

Evolving email threats and counter technology



 James Todd

IronPort Systems



Agenda

- The State of SPAM
- New Spamming Techniques
- Predicative Security
- Rebuilding Trust in Email

“Zombies” Execute Email Attacks

SEARCH

Microsoft sees botnets as top '07 Net threat Undead PC armies 'where it's at for serious cybercriminals'

Robert McMillan [Today's Top Stories](#) ▶ or [Other Security Stories](#) ▶

December 27, 2006 ([IDG News Service](#)) -- If there's one thing that Aaron Kornblum would like to quash, it's the botnet armies.

These are the remote-controlled PCs that have been taken over without their users' knowledge. Symantec Corp. counted more than 4.5 million of them during the first six months of the year, and according to Kornblum, they are the backbone of today's cybercrime.

"Botnets are really where it's at for serious cybercriminals, because of their concentrated power," said Kornblum, a senior attorney with Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Safety Enforcement team. "That power can be used for all sorts of malicious conduct on the Internet."

powered
by

YAHOO!



Tech Products

[Products home](#)

[Edward C. Baig](#)

Gaming

PCS. \$2,000-\$3,000

By Byron Acohido and Jon Swartz, USA TODAY

In the calculus of Internet crime, two of the most sought-after commodities are zombie PCs and valid e-mail addresses.

Viruses are Becoming More and More Dangerous . . .

- 70% of all spam comes from virus infected PC zombies
- 75% of all viruses contain spam delivery engines
- 200% increase in spyware delivered by email in the past 6 months
- 65% increase in keystroke loggers in 2005
- 200% increase in rootkits

What's changed

- Old Days

- Hacking for fame, fun or profit
- Script Kiddies
- Hackivists ,Black Hats, VX'ers

- Today

- Hacking for Profit
- Disorganized crime
- Web mobs
- Organized crime

The dark side of the Internet involves not only fraud and theft, pervasive pornography, and pedophile rings, but also drug trafficking and criminal organizations that are more intent upon exploitation than the disruption that is the focus of the hacking community.

Phil Williams

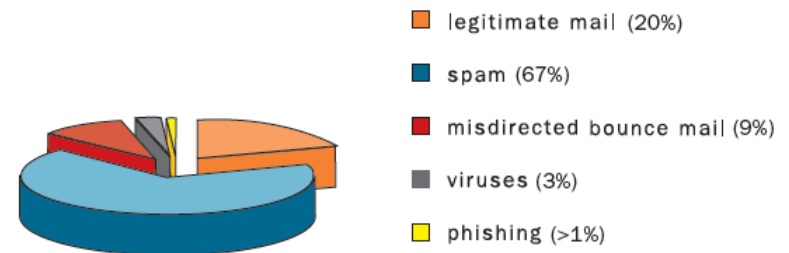
Professor of International Security Studies

University of Pittsburgh

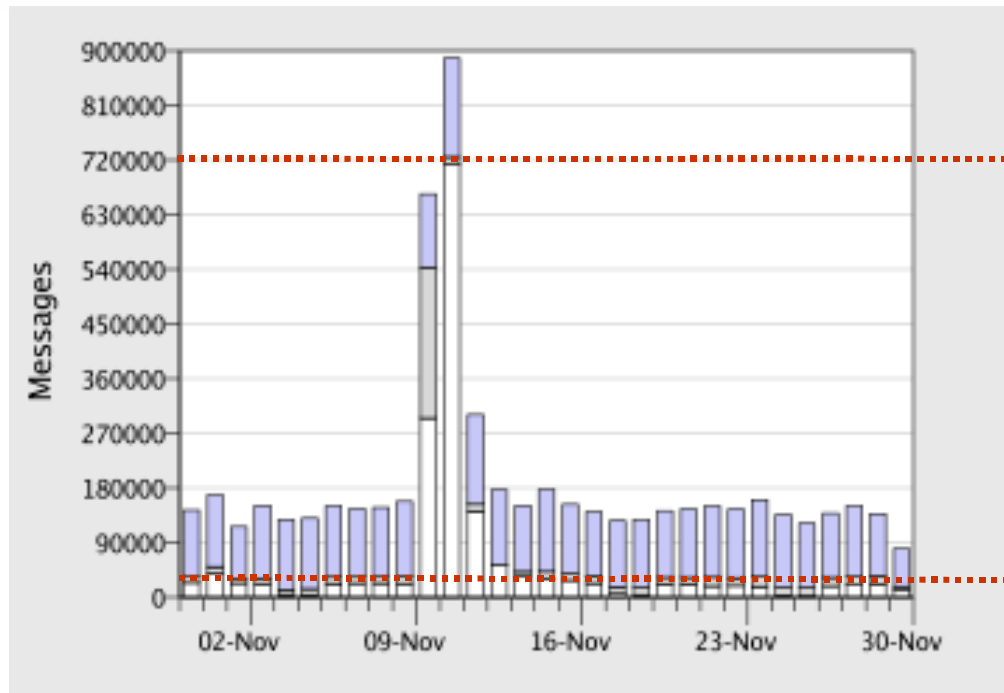
The Email Bounce Problem BDOS

- **Email's Other Billion Dollar Problem**
 - *Bounces are 9% of email*
- **Anti-Spam Scanners Are Not Effective**
 - *Misdirected bounces look legitimate*
 - *Do not trigger Anti-Spam scores*
 - *Originate from good reputation senders*

Global Email Composition



Bounce DOS



**20 fold increase
in the number
of mails
accepted**

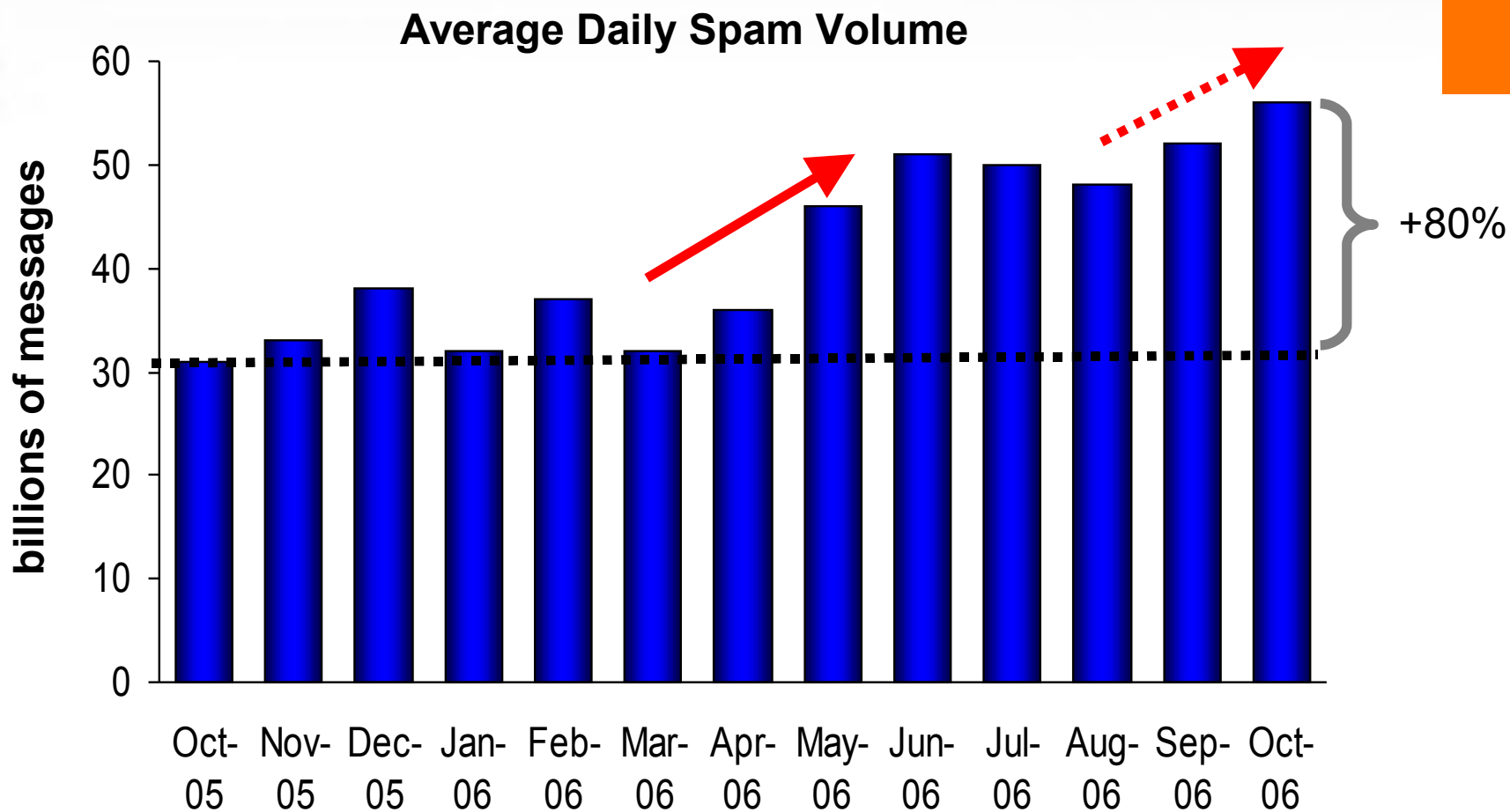
New Trends

- Come along way since Sobig A
- Viruses becoming very sophisticated & devastating
 - Warezov virus stub sent via email...viral payload downloaded via http
 - Rustock goal is to be a spam proxy & send spam but evade detection & analysis
 - Both reside in memory & use alternate data streams for evasion
- Viral message volume dropping
 - keeps end user paranoia low and effectiveness high
- Spam, phishing & spyware interwoven

