

Fakecyber cops surface

BY AMBARISH B

BENGALURU

Sept 4: Tricksters who appear to be inspired by the case of the software engineer from Karnataka, who was trapped by cyber police in the US recently, have begun posing as cops online and threatening people.

A techie, Naveen of Chitradurga, was trapped by the US police recently for obscene chatting online with a woman who turned out to be a cop. While in Naveen's case the cops were real, tricksters are now posing as cyber police to

cheat gullible people online.

A software engineer in Hyderabad G. Mukundh (name changed), almost fell victim to one such trickster.. He received a mail from cyberdept@gmail.com, saying the woman with whom he had been chatting with was with the cyber police. However, he soon and approached experts who found that it was not the police who had contacted him.

Mr Mukundh had been chatting for a fortnight with a woman who he thought was 21 years old, when he received the mail.

A cyber consultant N Vijayshankar who is dealing with the case said: "He was asked to meet one Veena Devi at a police station in Cyberabad. He didn't go there, instead he tried to check the authenticity of the mail. We found that there was no official government mail ID from which he got the threatening mails. Moreover the mails had been sent using some software which didn't take replies. Also there were no cops with those names."

According to the police, the modus operandi of such gangs is to pick random

people and start chatting with them. In Mukundh's case it was with the email id getreadyallthetime@gmail.com.

"The tricksters usually pose as women and converse to gain the trust of the other person. Later, after a little bit of intimacy is developed they send a mail saying they are the police out to catch people who indulge in obscene chats."

The mail will add that since the person online has impersonated someone he will have to fill a declaration form, they explain. Mukundh received a mail

which said, "I Mr. Chandra hereby bring to your kind notice that the last date for submission of your online form ends by 31st of August 2008. If you fail to send the form to Veena Devi of cyber police department by tomorrow, you will have to face the consequences. In case you have any problem regarding the submission of the form, contact Veena Devi who has been assigned as your consult cyber inspector.."

The police in Bengaluru fear that this could be an organized attempt to cash in on the recent US case.