

5 Common Types of Business Email Compromise Attacks

These are among the most common types of successful business email attacks.

1 CEO Fraud

The attacker impersonates a high-ranking executive (like a CEO or CFO) to pressure employees into transferring money or sensitive data. Often, they send urgent emails requesting payments or confidential information.

2 Vendor Invoice Scam

The attacker poses as a trusted vendor and sends fraudulent invoices or payment requests to the company. They may claim a change in bank details or request immediate payment due to an “overdue” status.

3 Account Takeover

The attacker gains access to an employee’s email account and uses it to request sensitive information or unauthorized payments from internal or external contacts.

4 Payroll Diversion

The attacker impersonates an employee and requests changes to payroll details, redirecting payments to the attacker’s bank account.

5 Data Theft

The attacker targets HR or finance departments to steal personally identifiable information (PII) or sensitive employee data that can be used for further attacks.



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