The State of SPAM



Spam Increases to 60 Billion per Day



Total Volume by Data Size Jumps

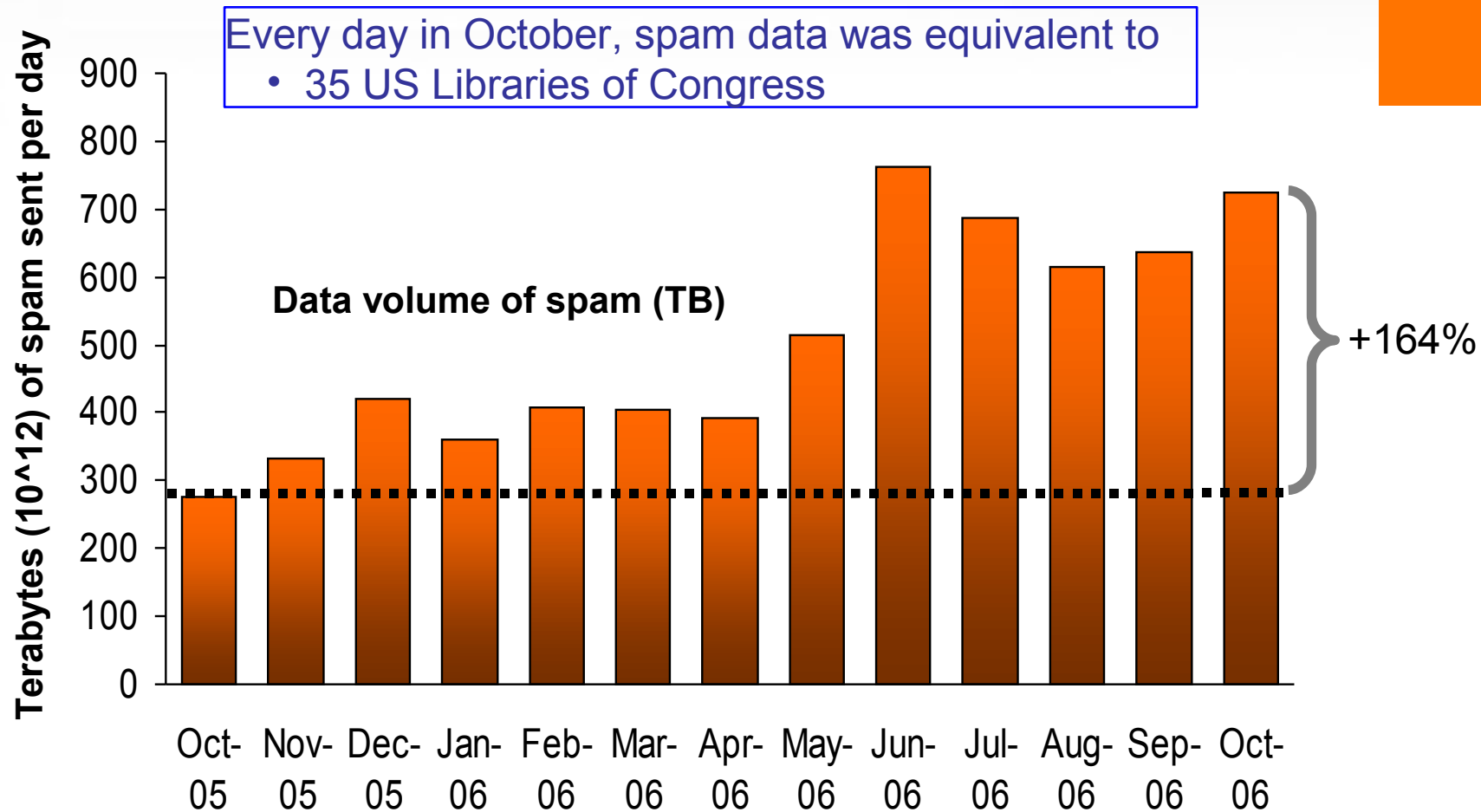
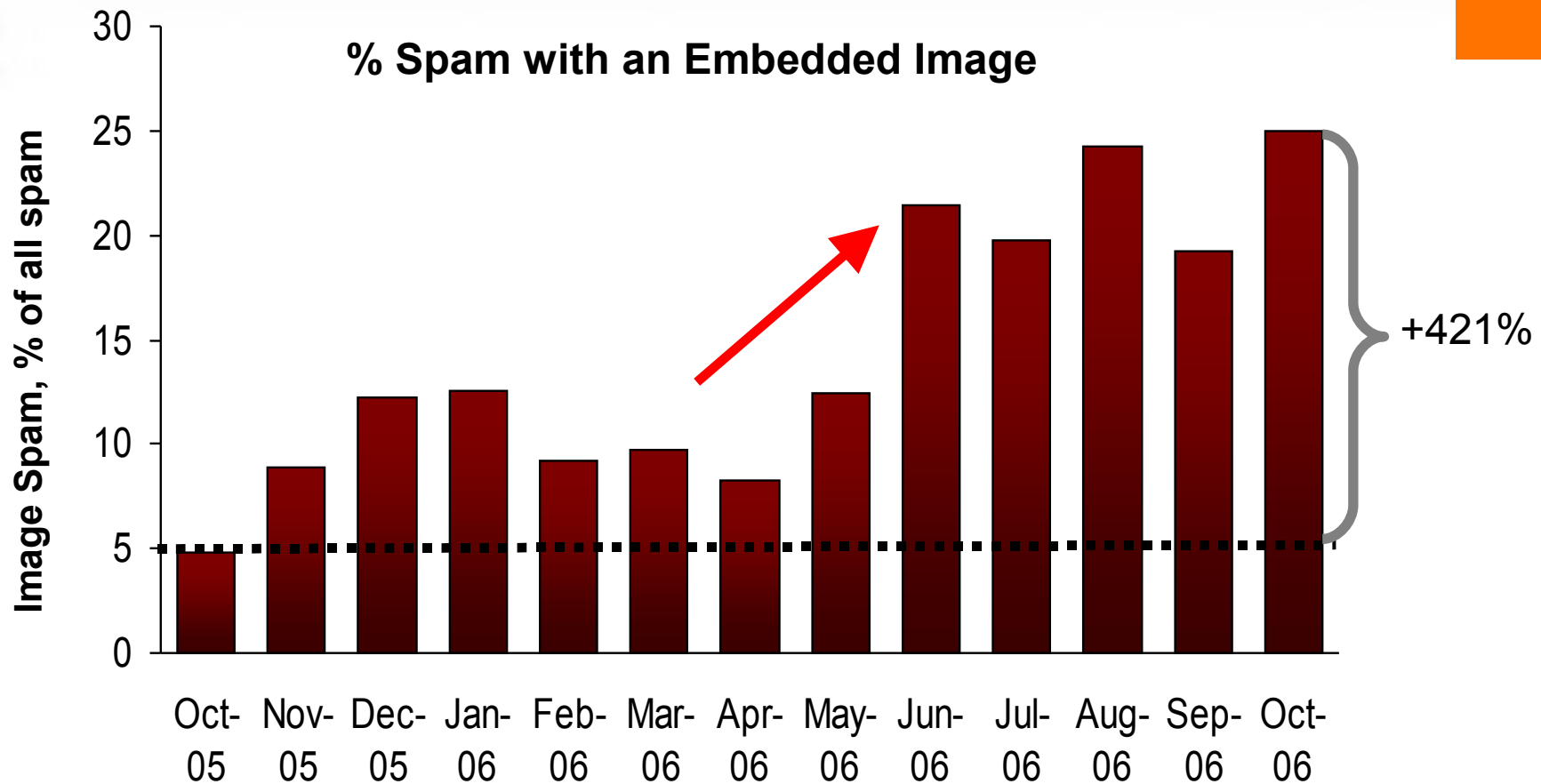
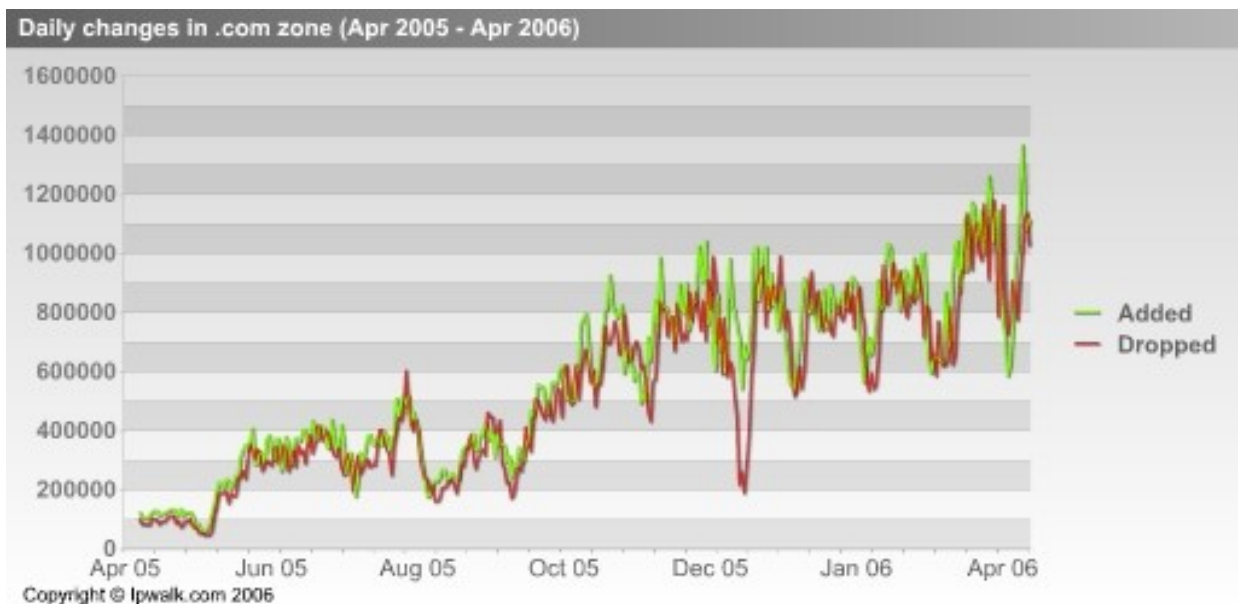


