



Network security issues - part one: **Fake emails** March 2023

Every e-mail contains fields: **1) name, and 2) address**. **Name field can be freely edited** by entering any text, e.g., a personal name or institution.

An example of account configuration in Thunderbird

Account Settings - <assistant@estd.org>

Account Name:

Default Identity

Each account has an identity, which is the information that other people see when they read your messages.

!

Email Address:

We can easily change the name field:

Account Settings - <assistant@estd.org>

Account Name:

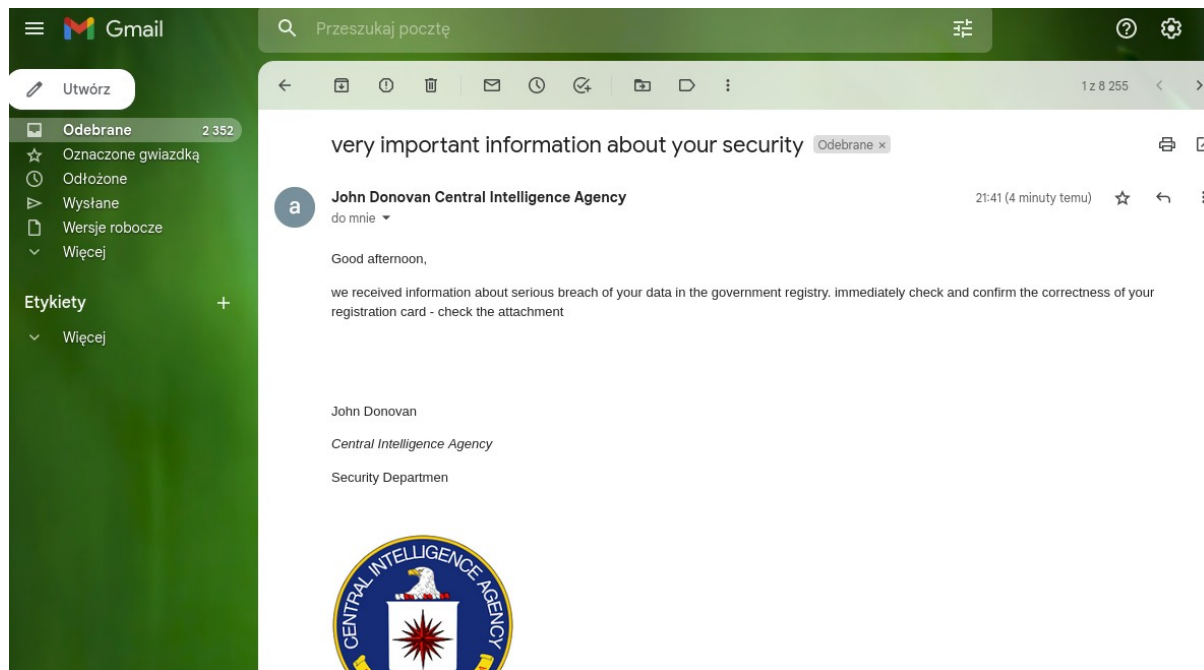
Default Identity

Each account has an identity, which is the information that other people see when they read your messages.

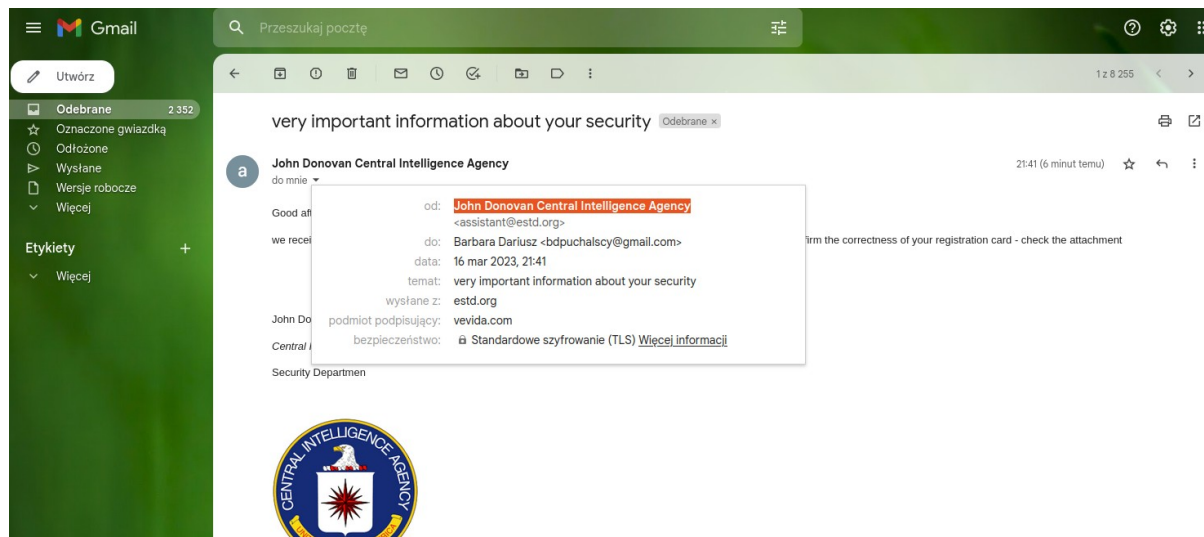
!!

Email Address:

And this is the result:



As you see, one can easily **adopt an identity of any person or an institution**. However, there is an easy way to **verify it** - always check the email address.



See below some recent examples of using this method by someone pretending to be ESTD President - Igor Pietkiewicz:

Van: Igor Pietkiewicz <seniorpastorinbox@icloud.com>



Verzonden: donderdag 16 maart 2023 16:02

From: Igor Pietkiewicz <jimovia26@gmail.com>



Subject: ESTD--> DELEGATES LOGISTICS SUPPORT REQUEST

Date: 28 March 2023 at 9:13:52 GMT+3

Receiving an email message itself is not dangerous. However, if you are misled, engage in communication and share sensitive information, it can be used against you. If incoming email looks suspicious, you can contact the person indicated in the *name* field by calling him or her, or by responding to the official email address provided by that person earlier.

Attachments are the most dangerous. Opening an attachment may infect your computer - most often spyware is installed. It means that your computer use may be tracked, for example, logging into your bank account, typing passwords.

How to protect yourself from danger?

Always check the sender by contacting him directly, especially if he or she has more than one e-mail address. You can also send a text message by phone or any other messenger, asking for a confirmation of the e-mail you have received.