

Gmail users warned of cyber threat

SECURITY BREACH

SAN FRANCISCO: Gmail users have been alerted about a new Google Mail feature which could be leveraged by online crooks to carry out a wave of scams.

The company, in April, unveiled its brand new design which introduced a clean new user interface and a swathe of new features including the ability to snooze a message, auto-generate smart replies and self-destruct emails in the brand new 'Confidential Mode'.

"It's the Confidential Mode which is at the centre of security fears," *Express.co.uk* reported on Saturday. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reportedly issued an alert on the "potential emerging threat for nefarious activity," with the Gmail redesign, the report said.

Central to these fears was the new 'Confidential Email' feature that can require users to click a link in order to access these messages. With the Gmail redesign, scammers could send out fake versions of confidential email alerts and trick a user into entering sensitive details.

"Google is committed to protecting the security of users' personal information and hence, had created "machine learning" algorithms to detect potential phishing scams that cyber criminals carry out," said Google spokesman Brooks Hocog.