

virus

BULLETIN

EXCERPT FROM VBSPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW JULY 2011

THE TEST SET-UP

The VBSpam test methodology can be found at <http://www.virusbtn.com/vbspam/methodology/>. Email was sent to the products in parallel and in real time, and products were given the option to block email pre-DATA. Three products chose to make use of this option.

As in previous tests, the products that needed to be installed on a server were installed on a *Dell PowerEdge R200*, with a 3.0GHz dual core processor and 4GB of RAM. The *Linux* products ran on *SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 11*; the *Windows Server* products ran on either the 2003 or the 2008 version, depending on which was recommended by the vendor.

To compare the products, we calculate a 'final score', which is defined as the spam catch (SC) rate minus five times the false positive (FP) rate. Products earn VBSpam certification if this value is at least 97:

$$SC - (5 \times FP) \geq 97$$

The test ran for 16 consecutive days, from 12am GMT on Saturday 18 June 2011 until 12am GMT on Monday 4 July 2011.

The corpus contained 293,757 emails, 291,304 of which were spam. Of these, 186,284 were provided by *Project Honey Pot* and 105,020 were provided by *Abusix*; in both cases, the messages were relayed in real time, as were the 2,453 legitimate emails.

This month's test – the 14th VBSpam test – included 17 full solutions (two of which were new to the *VB* test bench) and two DNS blacklists. All of the full solutions achieved a VBSpam award, but only a handful of products managed to do so without blocking any legitimate email.

OnlyMyEmail's Corporate MX-Defender

SC rate: 99.999%

FP rate: 0.00%

Final score: 100.00

Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.999%

Abusix SC rate: 100.00%



With only two missed spam messages and no false positives in the last test (see *VB*, May 2011, p.21), *OnlyMyEmail's MX-Defender* had set the bar extremely high for this time around. Despite this, the hosted solution managed to match its last performance – once again avoiding false positives altogether and missing just two spam emails, making this the fifth time in a row that the product has achieved the highest spam catch rate.

With such a stunning result and a final score rounded to 100.00, *MX-Defender* ensures that the bar remains very high not just for itself, but for all products in all tests to come.

Products ranked by final score*	
OnlyMyEmail	100.00
BitDefender	99.88
FortiMail	99.79
SpamTitan	99.73
Symantec Messaging Gateway	99.67
Kaspersky Anti-Spam	99.48
SPAMfighter	99.38
Halon Security	99.36
McAfee Email Gateway	99.27
Libra Esva	99.15
GFI MailEssentials	98.79
Sophos Email Appliance	98.67
The Email Laundry	98.58
McAfee SaaS	98.28
Vade Retro	98.01
Spider Antispam	98.00
Vamsoft ORF	97.89

*Full solutions only.



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