

CYBERNEWS

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CAN THE SPAM! Learn How to Fight Junk Email

Out of all the wonders and annoyances of new technology, junk email (or SPAM) may be the most prolific and vulgar brainchild to arise from the womb of the World Wide Web. For many of us, Spam is simply a daily dose of bothersome drivel which we delete from our email box without a second thought. For others, it is an obscenity where marketeers thoughtlessly parade pornography before innocent children and criminals scam older citizens with illegal money schemes. No matter which category you fall into, the idea of terminating spam with extreme prejudice probably brings a smile to your face. Well I have good news for you - there *are* ways to fight the electronic hype. Read on, my friend, and learn how you can help "Can the Spam"!

SPAM and the Law

State and federal legislation efforts regarding Spam email have met with varying levels of success. Even those laws which have been passed are complex and difficult to enforce at this time. While criminal laws have not been overly successful, *civil* actions against spammers have yielded some fine results. Internet Service Providers (such as America Online, Earthlink, etc.) have a strong, vested interest in eliminating junk email. Mass mailings are not only expensive for these providers in terms of email equipment, resources and personnel but they are also very damaging from a public relations perspective. **No one** wants the reputation of being a carrier of spam (Ugh, that even *sounds* viral)!

Therefore, these providers make clear and thorough agreements with their customers that forbids the broad, unrequested solicitation of individuals through the company's email server. If they find individuals violating these Terms of Service, the result is immediate termination of the account. Repeated offenders find themselves in long, expensive court cases which have already bankrupted several very large bulk email offenders.

Fight Back!

So, how can you help wipe this source from the face of the Internet? By tracing the spam back to it's source and reporting the offender to his Internet Service Provider. That might sound tough, but with the following list of my favorite spamfighting tools, it's as simple as cut-n-paste!



SpamCop and other services will help you stop junk email

SPAM BUSTER TOOLS:

Register with www.spamcop.net and watch the fur fly! This site will hunt down the actual source of a piece of junk email and then, on your behalf, sends a stearn report to the Internet Service Provider whom the spammer uses to send the junk email. ISPs *do* follow up on these reports, and many will send you an email notification that the spammer's account has been closed! It takes a few minutes to learn how to use this web site, but it's well worth the effort.

The Spam Recycling Center will forward your junk email message to state and federal authorities for further action. They also send the email to software companies to help them devise better spam filters. Forward your email to spamrecycle@chooseyourmail.com and let them do the rest!

SpamCop and the Spam Recycling center need the full *internet header* which is attached to every piece of email you receive. Normally, this digital address list is invisible to you. Call us or visit www.azcomputerdoctor.com for free information on how to make your email program show this information.

America Online clients are prone to LOTS of junk email. AOL spends an incredible amount of time and money fighting spam. Just forward your junk email to tosspam@aol.com. Your junk email will join those others that make up AOL's large annual SPAM litigation budget.

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L Bryant Enterprises
Computer Consultants
(602) 861-1738

www.helpmedoc.com