

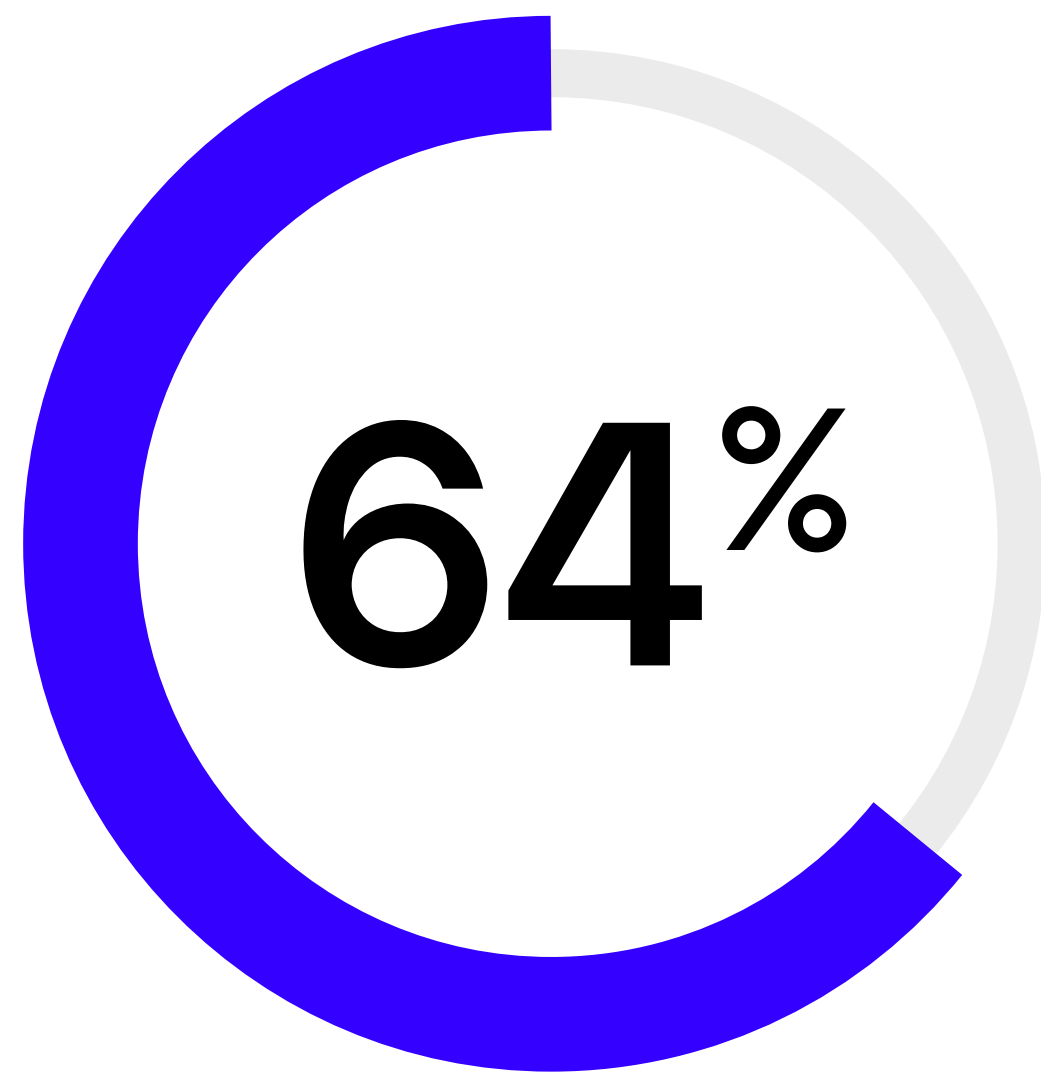


# Real CEO email or BEC attack?

When that message from leadership is actually a business email compromise (BEC)

## Impersonation emails are on the rise

In our [latest threat report](#), the Trellix Advanced Research Center reported a significant surge in malicious emails impersonating CEOs and other business leaders.



increase in impersonation emails from Q3 to Q4 2022



of all CEO fraud emails were sent using free email services

## CEO fraud emails, defined

In this BEC tactic, employees receive a fake email from their CEO or other executive asking them to confirm their direct phone number, so attackers can execute a voice phishing—or vishing—scheme.

