

Tech Tip Tuesday (March 3, 2026)

☐☐ **Safety Beyond the Inbox!** ☐☐

Yes, we've had phishing. But what about second phishing?

While we're all getting better at spotting "phishy" emails, scammers have moved into the physical world. From QR codes to "lost" USB drives, they are finding new ways to bypass our digital filters.

Smishing:

That urgent text about a "missed delivery" or a "payroll issue" is often a scam designed to steal your passwords on your mobile device -- or your BANK ACCOUNT INFO!



Quishing (QR code Phishing):

Scammers place fake QR code stickers over real ones on posters, parking meters, or even menus to lead you to fake login pages.

You wouldn't click on a phishing link in an email, right? So why "click" on one in real life?



The "Lost" USB:

A "random" thumb drive left in the breakroom or parking lot isn't a lucky find—it's a common way to sneak malware onto a school network.



Resourceful Hacker -- Master of Physical Deception ☐☐

The Resourceful Hacker doesn't need to hack your firewall; they just need to hack your curiosity. By leaving a "lost" USB drive in the parking lot or a helpful-looking QR code sticker on a breakroom table, they wait for you to take the bait.

They rely on the fact that teachers and staff are naturally helpful. Once you plug in that mystery drive to "find the owner" or scan that code to "see the staff discount," The Mimic bypasses district security and gains instant access to sensitive student or staff data.

Their Goal: To catch you off guard when you are away from your computer and feeling helpful, curious, or in a hurry.

Context is Everything

Ask yourself: Does it make sense for this to be a QR code?

*** The Red Flag ***

A random flyer on a telephone pole or a "Free Gift Card" sticker on a breakroom table is almost certainly a trap.

The Rule:

Only scan codes from trusted, official sources (like the back of your staff ID or a permanent school sign).



Blaze King

Director of Information Technology

Email: bking@ulusd.org

Website: ulusd.org

Location: [750 Old Lucerne Road, Upper Lake, CA, USA](#)

Phone: [707-275-9139](tel:707-275-9139)

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