

## EXCERPT FROM VBSPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW MAY 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.

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 9 April 2011 until 12am GMT on Monday 25 April 2011. The corpus contained 74,746 emails, 72,008 of which were spam. Of these, 40,674 were provided by *Project Honey Pot* and 31,334 were provided by *Abusix*; in both cases, the messages were relayed in real time, as were the 2,738 legitimate emails. The legitimate emails were sent in a number of languages to represent an international mail stream and came from countries all over the world, including India, Russia, El Salvador and Japan.

### OnlyMyEmail's Corporate MX-Defender

**SC rate:** 100.00%

**FP rate:** 0.00%

**Final score:** 100.00

**Project Honey Pot SC rate:** 100.00%

**Abusix SC rate:** 99.99%



To use black- and whitelists, users of *OnlyMyEmail's MX-Defender* need to fill out a form on the company's website. I received a quick response to this and soon realised the benefit of a second check of my request: I had made a mistake in filling out the form and was asked if I

really wanted what I had asked for. After clarification, the black- and whitelists were added. The IP whitelist does not always work though, and blocked a very spammy test message from the whitelisted IP – which hints towards the fact that pure whitelisting is not always a good idea.

But with zero false positives, *OnlyMyEmail's* users will find little need to use whitelisting. And they will not need to add many items (if any) to the blacklist either, as the product missed just two out of over 70,000 spam messages. In fact, not only did the product achieve the highest spam catch rate for the fourth time in a row, it also achieved the highest final score in the test for the second time and, rounded to 100, the highest final score and spam catch rate since our tests began two years ago. Needless to say, *OnlyMyEmail* can be extremely proud of its fourth VBSpam award.

| Products ranked by final score | Final score |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| OnlyMyEmail                    | 100.00      |
| Libra Esva                     | 99.94       |
| McAfee Email Gateway           | 99.92       |
| Symantec Brightmail Gateway    | 99.90       |
| BitDefender                    | 99.84       |
| FortiMail                      | 99.82       |
| eleven                         | 99.64       |
| Sophos Email Appliance         | 99.58       |
| AnubisNetworks                 | 99.55       |
| Halon Security                 | 99.46       |
| ORF                            | 99.42       |
| The Email Laundry              | 99.40       |
| Kaspersky Anti-Spam            | 99.37       |
| SPAMfighter                    | 98.97       |
| Spamhaus                       | 98.89       |
| SpamTitan                      | 98.66       |
| McAfee EWS                     | 98.35       |
| Vade Retro                     | 97.78       |
| GFI MailEssentials             | 97.07       |



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