

24 September 2005

By: Tudor Raiciu, Technology and Science Editor



Phishing Schemes Exploit Hurricane Rita

Following the Katrina model

The phishers are determined to take advantage of any cataclysm and although hurricane Rita has not reached its full potential yet, there've already been requests for domains that contain the word "Rita", together with "donations", "disaster" or "help". The fraud schemes based on sites where users are lured into donating money to the victims have forced the FBI to issue an official warning, outlining the fact that out of the 4,000 addresses containing the word "Katrina", more than 60% were not registered in the US. SANS Internet Storm Center (ISC) has already warned online security, spam and anti-phishing organizations to send any information on suspicious e-mails and sites. To prevent the success of these fraud schemes, the American Red Cross has posted on its site a list of the official organizations which are in charge of the legal donations. ISC has even devised an online service, where users can alert the authorities on the illegal activities related to online donations. The ISC team will try to shut down as quickly as possible the sites which are found to rip people off. This week, Softpedia would like to know your opinion on gaming consoles. What is your favorite console you either own or you are planning to buy? Are you an Xbox fan or a Playstation fan? Has Xbox360 convinced you it's time to buy one? Or you'll wait for the PS3? [Express your opinion here.](#)