Phishing scam targets goodwill
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A NEW scam is attempting to dump a virus onto users' PCs via a bogus email purporting to raise funds for Paralympic athletes. The email, is dressed up as a message from Westpac - a long time sponsor of the Paralympic Committee - and contains identical information to the genuine "Go for Gold" campaign on the Westpac website. It uses the spoofed address "info@westpac.com.au" and the subject line reads "The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC)".

The bank became aware of the scam yesterday, spokeswoman Julia Quinn said.

The email takes users to a bogus site before delivering them to back to the genuine Westpac website, she said. The bogus site was used to deliver a virus, but many users would not have been aware that they had visited any website other than Westpac, she said.

"It is a hoax email and we are blocking the site associated with it in co-operation with the Australian Federal Police," Ms Quinn said. Westpac was unable to reveal where the site was hosted, she said.

However, internet security firm Bulletproof Networks advised customers that the had originated from an account at US ISP Insight.com.

"This email is most concerning due to the fact that it is the first of possibly many more fraudulent charity emails," the company said in its advisory.

Westpac advised customers to delete the email and to update their anti-virus and firewall protection.

This report appears on australianIT.com.au.