

## Supplement to SPAM Forum Record

It appears to me that the individuals at the top of the pecking order for our world wide web, do not see the present amount of Spam that is generated by these so-called marketing companies, as something they wish to deal with at the present time. It appears that they have just set up abuse contacts at their domain to receive the complaints (which are probably a very small fraction of the Spam received across this country on a daily basis). These contacts generate an automated response, which indicates that they will look into it.

Gee, why do I imagine someone sitting at a computer screen in these companies performing global deletes of complaint emails, if it is not done automatically at some specified time each day? Most foreign ISP's bounce abuse complaints as a matter of practice. Email contacts for many companies that are listed in WHOIS do not even exist. Some DNS's cannot even be traced to a company or individual, due to false information on record.

I would like to see a 6 month project, where Spam is reported to the ISP that passed it along to the recipient, and the sender, when it can be determined who the sender is, where the reports are entered into a database and the ISP and the spammer is asked to show the result and final decision of their investigation.

I think such a project would begin to pull the lid off this can of worms and show just how large it is. The longer we refuse to face this problem with solid affirmative action the worse it is going to become.

Unfortunately, when an industry becomes unable to regulate itself, government intervention is sometimes all that we are left with. When I must trace down and report 20 or more emails each day and I find that they are coming from the same major us companies through the same open proxies and relays, it tells me that these companies can no longer regulate or control their operations.

I refuse to ignore this problem, a determined individual, facing a grave problem at NASA, once said to a group of his peers "Gentlemen, failure is not an option" that group of individuals agreed and went on to solve the problem and bring our men home safely. If we only had a few individuals such as that man in our companies and governments, we would not now be, even in NASA, accepting failure not only as an option but a routine matter. I will continue to review these intrusions into my privacy each day for as long as I can.

My email address is my personal property, I pay for it and use it each day for personal and business matters. It upsets me to know that someone makes profits

from developing harvesting software to dig up my email address and sell it for less than a penny to a spammer. I cannot stop companies from extracting personal information about me from public records and flooding my mailbox with hundreds of pounds of junk mail each year, I just have to pay the postal service more each year so that I can use their service.

Soon we will have to place our telephone numbers (another personal possession that is bought and paid for; don't pay your telephone bill and see how long you keep that) on a national registry so that people who want to put beautiful vinyl siding on a brick home will quit calling me.

Until the people at the top, both corporate and government, make the decision that Spam is a growing problem that will not go away on it's own, it will continue to get worse and only cost more to fix in the long run. Guess who will have to pay for it.

Ed Askew