Image Spam Explodes – 5 to 25%



URL Attacks Mutate More Rapidly

- A Trend Called Domain “Kiting” Is on the Rise
 - Brings the cost of registering a domain to *zero*
 - Domains are now advertised in spam for < **4hrs**
 - Makes URL Blacklists/whitelists ineffective



* Source: IPWalk.com

New Spamming Techniques



Image Spam

Why?

Jonathan Lebed made \$850,000 from **Pump & Dump**



Subj: THE MOST UNDERVALUED STOCK EVER
Date: 2/03/00 3:43pm Pacific Standard Time
From: LebedTG1
FTEC is starting to break out! Next week,
this thing will EXPLODE...
Currently FTEC is trading for just \$2 1/2!
I am expecting to see FTEC at \$20 VERY
SOON.

"Meyers Pollock Robbins" brokerage firm defrauded
\$176 million from investors using Pump & Dump

- CEO Michael Ploschnick served 3 years prison

Image Spam Gets Sneakier

1. "Polka dots"

ATTENTION ALL DAY TRADERS AND INVESTORS

INVESTOR ALERT!

IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER RUN FOR SWNM!

WATCH SWNM LIKE A HAWK ON Tuesday July 1, 2006

Company Name: SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL, INC.

Stock Symbol: SWNM

Monday Close: 0.11

Volume:

5,761,702

Change:

UP 0.025 (27.78%)

Market Cap: \$33,000,000.00 (Approx)

Goldmark Industries, Inc (GDKI.PK)

THIS STOCK IS EXTREMELY UNDERVALUED

Huge Advertising Campaign this week!

Breakout Forecast for July, 2006

Current Price: \$5.60

Short Term Price Target: \$12.00

Recommendation: Strong Buy

*300+% profit potential short term

[RECENT HOT NEWS released MUST READ ACT NOW](#)

LOS ANGELES VANCOUVER, British Columbia -- Goldmark Industries, Inc. (GDKI.PK), the Company has recently signed a multi-movie distribution agreement with Mr. Rodriguez's production and distribution company, Polychrome Pictures, for the automatic theatrical and home video distribution of feature length films scheduled for release by Goldmark. Goldmark is making the announcement to the public to inform

2. "Slice & Dice"

*** BREAKING NEWS ALERT ISSUED ***

Most stock brokers give out their new issues only to their largest commission paying clients. We assume many of you like to "trade the promotion" and may have made some big, fast money doing so.

Trade Date : Monday, July 31, 2006

Company : EVER GLORY INTL INC

Ticker: EGLY

Rises Over 5% on Friday.

Volume: 270,947

Price at Close Friday: \$1.15

3-6 Day Trading: \$3 - \$4

Expectations : STRONG BUY

Looking for a company with some good news? Here's one!

Breaking News:

Ever-Glow Signs \$500,000 Deal with Debenhams (Read Yahoo Finance) There is a massive promotion underway this weekend apprising potential eager investors of this emerging situation. Breaking news alert issue - big news coming. We feel this is a "Stock Alert" and you should have this on your Radar. Big news expected. This should invoke LARGE gains. Do this often enough, and your portfolio can double, even TRIPLE in value.

BREAKING NEWS ALERT ISSUED

Most stock brokers give out their new issues only to their largest commission paying clients. We assume many of you like to "trade the promotion" and may have made some big, fast money doing so.

Trade Date : Friday, July 28, 2006

Company : EVER GLORY INTL INC

Ticker: EGLY

Price : \$1.09

3-6 Day Trading : \$3 - \$6

Expectations : BUY

Looking for a company with some good news? Here's one!

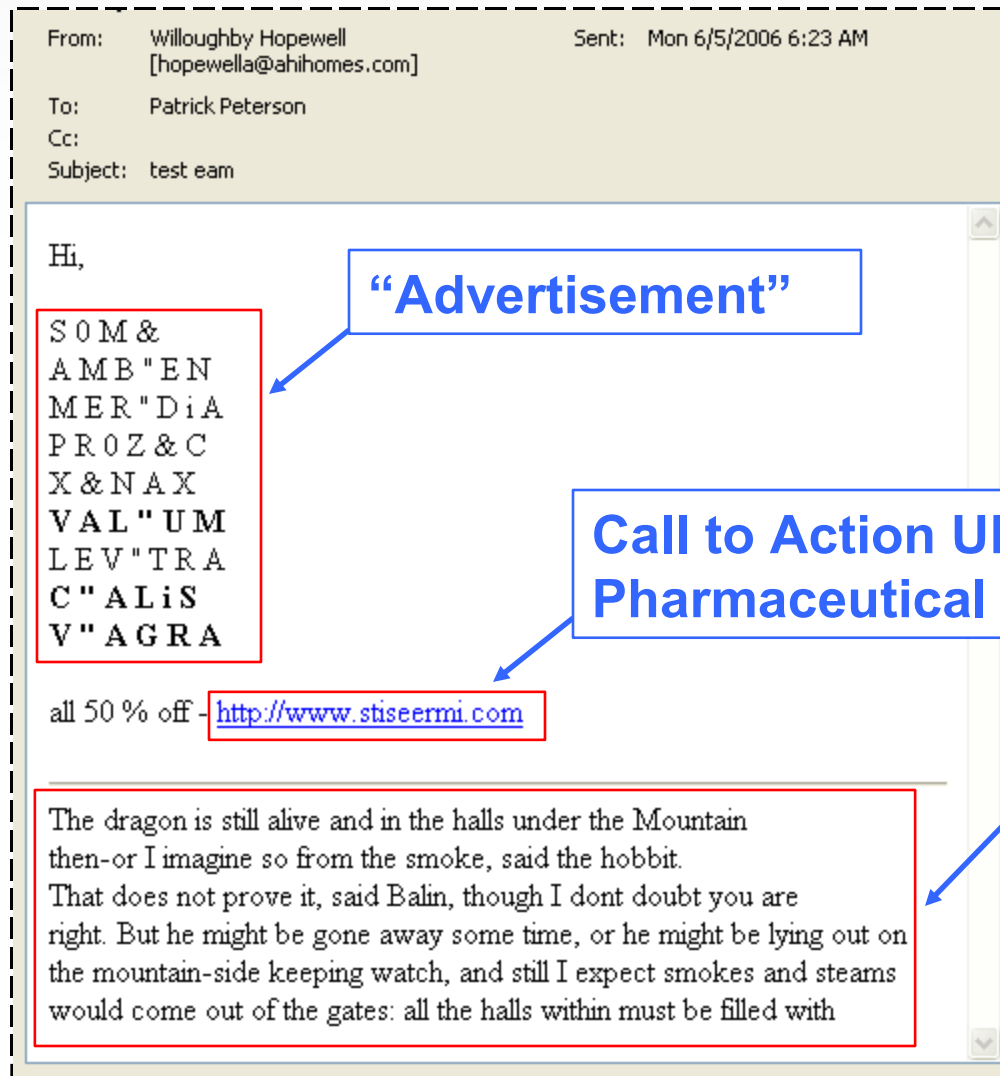
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URL Spam