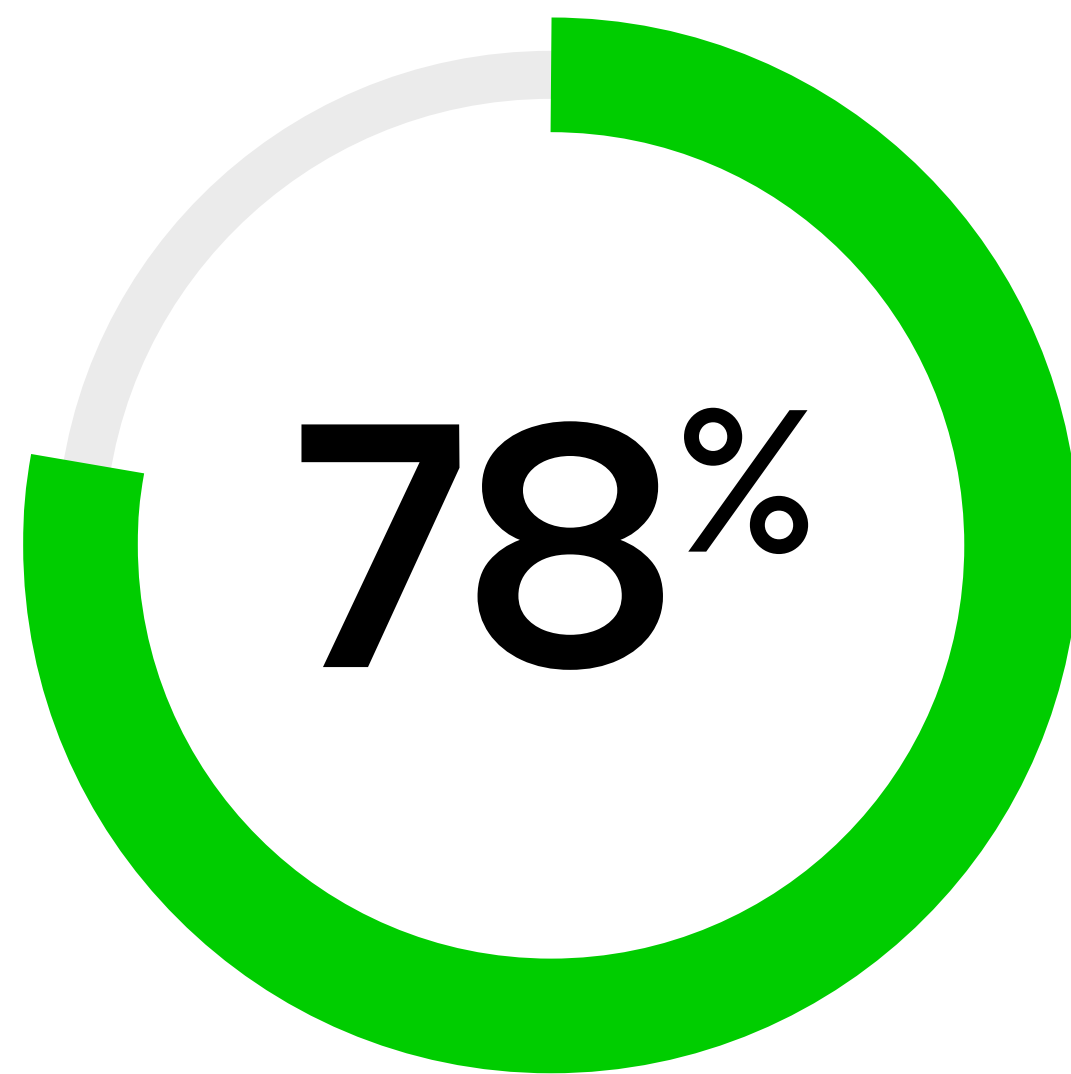
## Top CEO phrases used in BEC attacks

BEC attackers try to leverage authority and create a sense of urgency to get a response from their targets. Here are a few examples:

