

AI-Powered Phishing is a speed problem.

Attackers are using GenAI to accelerate familiar social engineering tactics across more channels and more stages of the attack lifecycle.

44%

of AI-assisted initial access techniques involved phishing.

2026 Verizon DBIR Signal Board

50

attack techniques were associated with AI assistance.

2026 Verizon DBIR Signal Board

Seven signals to train against

Use these as simulation themes, short training moments, and reporting reminders.

1 AI did not replace phishing; it accelerated and amplified it.

2 Threat actors use GenAI across different stages of the attack lifecycle.

3 AI helps attackers scale phishing faster than traditional manual campaigns.

4 Cybercriminals are scaling social engineering and phishing with generative AI.

5 AI-powered phishing is becoming harder for users and filters to detect.

6 Threat actors used AI across as many as 50 attack techniques.

7 44% of AI-assisted initial access techniques involved phishing.

Operator response

When a request feels urgent, polished, or unusual: stop the workflow, verify through a trusted channel, then report.

Security Awareness Training At the speed of AI

Source: Verizon 2026 Data Breach Investigations Report, via PhishingBox Phishing Facts & Statistics.
<https://www.phishingbox.com/resources/phishing-facts>