One Spam



Six Spam

From: Ajeet Tatham [mailto:tatajeet@bbok.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 12:30 AM
To: Goldschmidt, Ron
Subject: [Ironport SPAM Positive] Re: 91 petersha

Hi,
A M B / E N
X ^ N A X
C ? A L i S
V A L / U M
V ? A G R A
L E V ? T R A
P R O Z ^ C
S O M ^
M E R ? D i A

<http://www.mithireda.com>

Call to
Action URL

longer making for the main forest-road to the south of his land. Had they followed the pass, their path would have led them down the stream from the mountains that joined the great river miles south of the Carrock. At that point there was a deep ford which they might have passed, if they had still had their ponies, and beyond that a track led to the skirts of the wood and to the entrance of the old forest road.

“Hashbuster” text

From: Poncio Wedel [mailto:poncio@ca-sunshine.com]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 10:57 PM
To: Tanouye, Duane
Subject: [Ironport SPAM Positive] Re: 695 swun

Hi,
X ^ N A X
C ? A L i S
L E V ? T R A
V A L / U M
M E R ? D i A
A M B / E N
V ? A G R A
P R O Z ^ C
S O M ^

<http://www.carogethi.com>

again at last in spite of his fears.
It was full morning when he awoke. One of the dwarves had fallen over him in the shadows where he lay, and had rolled down with a bump from the platform on to the floor. It was Bofur, and he was grumbling about it, when Bilbo opened his eyes.
Get up lazybones, he said, or there will be no breakfast left for

From: Njord Parrish [mailto:njorde@dimensionshealth.or]
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 1:01 AM
To: Miccio, John
Subject: [Ironport SPAM Positive] Re: 39 baron

Hi,
C ? A L i S
V ? A G R A
M E R ? D i A
L E V ? T R A
S O M ^
A M B / E N
X ^ N A X
P R O Z ^ C
V A L / U M

<http://www.mithireda.com>

its yours after all and not mine-you had better slap your arms and rub your legs and try and help me get the others out while there is a chance! Thorin of course saw the sense of this, so after a few more groans he got up and helped the hobbit as well as he could. In the darkness floundering in the cold water they had a difficult and very nasty job finding which were the right barrels. Knocking outside and calling only

From: Nicolina Krug [mailto:nicolinakrug@aolcom.com]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 9:52 PM
To: Maddox, Roderick
Subject: [Ironport SUSPECT SPAM] Re: 240 unshake

Hi,
X ^ N A X
M E R ? D i A
A M B / E N
V A L / U M
P R O Z ^ C
C ? A L i S
L E V ? T R A
S O M ^
V ? A G R A

<http://www.romadaque.com>

Somehow it struck all of them as not at all a nice place, although there was nothing wrong to see.
All of a sudden they heard a howl away down hill, a long shuddering howl. It was answered by another away to the right and a good deal nearer to them, then by another not far away to the left. It was wolves howling at the moon,wolves gathering together!

From: Irina Pavlick [mailto:pavleirina@]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 4:11 AM
To: Zipperstein, Steve
Subject: robi 3649

Hi,

L e V / T R A
C i A L / S
X & n a x
V / a G R A
A m o x / c i l l / n
P R O z & C
T r & m a d o l
S O m &
A m B / E N
V A L / u M
M e R / D / A

<http://www.hisheron.com>

on the stone, and shaking their prisoners as well.
Clap! Snap! the black crack!
Grip, grab! Pinch, nab!
And down down to Goblin-town
You go, my lad!
Clash, crash! Crush, smash!

From: Sukie Lawhon [mailto:sukielaw@blaineschools.org]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 9:41 PM
To: Young, Tina
Subject: [Ironport SPAM Positive] Re: 644 Cupi

Hi,
S O M ^
P R O Z ^ C
V ? A G R A
L E V ? T R A
C ? A L i S
A M B / E N
V A L / U M
M E R ? D i A
X ^ N A X

<http://www.romadaque.com>

this Bilbo ought to have done something at once. Either he should have gone back quietly and warned his friends that there were three fair-sized trolls at hand in a nasty mood, quite likely to try toasted dwarf, or even pony, for a change; or else he should have done a bit of good quick burgling. A really first-class and legendary burglar would at this point have picked the trolls pockets-it is nearly always

The Spam Attack

Spam Content

- 1.5 billion messages over 2 weeks
- ~2000 unique content mutations – changed every 12 minutes
- 1500 unique domains used – changed every 15 minutes

Spam Source

- 100,000 infected PCs (zombies) in 119 countries

Command and Control (C&C) infrastructure

- Web sites
- Web servers
- DNS servers
- Payment processing and customer service systems



uCT SoCKS DDoS SerVICE ABoUT

WEB-Tools Russian Version



SALE: Cryptor, Mail'SYSTEM, DownLoader, and other soft from INFECTED.

We Give the facilities DDoS and Spam.

Also, there is in presence anonymous SockS5 server in good supply!

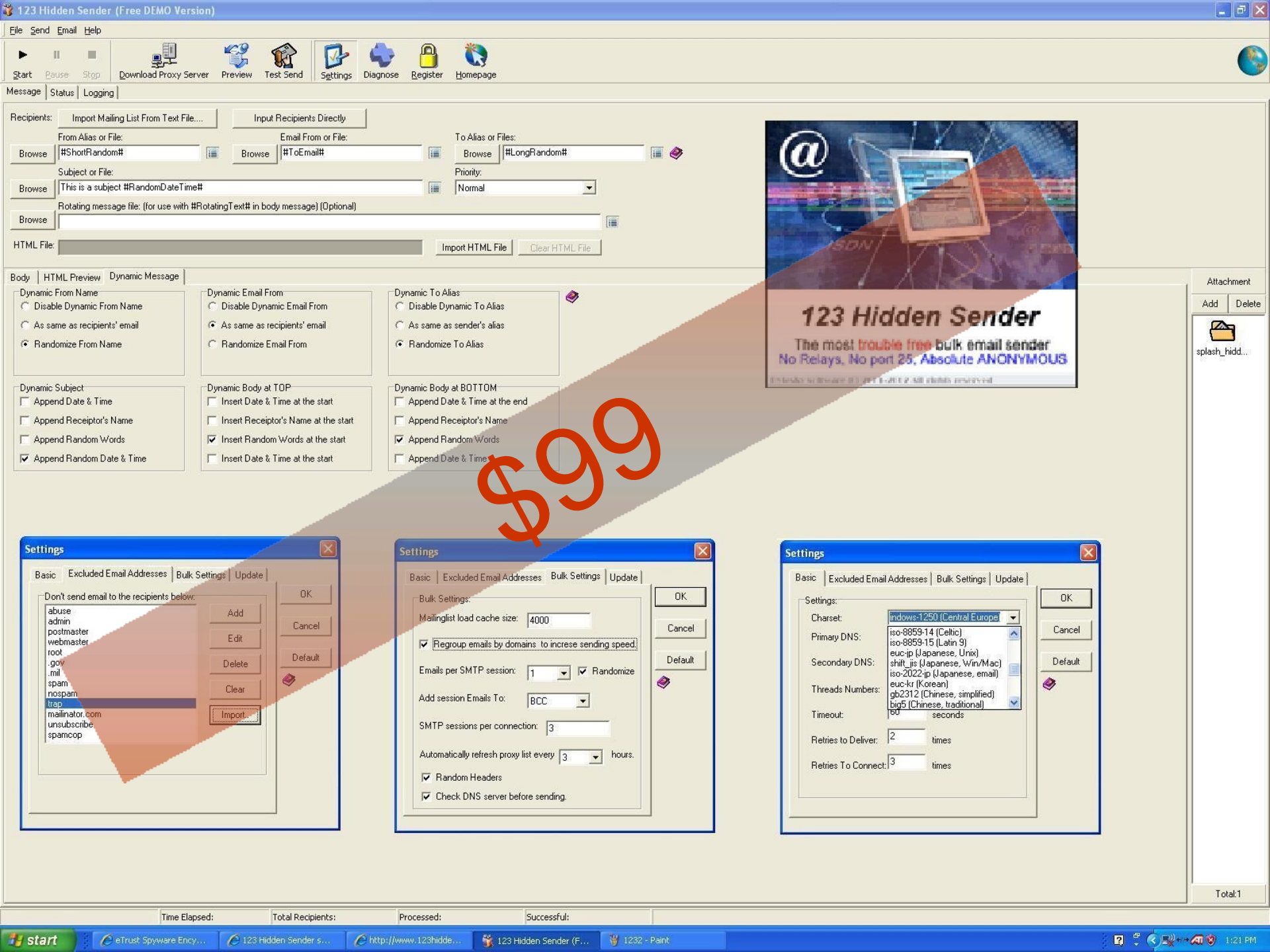
The Development script's and program's under order!

