

CYBER SECURITY BULLETIN

Cyber Security Bulletin Number: 003

Type of Cyber Threat: SPAM

SPAM: Anonymous, unsolicited electronic bulk email or messages.

Description:

In 1993 the term ‘spam’ was first introduced with reference to unsolicited or undesired bulk electronic messages. Richard Dephew, administrator of the world-wide distributed Internet discussion system Usenet, wrote a program which mistakenly caused the release of dozens of recursive messages onto the news.admin.policy newsgroup. The recipients immediately found an appropriate name for these obtrusive messages – spam.

Analysis:

Spammers target specific goods and services which they seek to promote. Some goods are chosen because a computer user is likely to be interested, but most are grey or black market goods. In other words, spam is usually illegal, not only because of the means used to advertise the goods, but also because the goods and services being offered are themselves illegal.

Other mass mailings are outright fraud. For example, a recipient is asked to provide their bank account details. Of course, if the recipient provides these details, their bank account will be emptied without their consent. This type of spam is usually called ‘scam’. Another shining example of fraud is Nigerian letters.

Suggested Actions:

a) Make sure that your email is filtered by an anti-spam solution. Consider installing a personal anti-spam solution. Only open email accounts with providers that offer spam filtration prior to mail delivery.

b) Do not click on ‘unsubscribe’ links from questionable sources. Spammers send fake unsubscribe letters in an attempt to collect active addresses. You certainly don't want to have your address tagged as ‘active’ as it will just increase the amount of spam that you receive.

c) Maintain at least two email addresses. You should use your private address for personal correspondence only. The public address should be the one you use to register on public forums, in chat rooms, to subscribe to mailing lists etc.

d) Never publish your private address on publicly accessible resources.

“Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride”

e) Treat your public address as a temporary one. Chances are high that spammers will harvest your public address fairly quickly. Don't be afraid to change it often.

“Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, securing the land”