

Spam-Unsolicited e-mail, often of a commercial nature, sent indiscriminately to multiple mailing lists, individuals, or newsgroups; junk e-mail.

Spam sending methodologies:

1. Dictionary Attacks
2. Robots
3. sending directly to mail server- mail.domain.com
4. "Remove" click buttons

A) Spam Identification technologies

- Heuristics
- Bayesian Filtering
- Behavioral based
- Key word and Phrase scanning
- Realtime blackhole lists (RBL's)

B) Spam Combating technologies

- Blacklist/Whitelists- listing of expressly permitted or denied specific addresses, domains, or IP ranges
- Greylisting- causes a temp fail on the senders server unless sender is previously recognized as having sent valid mail
- Challenge Response- sends an automated reply to sender to validate request
- Sender Permitted from (SPF)
- Opt-in/Opt-out

C) Types of Anti-spam solutions

- software- customer provided hardware, licensing fees, less expensive, less flexible, little support
- appliance- robust hardware, recurring fees, support fees, less flexible
- managed- admin friendly, recurring fees
- outsourced- off-site, potential SPoF,
- desktop- user intensive, ineffective
- network based- varying flexibility, more effective

D) Additional services

- Virus scanning- open source, commercial
- Attachment blocking- executables, encrypted zips
- Content filtering- monitors HTTP traffic

E) What to look for?

- Accuracy

- Flexibility
- Scalability
- Support
- Integration
- Cost