# WFG National Title

# SAFE Alert!

## Watering Hole Attacks Coming to a Website Near You

Recently there was an Escrow Assistant who was searching online for a Subordination Agreement. They went to a site that looked like it would have the file type needed and found a link to a file named "UCC_Subordination_Agreement.zip." Clicking on this document link took them to another site at a university, where they found the zip file and downloaded it.

Unfortunately, the content of the zip file was not a PDF document; it was a script that attempted to contact a command and control server controlled by an attacker. The attacker's intent was to infiltrate the network, steal information, and start a ransomware attack.

## What is a Watering Hole Attack?

Watering hole attacks trick users within a specific industry or group by infecting websites they typically visit (the watering hole) or find in industry-related searches, then luring them to a malicious site. However, the attacker is not targeting a specific victim; they use the watering hole to set their traps wide and then wait for any unsuspecting user to fall victim.

Watering hole attacks have not targeted real estate and settlement services in the past, but it seems they may now be on the attackers' radar. Doing random searches for business-specific templates and then clicking a link to download them is an unnecessary risk and one that could affect not just you but your entire company as well. Follow procedures, use company documentation, and be alert and aware when doing searches online. Pay attention to where you're going, what you may be clicking on, and where any links may take you.

SAFE: Security Awareness For Everyone

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