

Burma protests email warning

Staffordshire Community Services are warning Internet users to be wary of an email currently in circulation purporting to originate from the Dalai Lama.

Emails have been sent containing 'information' about the protests, in which Buddhist monks have been killed for requesting the right to democracy in their own country.

The emails state, 'Dear Friends & Colleagues, Please find enclosed a message [sic] from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in support of the recent pro democracy demonstrations taking place in Burma. This is for your information and can be distributed as you see fit.'

The message contains an attachment that looks like a Microsoft Word document but in fact contains a virus that will give hackers full access to the user's PC.

Using topical news stories to trick unwitting users into opening emails and downloading malicious code is a common ploy by hackers. Officers advise users to delete such emails immediately, and on no account should they open any attachments.

Officers advise Internet users to ensure that their PCs are running up-to-date antivirus, antispyware and firewall software, all of which is available free of charge for personal use. They also advise turning off any 'auto-preview' modes in their email software, and encourage all email users to observe their tips for avoiding email spam ([Avoiding Spam](#)).

All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Cath Wohlers if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.
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