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Phishing attack uses thousands of legitimate Hotmail addresses

A phishing attack, designed to trick people into giving up bank account information and security details, usually via a fake website, has been launched from thousands of legitimate Hotmail accounts.

Microsoft has admitted to thousands of 'Windows Live IDs' being compromised, mostly from Europe. **It is recommended that anyone with a Hotmail account change their password and if they use the same password for any other secure logins, to change those as well.**

Technology blog Neowin.net say that 'there are now 20,000 accounts affected and non-Hotmail addresses.'

Microsoft made the following statement on a company blog:-

"Over the weekend Microsoft learned that several thousand Windows Live Hotmail customer's credentials were exposed on a third-party site due to a likely phishing scheme. Upon learning of the issue, we immediately requested that the credentials be removed and launched an investigation to determine the impact to customers. As part of that investigation, we determined that this was not a breach of internal Microsoft data and initiated our standard process of working to help customers regain control of their accounts."

The extent of the email account hack is not currently known, therefore, the Business Crime Reduction Centre recommends that if you have a Windows Live ID and a webmail, change the password in case the email account has been compromised.

For further details on this news story see

<http://www.neowin.net/news/main/09/10/05/thousands-of-hotmail-passwords-leaked-online>