Contact: ICQ: 337614 or 741873

FreND

- Pinc
- AK-
- The
- XHa
- MIN
- Ano
- Lock
- [::F
- [::D
- blac
- WW
- Sell
- Ces
- Age
- Own
- Sam
- Priv
- RIC
- COM

CoUN

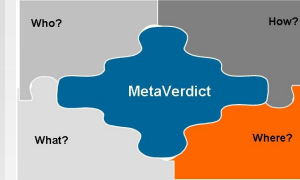


GO Advanced...

Smart search 562 e-mails 1455 pages

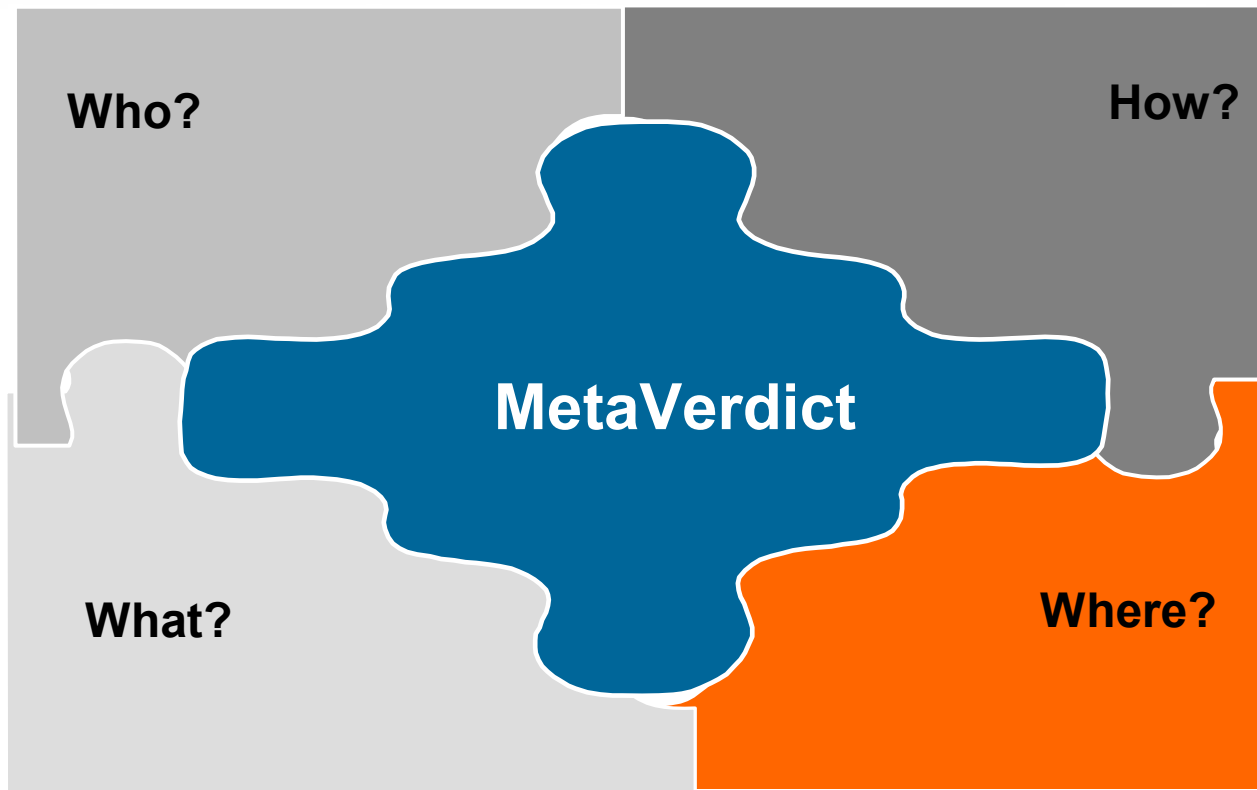
Predicative Security





Predicative Security

Predicate what is good - Predicate what is bad



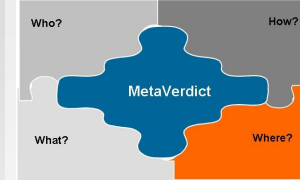


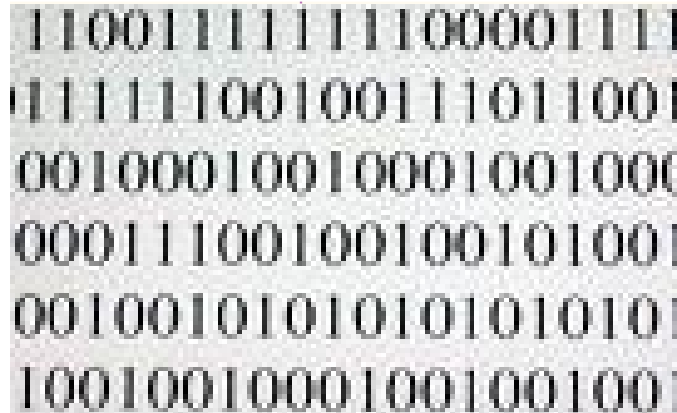
Image Spam Example

Traditional Content Filters

HOW?

WHAT?

- *No spam content found in message*
- *Doesn't match known signatures*



WHO?

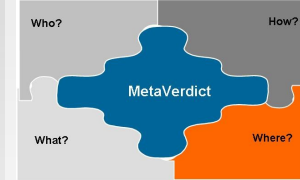
- *IP address not on any blacklists*

WHERE?

Verdict

UNKNOWN





Predicative Security for Image Spam

HOW?

- *Message leaves trace of spamware tool*

WHAT?

- *All text inside an image*
- *Random dots appear within the message*
- *Nearly identical color scheme in 100,000's spamtrap msgs*

ATTENTION ALL DAY TRADERS AND INVESTORS
 INVESOTR ALERT!
 IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER RUN FOR SWNM!
 WATCH SWNM LIKE A HAWK ON Tuesday July 1, 2006

Company Name: SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL, INC.
 Stock Symbol: SWNM
 Monday Close: 0.11
 Volume: 5,761,702
 Change: UP 0.025 (27.78%)
 Market Cap: \$33,000,000.00 (Approx)

WHO?

