

AN ENHANCEMENT OF THE ANTI-SPAMMING FEATURES OF SENDMAIL

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ABSTRACT

Electronic mails or e-mails are widely used by people on the net as means to communicate with each other. It is essential that all emails that enter a user's inbox are of importance to the user. This study is concerned about the development of a framework for a new approach to filter spam emails. Consequently, the study discusses the methodology in implementing the framework into an efficient spam email filtering solution.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Email spamming is now very rampant and hits almost all inbox. Even though an email user have not subscribed from any newsgroups/advertisements, the user may still receive a lot of spam emails. Email spamming refers to unsolicited emails sent to hundreds or thousands of users. Email spamming can be made worse if recipients reply to the email, causing the spammer to identify the address as alive.

Software solutions either server-based or client-based have been developed to stop unsolicited emails from reaching an email client's inbox. However, existing software solutions are not efficient enough which gave interest to the group in developing a new approach that would improve the success rate of spam email filtering.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The present study seeks to answer the following general problem: How can an efficient filtering approach be developed to enhance the anti-spamming features of Sendmail?

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the anti-spamming features of Sendmail?
- What are the different anti-spamming techniques?

- What are the factors that affect the success rate of filtering spam emails in Sendmail?
- How can the existing anti-spamming techniques be applied to come up with a new anti-spamming framework?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to develop an efficient new filtering approach to enhance the anti-spamming features of Sendmail.

The specific objectives are:

- To identify the anti-spamming features of Sendmail.
- To identify the different anti-spamming techniques.
- To identify the factors that affect the success rate of filtering spam emails in Sendmail.
- To develop a framework for a new filtering approach to spam emails.
- To demonstrate the new framework by developing a spam email filtering solution.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study will generally cover three common classifications of spam emails. A framework for a new filtering approach to spam emails will be developed to improve the success rate of spam email filtering.

The framework will be implemented to detect incoming emails, filter emails and tag the identified spam emails. Testing the new filtering approach shall be done using Sendmail. Users are given the choice to enable or disable the new filtering approach from running.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is significant to all Internet users who have email accounts. It helps users to recognize the spam emails in the inbox by the tag placed in it. Users can spend more time in reading and responding to legitimate emails rather than consume the user's time in reading and identifying unsolicited emails. Even if a user chooses to read and reply to the spam emails, and the user's email address is identified as alive, there is no possibility that same spam email cannot be identified as spam since the spammer's email address is already added to the blacklist file.