



BY MIKE HALEY

Squiggout Web Designs, LLC

Can Your Spam

How much spam e-mail are you getting? 88.6% of all e-mail is spam. "I will have the Spam, Spam and more Spam"—how do you stop it? The answer is you can't. But you can keep it from affecting your life

Here are some tricks and tips to help filter out the spam.

Spam Tip 1.

Somebody is using your e-mail address to send out spam e-mails. It is easy for a spammer to forge your e-mail address in the "from line" in an e-mail. The problem is, people get this e-mail and respond back to you to stop it. Then the deluge of hundreds of wrong e-mail addresses bounce back to you. You can't stop it, but you can put a major damper on it by using a SPF record (v=spf1 a mx ip4:207.154.28.93/24 -all). This is a text record that goes in your DNS setting at your hosting company. This record tells the other Internet e-mail servers that if e-mail is sent to it and it did not come from the IP address in the SPF record, it is a forgery. If that is the case, the e-mail server rejects it. The SPF record above will only work if you have e-mail with Squiggout.com. Please consult your hosting company to install a SPF in your DNS records for their servers.

Spam Tip 2.

Use spam blocking tools and software offered to you by your hosting company. Contact the hosting company's support at abuse@yourhostingcompany.com and submit e-mails to their spam-control people who can improve their anti-spam filters by adding or blocking address, IP addresses, and or domain names all together.

If you have spam filters, turn them on at your hosting company, on your network, and your computer. The more filters the greater the chance you can block spam.

Spam Tip 3.

Stop posting your e-mail address on public forums, newsgroups, or websites. It is estimated that 96% of all junk e-mail is caused by a person publicly disclosing his or her e-mail address. There are many robots and scripts that automatically scan websites for e-mail addresses. Once they have your e-mail they will use it to spam everybody.

Spam Tip 4.

Create a username that has nothing to do with an e-mail address you have. Chat rooms like Yahoo Chat or IRC—spammers or spambots are actively mining in popular chat rooms like AOL and Yahoo chats, where e-mail addresses can be correctly guessed by using the username of a chat room visitor.

Spam Tip 5.

If you need to fill out forms that ask for your e-mail address, use a disposable e-mail address. This is an e-mail address that is used once or just for that website, I use the website name @my domain .com—this way I can track if they sold it or just deleted the e-mail address if I start getting spam.

Spam Tip 6.

Make an alternate e-mail account for different purposes or groups (Examples: one for your friends, one for store sites, one for your financial, etc.) Then set all those alternate e-mail addresses to forward the mail to your main account so that you don't have to check multiple accounts. If you receive spam through one of your alter-

nate e-mails, you can trace it to one of your alternate addresses and simply delete that alternate e-mail account. This allows you to track which alternate e-mail returns the most spam and you can be more selective in the future. There are also many companies out there that offer on-the-fly alternate e-mails. This means you can make up an e-mail address on the spot and the e-mail system will accept it.

Spam Tip 7.

Report Spam to: spam@uce.gov. This is the spam box for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). E-mail sent to this box is investigated. If it is indeed spam, the original sender can be charged \$500 per e-mail. The more mail they get from different users but the same spammer, the more likely there will be an investigation.

Spam Tip 8.

Never give out your real e-mail address to anybody. This way you have control over it.

Spam Tip 9.

Never put an e-mail address on a website without protection. Spammers and spambots are actively mining your website to find e-mails in the code, tags, or in form data.

Spam Tip 10.

Do not respond to a spam e-mail, click on a link, or download any pictures from the e-mail. This only feeds the fire and you will regret doing it. The simple thing is to just delete it after you send it to the FTC.

Spam is a major problem for hosting and their clients, but with these few simple tips you will be able to "can your spam."

Now Anyone Can Be An I.T. Professional

Renting software and server space is the fastest, most reliable way to set up your company's network. Get it customized, access it anywhere in the world, and pay a fraction of the cost.



Squiggout®

It's called software as a service ▶ 888.883.2754 | sales@squiggout.com | squiggout.com