



16 April 2013

Tragedy in Boston Being used as Lure

Malicious Actors take Advantage of Boston Marathon Explosion

Individuals wasted no time registering domain names related to yesterday's explosions at the Boston Marathon. Some of the domains are likely to take advantage of those interested in learning more details about the explosions. Others will likely target individuals looking to contribute to fundraising efforts. It is unclear what each registrant's intent may be, but historically, scammers, spammers and other malicious actors capitalize on major news events by registering such domains¹.

In addition to fake domains, malicious actors may also create fake social media accounts with similar intent. Twitter account @_BostonMarathon was created shortly after the explosions took place. The account stated it would donate \$1.00 for each retweet, and was crafted to closely resemble the legitimate Boston Marathon Twitter account (@BostonMarathon). This account has since been suspended by Twitter; however, the likelihood that similar social media accounts will surface remains high².



Figure 1 Screenshot of Fake Twitter Account

NCCIC recommends that all persons looking to donate money in support of those affected by yesterday's events rely on official fund raising charities such as the American Red Cross³. Exercise caution when clicking on links or interacting with social media accounts that claim to represent the best interests of those involved in this incident. Additionally, when searching for updates on the story, it is safest to go directly to trusted news sources rather than conducting general search engine queries.

The list of .com and .net registrations as of 15 April 2013: 7pm EDT⁴

This list is likely exponentially larger as it was compiled only 4 hours after the approximate explosions yesterday:

2013bostonbombing.com
 2013bostonbombs.com
 2ndbostonmassacre.com
 attackboston.com
 attackonboston.com
 bitcoinforboston.com
 bitcoinsforboston.com
 bombingboston.com

bombinginboston.com
bombsinboston.com
bombsoverboston.com
boston-marathon-bombing.com
bostonattack.com
bostonattacked.com
bostonattacks.com
bostonblasts.com
bostonblood.com
bostonbombed.com
bostonbomber.com
bostonbomber.net
bostonbombing.com
bostonbombing.net
bostonbombing2013.com
bostonbombingdonate.com
bostonbombinghelp.com
bostonbombinginfo.com
bostonbombingnews.com
bostonbombingrelief.com
bostonbombings.com
bostonbombings.net
bostonbombingsmemorial.com
bostonbompics.com
bostonbombs.com
bostonexplosion.com
bostonexplosions.com
bostonmarathon-bombing.com
bostonmarathon2013.net
bostonmarathonanniversary.com
bostonmarathonattack.com
bostonmarathonattack.net
bostonmarathonattacked.com
bostonmarathonattacks.com
bostonmarathonblasts.com
bostonmarathonbomb.com
bostonmarathonbomber.com
bostonmarathonbomber.net
bostonmarathonbombing.com
bostonmarathonbombing.net
bostonmarathonbombing2013.com
bostonmarathonbombing2013.net
bostonmarathonbombingdonations.com
bostonmarathonbombings.com
bostonmarathonbombings.net
bostonmarathonbombs.com
bostonmarathonbombupdate.com
bostonmarathoncharity.com
bostonmarathonconspiracy.com
bostonmarathondonation.com
bostonmarathondonations.com

bostonmarathonexploisons.com
bostonmarathonexplosion.com
bostonmarathonexplosion.net
bostonmarathonexplosions.com
bostonmarathonfinishline.com
bostonmarathonfund.com
bostonmarathoninsurance.com
bostonmarathonlawsuit.com
bostonmarathonlawsuit.net
bostonmarathonmassacre.com
bostonmarathonmassacre.net
bostonmarathonmemorial.com
bostonmarathonrelief.com
bostonmarathonrespect.com
bostonmarathonterror.com
bostonmarathonterrorist.com
bostonmarathonterroristattack.com
bostonmarathonterrorists.com
bostonmarathonterrorists.net
bostonmarathontragedy.com
bostonmarathontruth.com
bostonmarathontruth.net
bostonmarathonvictimfund.com
bostonmarathonvictims.com
bostonmarathonvictims.net
bostonmarathonvictimsfund.com
bostonmarathonvictimsrelieffund.com
bostonmaratonexplosion.com
bostonmassacre2.com
bostonmassacre2013.com
bostonmassacre2013.net
bostonmassacreround2.com
bostonrelief2013.com
bostonterror.com
bostonterrorattack.com
bostonterrorattacks.com
bostonterrorism.com
bostonterroristattack.com
bostontragedy.com
bostontwinbombs.com
bostonunderattack.com
bostonvictimsdonation.com
bostonvictimsfund.com
bostonvictimsfund.net
donatetoboston.com
explosioninboston.com
explosionsinboston.com
heartsandsolesforboston.com
isurvivedboston.com
marathonbomb.com
marathonbombing.com

marathonexplosion.com
marathonmemorial.com
missinginboston.com
pray4boston.com
rememberbostonmarathon.com
rememberingboston.com
savethebostonmarathon.com
secondbostonmassacre.com
terrorattackboston.com
terrorinboston.com
thebostonblast.com
thebostonbombing.com
thebostonexplosion.com
thebostonmarathonattack.com
thebostonmarathonbomb.com
thebostonmarathonbombing.com

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¹ <http://blog.sfgate.com/techchron/2013/04/15/beware-of-scammers-with-tweets-links-to-boston-tragedy/>

² <http://now.msn.com/boston-marathon-explosion-charity-scam-started-by-fake-twitter-accounts>

³ <http://www.redcross.org/news/press-release/Red-Cross-Statement-on-Boston-Marathon-Explosions>

⁴ <http://www.thedomains.com/2013/04/15/update-now-over-0-domains-related-to-boston-explosion-including-relief-domains/>