

# SOOP SiP

## Phishing for idiots

In a country where scams are the National Hobby, a recent standout has been the e-mails that use the actual e-addresses of foreign embassies and other honourable institutions.

We got one allegedly from a publicist for Mahidol University's College of Music. The amusingly named Salaya Nakonpathom had been mugged and needed £1,600 – or whatever we could spare – sent to a specific address in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Maybe there really is someone at that location waiting for the cash, because the college address, phone number and promotional blurb at the end of the message are genuine enough.

Similar appeals are making the rounds with various embassies' contact details instead of Mahidol's.

Then there's the call-centre scam, which lately has been demeaning the reputation of Kasikorn Bank. The bank has had to formally deny that it calls people to ask for their account and balance details.

If a nosy caller says he's from Kasikorn, hang up and call the bank's new 24-hour security hotline at (02) 888 8888. Yes, that number is real.

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