

Secret details about Michael Jackson's death!

Celebrity news will always be used in criminal ploys because scammers know that many people love gossip. The recent death of Michael Jackson is already spawning bad emails that contain malware in their attachments, according to several security firms, including Sophos. Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant with Sophos, predicted immediately following Jackson's death that cyber criminals would soon start to take advantage of the news to pull off scams.

Typically, malicious Facebook and Twitter messages relating to celebrity news contain links that claim to have "secret" information. In the case of Jackson, Cluley said he has heard some of the lures include promises of songs by the King of Pop that have never been heard before or new details and pictures of Jackson's death. However, the link to the information then typically prompts the user to download an update of Adobe Flash. Of course, instead of an update, users end up with a bot Trojan or other piece of malware installed secretly on their computer.

"Perhaps one of the most famous of these is Koobface," said Cluley. "There have been many iterations of that designed to steal information from your computer. Once they have compromised your computer, they can use it to send spam, install spyware, steal your identity, or launch a denial of service attack."

The Jackson death is only one example, said Cluley. Past celebrity scams that have used this ploy included one that had the headline "Paris Hilton tosses dwarf on street."