
From:
Sent: Thursday, 17 June 2004 11:41 p.m.
To: spamsubmissions@med.govt.nz
Subject: Spam solutions

Dear Sir,
firstly - I'm no expert on the topic, but would like to submit at least one possible method of dealing with the volume of Spam clogging our web lines.

It would involve the general public, the internet users that is, their cooperation in participating in the procedure to block Spam from entering the country - or quite possibly Exiting from the country!

To combat Spam, and the spread of Virus, there is a program available for anyone to filter their incoming Email - BEFORE it is actually "physically" downloaded from the server to their PC, it's called "Mailwasher", I'm sure there are very likely other such programs available as well, that do a same or similar job - basically you start mailwasher, it displays all the email ready to be received and currently sitting on the remote server, you look over the list, decide what is "friendly" and what is not! you mark the friendlies as "always receive" and mark the unwanted as "blacklisted" and never receive - in fact you can set it to "always delete anything from this source". After a time - your Blacklist gets quite full, and auto-deletes anything in future from that source, after you've remarked new email as either friendly or Blacklisted, you process the email - it deletes and bounces the unwanted email away, and retains only what you want.

Now although I'll take a simplistic approach - which I'm quite sure it won't be - but... if we were to decide on an appropriate program such as Mailwasher or ..??.. that everyone would be happy to use - and the Govt were to offer the program to anyone and everyone willing to participate - then let's say once a month all those users were to take a backup of their "Blacklist" all of which is Spam, and send it off to - well... we'd have to determine someplace where these Blacklists can be entered into a database, and concatenated together - with the intention - and this part might take some thinking about - - I'm sure there must be a given number of incoming internet connections in the country - somehow we set up an NZ Mailwasher up at the front-end, where ALL email entering NZ must pass through - before heading off to all the various internet service providers - and auto delete all that match anything on the Blacklist!
If something like this was even possible to set up - after a few months of building a database from the participants - we'd all see a dramatic drop off in Spam!

It's a matter of taking what a single internet user does whenever they receive Email, scan it for Spam (mailwasher), delete the Spam On The Server, then download only what's valid email - taking that to a national level - harvesting the blacklists from all participants, to generate a database of Spam - which would then be "mailwashed" before it enters NZ !

Perhaps to avoid any abuse - the participants would have to fill out some kind of questionnaire to prove themselves trustworthy of sending in a legitimate and accurate Spam blacklist.

Worth giving thought to?

it would be a positive move - it means not having to pass legislation and actively locating spammers, and the time effort and personnel to do it, it'd quite simply stop their spam getting in - which is exactly what is wanted. After some time - I'm sure the spammers would begin to realise they were getting no response from NZ anymore - and eventually hopefully - make it a waste of time sending anything in this direction.
Such a thing might work here - given the location and the fact that we're preventing spam getting in from overseas - other countries might not have that advantage given that the spam likely originates from within!

anyway.. it's an idea, I thought worthy of putting forward,
which may be worth a look at - or too complex to establish, in which case you can dismiss and delete this :)

all the best for whatever efforts you do put in place,

Stuart Robertson

[avast! Antivirus](#): Outbound message clean.

Virus Database (VPS): 0425-0, 14/06/2004

Tested on: 17/06/2004 11:41:26 p.m.

avast! is copyright (c) 2000-2003 ALWIL Software.