- *IP address recently started sending email*
- *Message originated from dial-up IP address*
- *Sending IP address located in Russia*

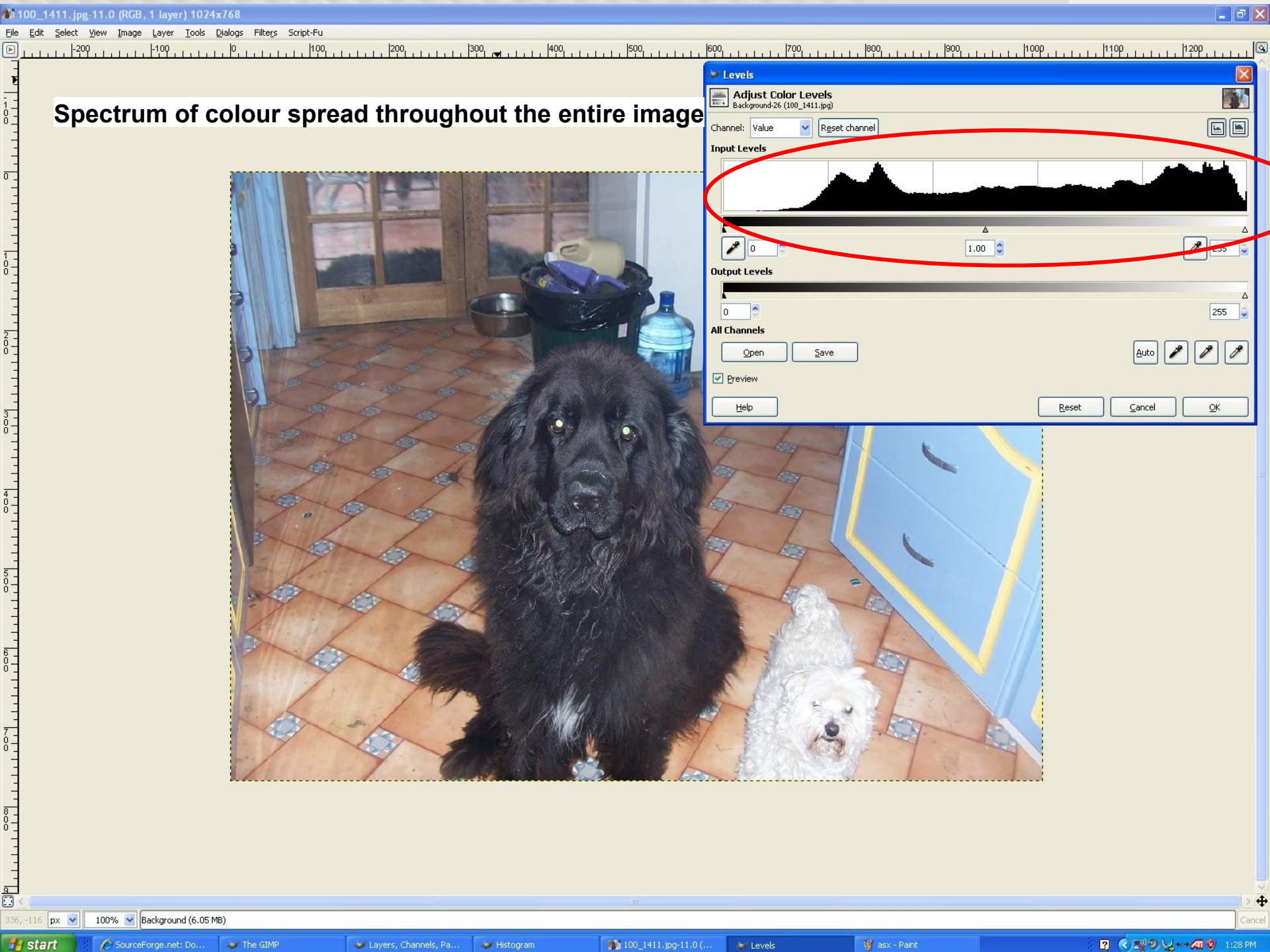
WHERE?