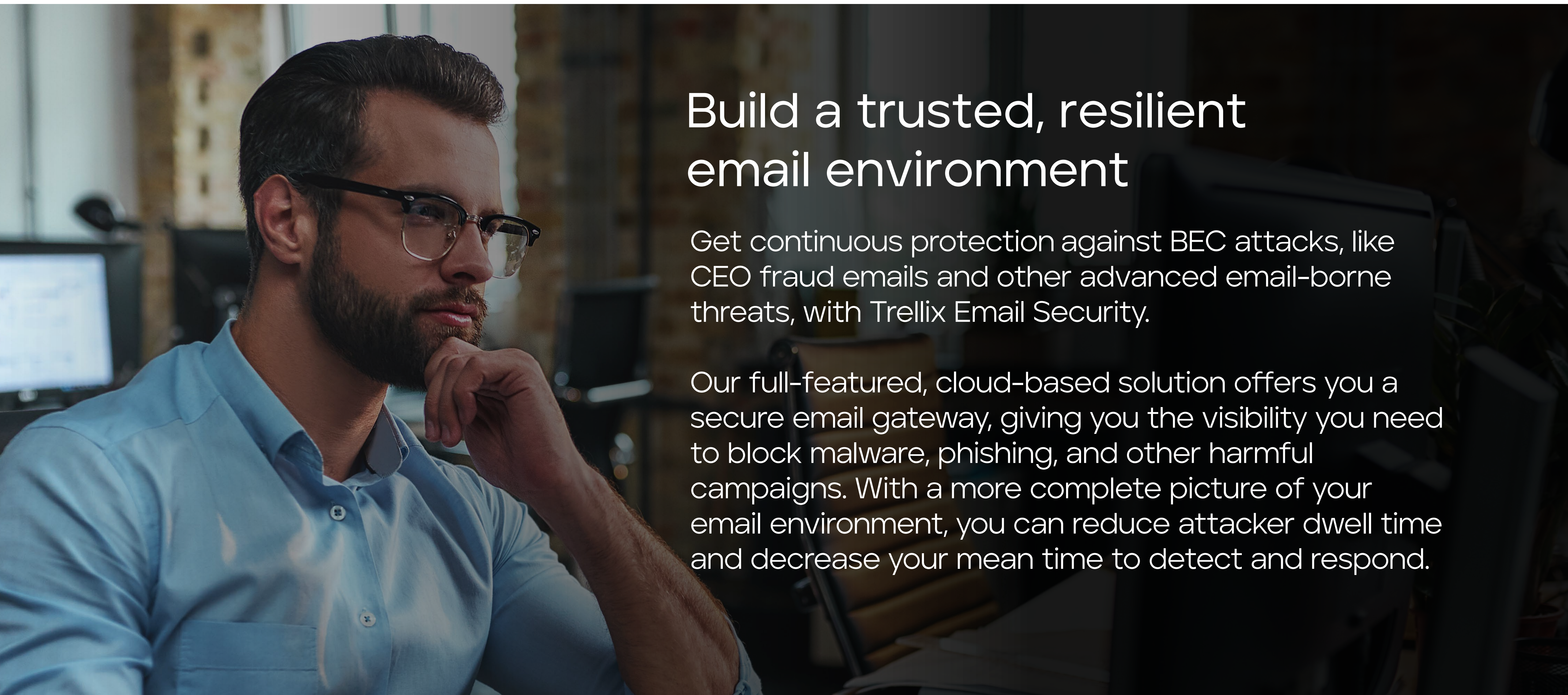
"Please send me your cell number and keep an eye out for my text. I need a task completed."

"I need you to get a task done, so kindly forward me your cell phone number."

"Send me your phone number. You need to get something done for me right now."



of all BEC attacks use common CEO phrases



## Build a trusted, resilient email environment

Get continuous protection against BEC attacks, like CEO fraud emails and other advanced email-borne threats, with Trellix Email Security.

Our full-featured, cloud-based solution offers you a secure email gateway, giving you the visibility you need to block malware, phishing, and other harmful campaigns. With a more complete picture of your email environment, you can reduce attacker dwell time and decrease your mean time to detect and respond.

Want to see Trellix Email Security in action?  
[Schedule a live, expert-led demo today.](#)



Trellix Email Security

