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Fake websites often have subtle differences in their URLs, such as misspellings or additional characters, compared to legitimate sites. One wrong keystroke in a URL can redirect users to malicious websites, granting access to sensitive data and security. This cybercrime is referred to as typo squatting or URL hijacking.

The animal rescue organization PETA fell victim to a typo squatting scenario where the domain PETA.org was registered to Mike Doughney, an individual who jokingly created the site PETA.org to stand for "People Eating Tasty Animals". This mockery of the organizations acronym "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals" resulted in a lawsuit in 1995.

Microsoft also experienced this cybercrime. In the early 2000s, a legal battle almost ensued following the creation of the website Mikerowesoft.com. Created by a Canadian teenage whose name happened to be Mike Rowe; this site served as a domain for Mike's part time business in web design services. Microsoft and Mike Rowe were able to come to an come to an out-of-court settlement, with Microsoft taking possession of the domain. On a positive note, Microsoft did acknowledge the defense was a bit aggressive and assisted Rowe with court costs, Microsoft certifications and trainings, a trip, and an Xbox with games.

Google is no stranger to typo squatting. Goggle.com is a notorious typo squatted site that downloaded malware onto users' devices. The site also prompted users to sign up for text messaging services. The National Arbitration Forum has ruled that Google has won the rights to googkle.com, ghoogle.com and gooigle.com from a Russian man who operated the sites, which just happen to be infected with malware.

Fraudulent websites may lack proper security certificates, indicated by an absent padlock icon in the browser's address bar. Authentic sites use HTTPS protocols to encrypt data. Another indicator is the absence of contact information or policies. Do not click on links in emails, texts, chat messages or social networking sites. By scrutinizing these elements, users can better distinguish between authentic and fake websites.

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/what-is-typosquatting-54a18872-8459-4d47-b3e3-d84d9a362eb0

PETA
https://cyber.harvard.edu/stjohns/PETA_v_Doughney.html
https://www.nytimes.com/2001/05/11/technology/cyber-law-journal-does-a-parody-site-go-too-far.html

Microsoft vs Mikerowesoft:
https://priceonomics.com/microsoft-vs-mikerowesoft/

Google:
https://www.adrforum.com/domaindecisions/474816.htm