

■ Typosquatting & Pharming

A Bikini Bottom Cybersecurity Guide

■ Typosquatting: The Fake Krusty Krab Scam

Imagine you want to visit the **Krusty Krab** for a Krabby Patty. But you accidentally swim to "**Krusty Kraab**" — one extra "a" — and it *looks* almost identical. Same colors, similar menu, but it's actually run by **Plankton** trying to steal your wallet and your secret formula order.

That's **typosquatting**. Attackers register domain names that are *tiny misspellings* of real websites. When you fat-finger the URL, you land on a fake site designed to steal your credentials or install malware.

■ Plankton's Playbook — Fake Domains

- **krustykrabb.com** — extra letter
- **krusty-krab.com** — added hyphen
- **krustykrab.net** — wrong extension

■ Pharming: Plankton Poisons Bikini Bottom's GPS

Now imagine Plankton doesn't wait for you to make a typo. Instead, he **hacks the undersea road signs** so that even when you correctly follow the directions to the *real* Krusty Krab, the signs secretly redirect you to the **Chum Bucket** — and you'd never know until you smelled the chum.

That's **pharming**. Attackers corrupt **DNS servers** (the internet's address book / road signs) so that even a *correctly typed URL* sends you to a fake site. You type **bank.com** perfectly, but the poisoned DNS routes you to Plankton's clone instead.

■ Key Differences at a Glance

	Typosquatting	Pharming
Spongebob version	You swim to the wrong address	The road signs are tampered with
Your mistake?	Yes — you mistyped	No — you did everything right

How to avoid	Bookmark real sites; check URLs carefully	Use trusted DNS; check for HTTPS ■
Sneakiness level	Sneaky ■	Extra sneaky ■

■ Sandy's Science Safety Tips

■ **Bookmark** your most-visited sites instead of typing them every time.

■ **Check for the padlock** and verify the exact domain in your browser's address bar.

■ **Use reputable DNS providers** like Cloudflare's 1.1.1.1 that have built-in anti-pharming protections.

■ **Enable two-factor authentication** so even if Plankton steals your password, he still can't log in.

"Just because it smells like a Krabby Patty doesn't mean it IS one." ■