If you’ve created a new e-mail or social networking account, chances are that you’ve seen one of these—a CAPTCHA. CAPTCHA's are designed to keep out bots—no, not physical robots that are trying to hack into your computer but rather software robots. A bot is an automated computer program that tries to gain access by infecting computers with malicious code. Sometimes when your computer is within a network, there could already be a bot on your computer sending copies of itself to other people, even though your computer appears to be working normally.

To protect yourself from some of these attacks, it’s safe to have some form of antivirus or firewall to prevent other viruses from coming in. But sometimes, hackers get around these with tools like phishing. Think about it like this. Suppose you leave your house and you leave all of your doors locked and all the windows barred. This should be pretty safe from any thief trying to come in without your knowledge.

However, if someone with a nice suit knocked on your door and asked you if he could come in, all of the safeguards that you used to have in place are now useless since you let the virus walk right through the front door. This is why it’s best to not download absolutely everything you see on the internet. These types of attacks fall under the umbrella of phishing attacks, and if you normally don’t open emails from your obscure relative in Nigeria who claims your his only living heir, you should be doing just fine.