 1850, the first eisteddfod (a Welsh musical and literary festival) in America was held in Carbondale on Christmas Day. In 1953, The Ancient Welsh fraternal order of Ivorites opened their first lodge in America. In 1856, the first anthracite coal breaker in America, the Racket Book Breaker, was built by the Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad, adjacent to the company's coal and rail operations in the vicinity of the Artesian wells. (These are wells where groundwater flows to the surface naturally, without the need for a pump, due to pressure within a confined aquifer. This pressure is created when water is trapped between layers of impermeable rock or clay.) It was located adjacent to Plane No. 4 on the loaded track of the Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad and prepared coal from several mines operated by the Delaware and Hudson, including the Powderly Slope and the No. 3 Shaft at Carbondale.

Carbondale is where tradition meets progress. Today, Carbondale embraces its heritage while looking toward the future. The city actively collaborates with local organizations, community members, and volunteers to revitalize Main Street, with efforts focused on creating a bustling, vibrant business district. Its residents are proud to call Carbondale a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

A Cheat Code to Remember How Many Days There Are Each Month by Using Your Knuckles!

Make a fist. If the month is on a knuckle, it has 31 days. Otherwise, it has 30 or less days. Starting with the 1st knuckle as January. The space between knuckles as February. Knuckle is March... etc. Once you get to the fourth knuckle, July, start over at the first knuckle for August.

