



STAYING CYBERSMART ONLINE

# EMAIL COMPROMISE

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TRUST IN EVERY LAYER

## EMAIL COMPROMISE PREVENTION IS THE FIRST LAYER OF PROTECTION

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Business email compromise is a sophisticated scam, also known as “director fraud”. This scam involves the hijacking of email accounts and sending emails instructing individuals and or employees to wire/transfer large sums of money to a beneficiary’s account – typically an overseas account.

### HOW DO THESE TYPES OF COMPROMISES OCCUR?

A cybercriminal can compromise a director’s email account via a phishing email, or they can use an email address that looks very similar to that of the director’s. The cybercriminal works to gain trust with a victim who has online banking access (e.g. payroll manager, or treasurer) and requests an online transaction or wire transfer. The transaction will appear completely legitimate to the organisation’s financial institution.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP KEEP YOUR BUSINESS SAFE?

- Educate staff (particularly those who manage payments) on the risks of business email compromise
- Before acting on the message (e.g. clicking on any links, opening attachments, or following any instructions) contact the company sending the message (using a phone number from their website) to confirm the legitimacy of the sender
- Follow the correct and complete usual business process when completing fund transfers
- Report any incidents to your local government bodies (for Australian residents, visit the Australia Cyber Crime Online Reporting Network at [www.acorn.gov.au](http://www.acorn.gov.au))



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT STAYING SAFE ONLINE  
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