

## Twee derden van e-mails is spam

*Klaar De Grootte - 13-01-2004*

Het percentage ongewenste berichten in onze mailboxen wordt steeds groter. Inmiddels zou maar liefst twee derden van al het e-mailverkeer bestaan uit spam.

Dat beweert althans MessageLabs, een bedrijf dat software voor e-mailfiltering verkoopt. Volgens MessageLabs zat er 65 procent spam tussen de e-mails die in december naar de gebruikers van zijn software werden verstuurd. Dat cijfer ligt extra hoog aangezien de gebruikers van dergelijke filtersoftware dat wellicht doen omdat ze met een grote toevloed van spam kampen. In oktober vorig jaar was spam 'slechts' 50 procent van alle e-mailverkeer. Naar schatting is het wereldwijde gemiddelde zo'n 55 procent, maar bij de grootste slachtoffers zit tot 90 procent spam in de mailbox - aldus een aantal andere producenten van antispam-software.

Ook al moeten de alarmerende percentages ongetwijfeld de verkoop van die software aanzwengelen, toch is iedereen het erover eens dat spam een groeiend probleem is dat steeds meer tijdverlies en ergernis veroorzaakt. Volgens sommigen is de e-mail als snel communicatiemiddel daarom ten dode opgeschreven.

Bron: [VNUNet DataNews](#)

Spam

- Neemt kostbare tijd in beslag
- Kost infrastructuur
  - Dataverkeer
  - Serverload

Slecht geïmplementeerde filters kunnen kostbare data verwijderen

Filters generally work using heuristics—a problem-solving method that uses rules of thumb rather than a strict formula. The process compares messages to lexicons of spam words and checks for attachments that fit the profiles of viruses

An electronic message is "spam" IF: (1) the recipient's personal identity and context are irrelevant because the message is equally applicable to many other potential recipients; AND (2) the recipient has not verifiably granted deliberate, explicit, and still-revocable permission for it to be sent; AND (3) the transmission and reception of the message appears to the recipient to give a disproportionate benefit to the sender.

## Spam's Tenth Birthday

Ten years ago today this week, spam was born. March 5th 1994, a message was posted to some Usenet newsgroups by a law firm called Canter and Siegel, advertising their services for the U.S. Green Card lottery. At the time that move and its follow-ups provoked an outrage among Netizens.

The following wave of Usenet spam pretty much destroyed the usefulness of newsgroups. Next were individual email addresses. As soon as the critical list-size was attained for email spamming to be economically worthwhile, commercial spam factories started off in a big way and never looked back.

The latest spam generation has become increasingly destructive. They allow DDos attacks, and make zombies out of home user's PC's. Last month, worldwide, spam was 62% of all email. A lot of it is now random words, trying to get past the more and more sophisticated filters. The CAN-SPAM act isn't really

very effective...(yet) Recently a bunch of big ISP decided to sue spammers. It's my opinion this is a legal whack-a-mole game. It will come back. I was on MarketWatch Radio last Thursday, and you can hear my opinion about anti spam solutions. Obviously it's a technology problem, and needs a technology solution. Anti-spam technology combined with legal enforcement may just make a significant enough dent in this wave of annoying, irritating and destructive cr@p.

<http://www.w2knews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040315TP-Spam>

<http://www.declude.com/Junkmail/support/ip4rinfo.htm>

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