Swine Flu Vaccination Scam

The Hook
An email with information about Swine Flu vaccinations as a way to gain personal information.

The Scam
By using the H1N1 vaccination program as bait, and the fears associated with the Swine Flu, the fraudsters hope to get personal information amounting to a personal profile which they can later use to hack into your bank accounts or credit card accounts.

The Whole Story
The fraudulent email that is sent out references the H1N1 vaccination program and states that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has implemented program requiring individuals to register on a specific website in order to get the vaccination promptly.

The fraudulent email has been circulated in many areas of the country and different states: “You have received this email because the launching of State Vaccination H1N1 Program. You need to create your personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website”. The email then asks users to click on the box labeled Personal Profile. Recipients who do click on the personal profile, run the risk of having a secret and dangerous code installed on their computer which gives access to the fraudsters to their sensitive personal information.

The email subject line looks official and reads: “FW: State Vaccination H1N1 Program
From: Centers of Disease Control and Prevention [mailto:h1n1-mess-id:32183med@cdcmails.gov]”

Lesson
Never open an email or attachment, from a sender you don’t know or a website you don’t use or trust. And never, ever give out your personal information over the internet such as social security number, bank account numbers etc. Sometimes it is tempting to open emails that appear to be from official government agencies or businesses. When in doubt, call the sender on an 800 number to check out the veracity of the email. These days it is so easy for clever fraudsters to fake an email to make it looks like it is coming from a government agency of even a trusted site such as Ebay.