<http://urllink.call.to.action.ipaddressisinrussia.com>

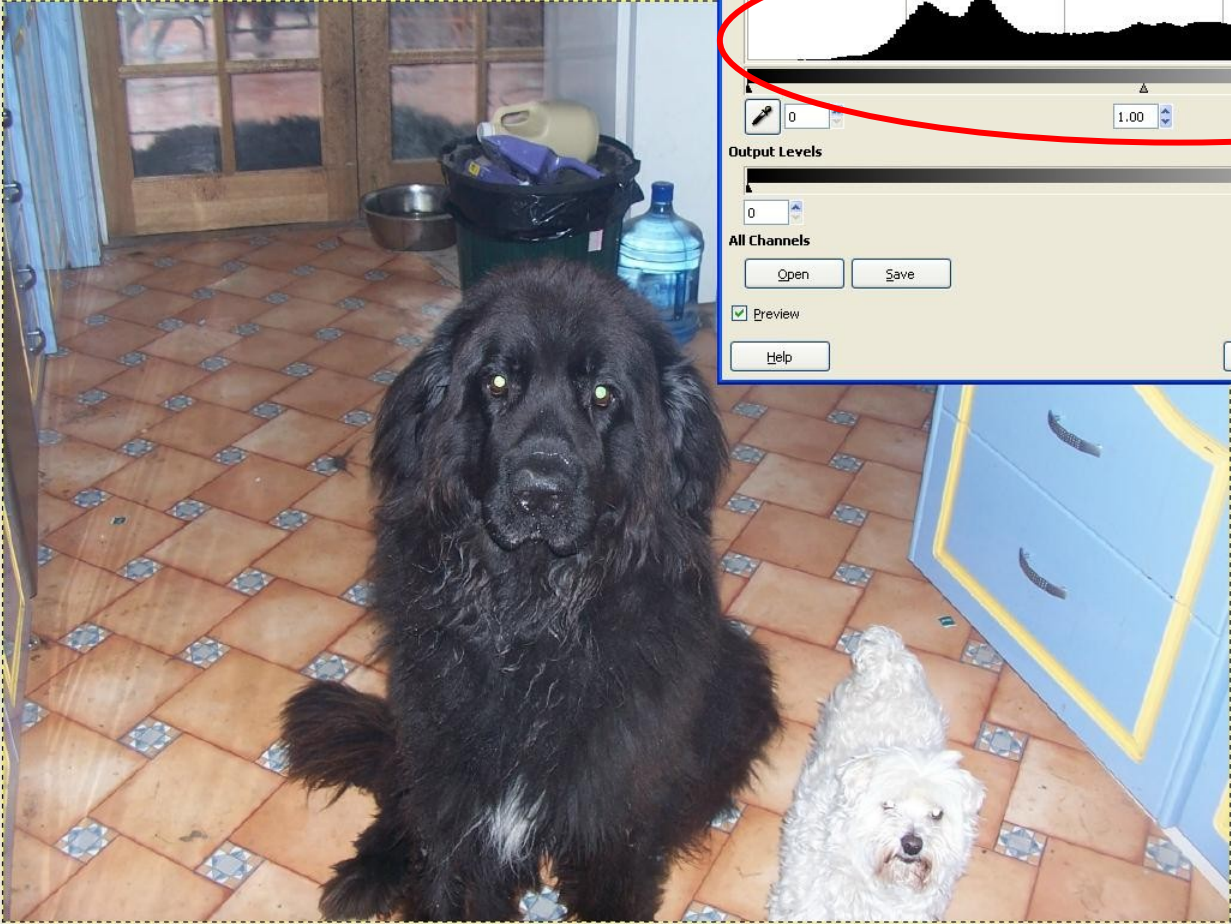
Verdict

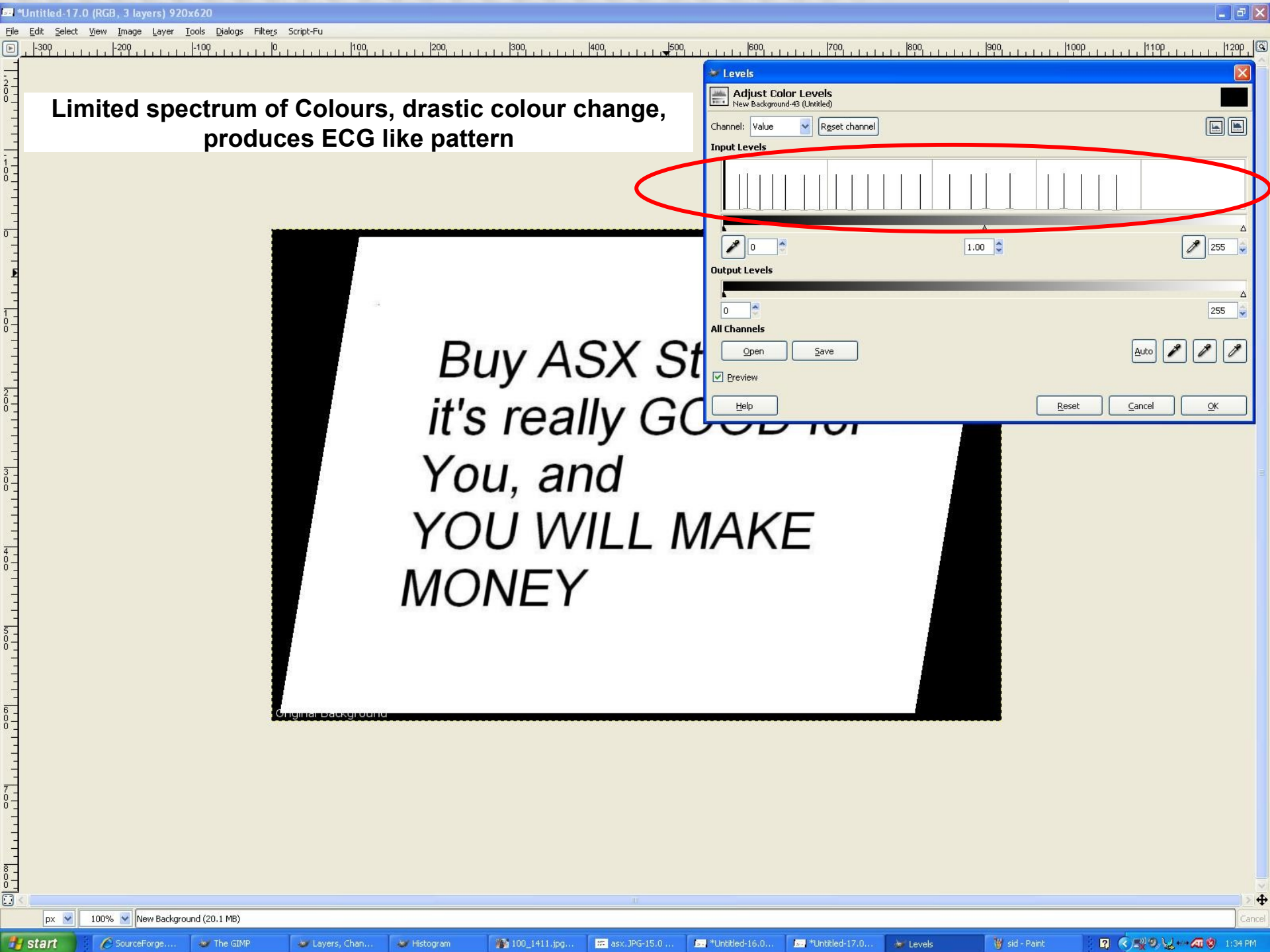
BLOCK

Network Owner	DataNet
Domain	dnatel
Date of first message seen from this address	2006-06-18
CIDR range	Unknown
# of domains controlled by this network owner	500
Geography data	
Country	RU
State	48
City	Moscow



Spectrum of colour spread throughout the entire image





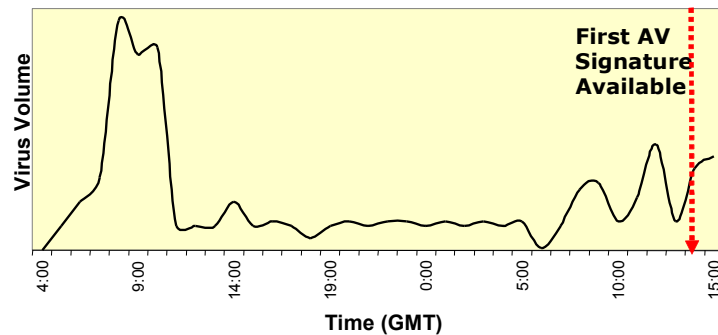
Limited spectrum of Colours, drastic colour change,
produces ECG like pattern

