



## HIPPO-VOMITING ANACONDA TARGETS FACEBOOK USERS IN SURVEY SCAM, SOPHOS WARNS

IT security and data protection firm Sophos has produced a video warning computer users about a new survey scam that is spreading virally across Facebook. The attack involves a rogue application that automatically posts status updates and wall posts on affected user profiles with the following message:

"OMG, this is the biggest and scariest snake I have ever seen, check out this video [LINK REMOVED]"

The link takes users to a rogue Facebook application which tricks them into granting permission for the app to access their profile, list of friends and to be allowed to re-post the offending message as a status update and wall post. Once a user has granted access to the application, they are then directed to complete online surveys with the promise that only then can they see a video entitled "Anaconda Coughs Up An Entire Hippo!"

"This is one of the most bizarre scams we have ever seen on Facebook, but its purpose remains familiar - the rogue application sends spam to draw Facebook users into taking these surveys," said Paul Ducklin, Head of Technology at Sophos Asia Pacific. "Each time a victim completes a survey, the scammers make some commission. Even if you don't take the survey, the rogue application has already abused your Facebook account - changing your status message and spreading an advert for the alleged 'shocking video' to your news feed, spreading the scam even further."

Sophos demonstrates in the video - which journalists are free to embed - how Facebook users can delete entries related to the offending application, and how to remove the application itself.

Sophos's video of the scam in action can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw1oDdPziAY>

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Sophos's Facebook group, which warns of emerging threats  
on Facebook, can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sophos/28552295016>

Follow Paul Ducklin on

Twitter: [@duckblog](https://twitter.com/duckblog)

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