

Dear all

Let me share a cautionary note on protecting yourself from a new trend of cyber hacking targeting **WHATSAPP**. The backdrop of COVID has created the perfect setting for phishing and the recent Twitter hack in the US of the accounts of Barack Obama, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk through a spear phishing campaign and social engineering demonstrates how vigilant we must always remain.

The specific focus of this mail is on **WhatsApp** which has been registering a spate of account hijacking incidents. We all use this user friendly 'free' tool for business purposes, personal conversations and educational reasons and this app tops most people's screen time.

So, Here is what you need to do to ensure you are securing it tight and protecting the data and your account.

- 1. Open WhatsApp on your device.**
- 2. Go to the Settings tab from the bottom navigation bar.**
- 3. Tap Account.**
- 4. From the next window, tap Two-Step Verification.**
- 5. Tap the Enable button.**
- 6. Provide a 6-digit verification code, which you will always remember and hard for others to guess.**
- 7. Verify your PIN and Email, and then finish the setup.**

WhatsApp will help you remember your PIN, it will periodically ask you to enter your PIN. There is no option to disable this without disabling the two-step verification feature. In case, if you ever receive an email to disable two-step verification, but didn't request this, don't click on the link. This may be a tap, someone could be attempting to verify your phone number on WhatsApp.

Stay SAFE, Stay HEALTHY and Stay SECURE !!