

HOW TO SPOT A FAKE EMAIL

Fake emails are one of the most common ways spammers try to get your personal information and spread harmful malware and viruses.

The most effective means to protect your computer is a healthy sense of skepticism and taking a moment to notice the signs of a fake message.

This is a real message sent to one of Solerant's engineers. It is a very convincing fake order summary that appears to be from Amazon. Clicking any of the links in the message attempted to launch a virus installation.

The message included 3 major flaws that provided a clue that it isn't real.

The screenshot shows a fake Amazon order confirmation email. The Amazon logo is in the top left. The email body contains the following text:

amazon.com
and you're done™

Thanks for your order, elliott.wood@solerant.com

Did you know you can view and edit your orders online, 24 hours a day? Visit [Your Account](#).

Order Information:
E-mail Address: elliott.wood@solerant.com

Order Grand Total: \$ 94.99
Earn 3% rewards on your Amazon.com orders with the Amazon Visa Card. [Learn More](#)

Order Summary:
Details:

Order #:	079-6793994-4006428
Subtotal of items:	\$ 78.99
Total before tax:	\$ 37.99
Sales Tax:	\$ 0.00
Total for this Order:	\$ 83.99

The following item is:

<http://hillchart.com:8080/index.php?pid=14/>
Click to follow link

Click here and see items. Price: \$ 26.99
By: [Click here](#)
Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc.

YOUR ACCOUNT | HELP

The charge for this order will appear on your credit card statement from the merchant 'AMZN Payment Services.'

Three callouts highlight the following flaws:

- Callout 1: "Is the address listed the one you use for your legitimate accounts? (My Amazon account uses my personal email address.)" - Points to the email address elliott.wood@solerant.com.
- Callout 2: "Notice that the math doesn't add up." - Points to the order total calculation: Subtotal (\$78.99) + Total before tax (\$37.99) + Sales Tax (\$0.00) = Total for this Order (\$83.99).
- Callout 3: "Hover your mouse over the hyperlink to show the address for the link. Notice, the address is not amazon.com but 'hillchart.com'." - Points to the hyperlink <http://hillchart.com:8080/index.php?pid=14/>.