Buy ASX St
it's really GOOD for
You, and
YOU WILL MAKE
MONEY

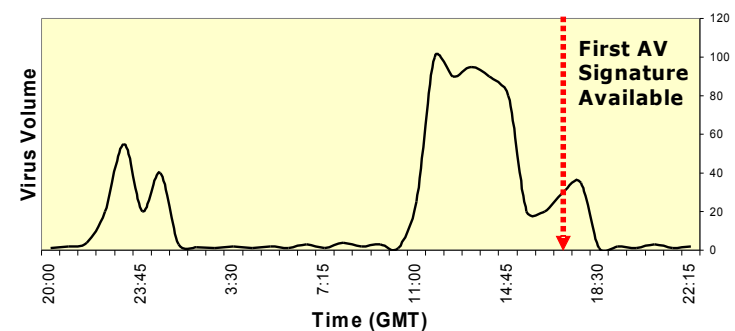
Virus Outbreak Example

Traditional AV Signature Update

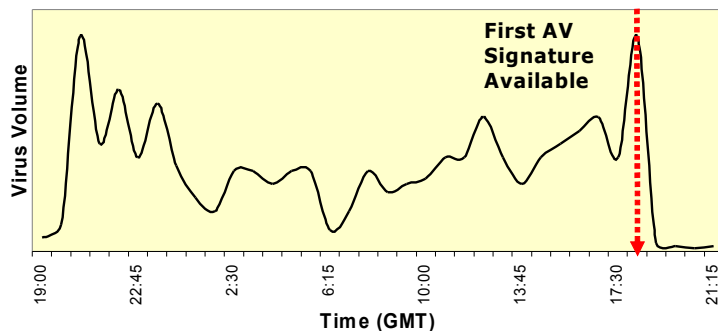
Mytob-HJ: 4-19-06



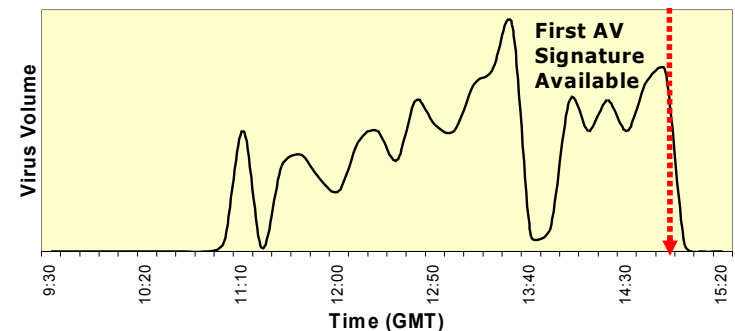
Bagle-GT: 4-21-06



FeebsDI-Q: 6-07-06

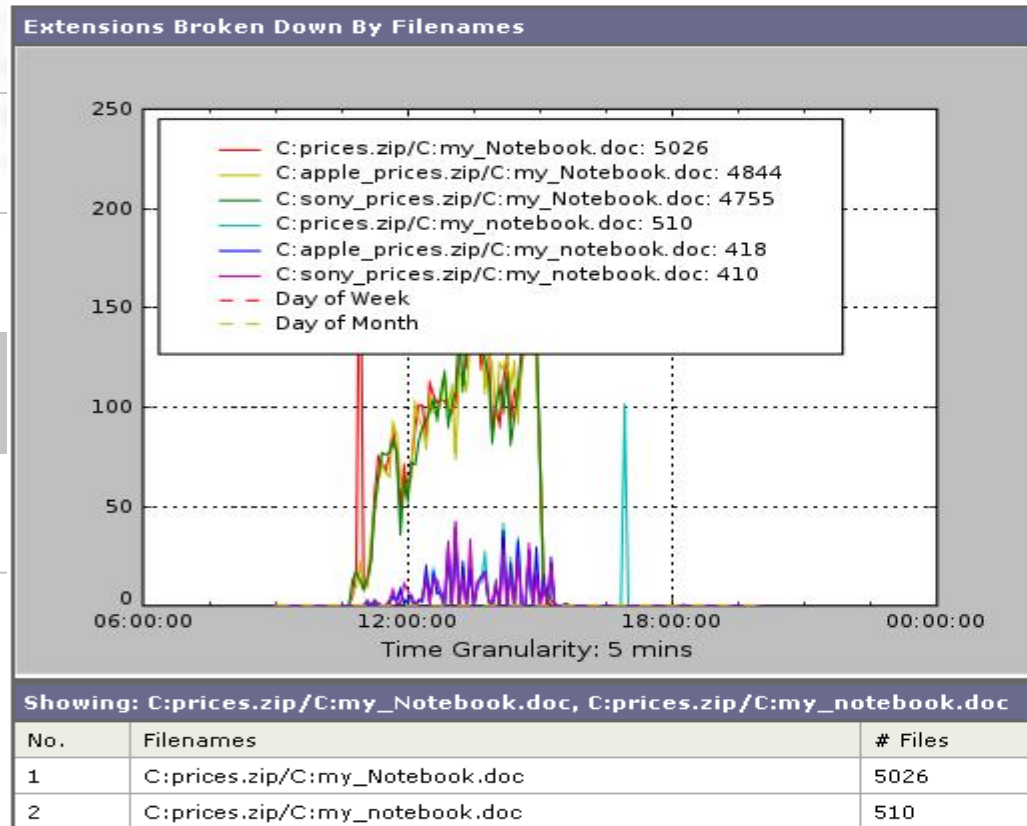


Kukudro-A: 6-27-06



Virus Outbreak Predicates

Extensions Broken Down By Filenames



Filenames List

[Download](#)

```
--ALL--: 24113
C:\prices.zip\C:\my_Notebook.doc: 5026
C:\apple_prices.zip\C:\my_Not...doc: 4844
C:\sony_prices.zip\C:\my_Note...doc: 4755
C:\Test.zip\C:\Test.doc: 2773
C:\prices.zip\C:\my_notebook.doc: 510
C:\apple_prices.zip\C:\my_not...doc: 418
C:\sony_prices.zip\C:\my_note...doc: 410
C:\Golden.zip\C:\Golden.doc: 32
H:\AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA 0 AA...doc: 28
H:\AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA 0 AA...doc: 28
H:\AAA AAAAAAAAAA 00-00-00.zi...doc: 27
H:\AAAAAAAAAAAA0000000.zip/H:A...doc: 25
H:\AA-AA AAA AAA-AAA 00.zip/...doc: 16
C:\0076307.zip\C:\0076307.doc: 11
C:\0076308.zip\C:\0076308.doc: 11
C:\0076309.zip\C:\0076309.doc: 11
C:\0076310.zip\C:\0076310.doc: 11
C:\0076316.zip\C:\0076316.doc: 11
C:\0076317.zip\C:\0076317.doc: 11
C:\0076318.zip\C:\0076318.doc: 11
C:\0076319.zip\C:\0076319.doc: 11
C:\0076320.zip\C:\0076320.doc: 11
C:\0076321.zip\C:\0076321.doc: 11
H:\000_AA_AAAAAAAAAAAAAA Aaaaa...doc: 9
H:\AAAAAAAAA00000.zip/H:Aaa A...doc: 8
H:\AAAAAAAAA00000.zip/H:Aaa A...doc: 8
H:\AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA.zip/H:A...doc: 8
H:\AA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAA.zip/...doc: 7
H:\AAAAAAAAA 00000000.zip/H:A...doc: 7
C:\0076311.zip\C:\0076311.doc: 6
```

Sort List By: ☐ Name ☒ Volume

[Update](#)

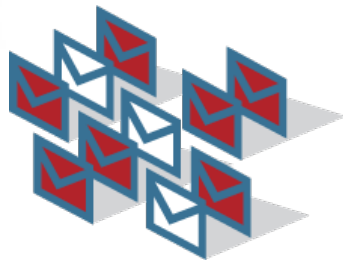
[Go to Filenames Report](#)

Outbreak Predicates

Attachment Size Report

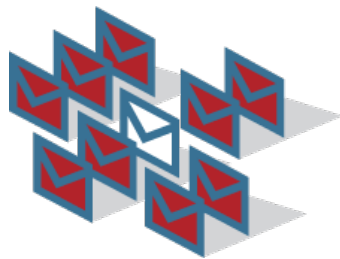
Attachment Size Bucket	# Messages			
	Absolute Volume	Change(%)	% vs Moving Avg	% Total Seen
0k	10		-68.75	0.00305652430395
4k	1		-66.6666666667	0.000305652430395
10k	3	-100.0	-25.0	0.000916957291186
15k	34	-33.3333333333	21.4285714286	0.0103921826334
20k	45	200.0	-29.6875	0.0137543593678
25k	75		74.4186046512	0.0229239322796
30k	89	800.0	97.7777777778	0.0272030663052
35k	52	800.0	79.3103448276	0.0158939263806
40k	36	200.0	24.1379310345	0.0110034874942
45k	40	-100.0	-25.9259259259	0.0122260972158
50k	37		19.3548387097	0.0113091399246
55k	23		-50.0	0.00703000589909
60k	23		-8.0	0.00703000589909
65k	19	-100.0	18.75	0.00580739617751
70k	13		8.33333333333	0.00397348159514
75k	11		-67.6470588235	0.00336217673435
80k	11		-21.4285714286	0.00336217673435
85k	4984	1064.0	1433.53846154	1.52327171309
90k	5		-58.3333333333	0.00152826215198

Predicates build context to take Action



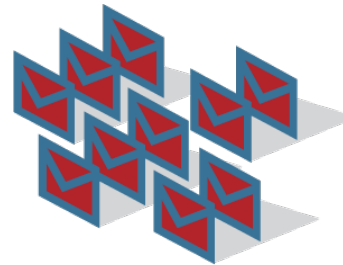
T1 = 0

–zip (exe) files



T2 = 5 mins

–zip (exe) files
–Size 50 to 55 KB.



T3 = 15 mins

–zip (exe) files
–Size 50 to 55KB
–“Price” in the name file

**Messages
Scanned &
Deleted**

T4 = 8 hours

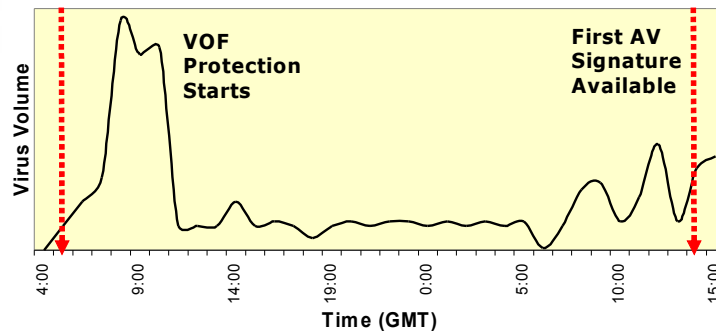
–Release messages
if signature
update is in place

Fine-grained Rules, Multiple Parameters:

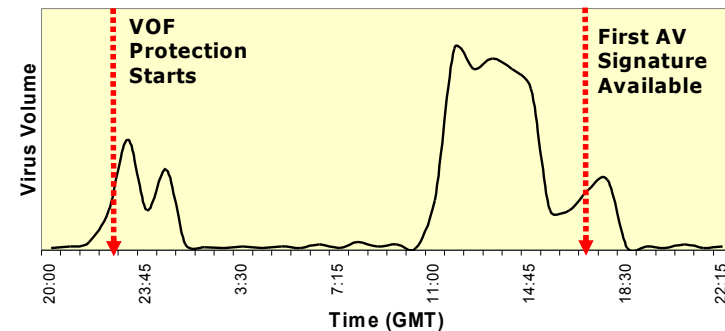
Attachment Type, Attachment Size, URLs, Filenames & More

Outbreak Predicate Results

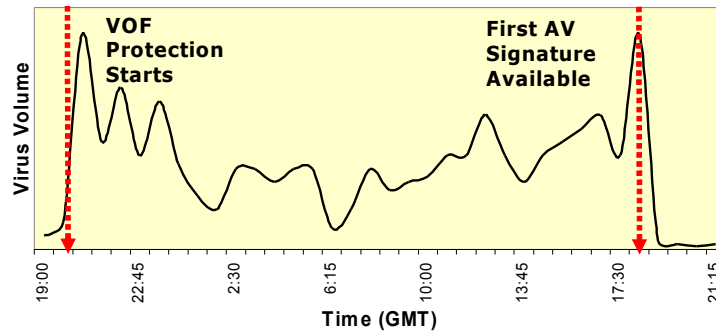
Mytob-HJ: 32 hrs 57 mins Lead Time!



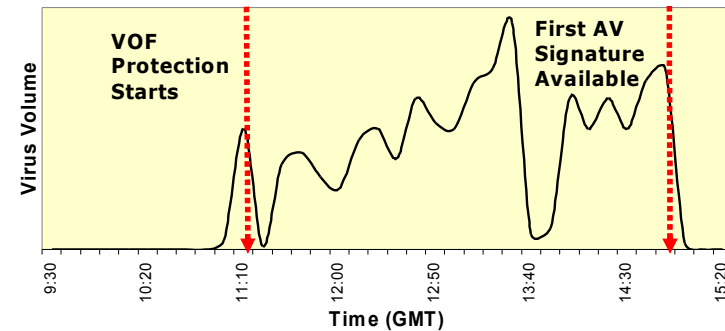
Bagle-GT: 18 hrs 28 mins Lead Time!

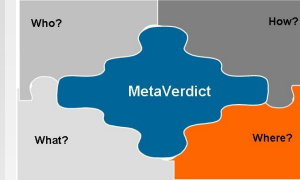


FeebsDI-Q: 21 hrs 59 mins Lead Time!



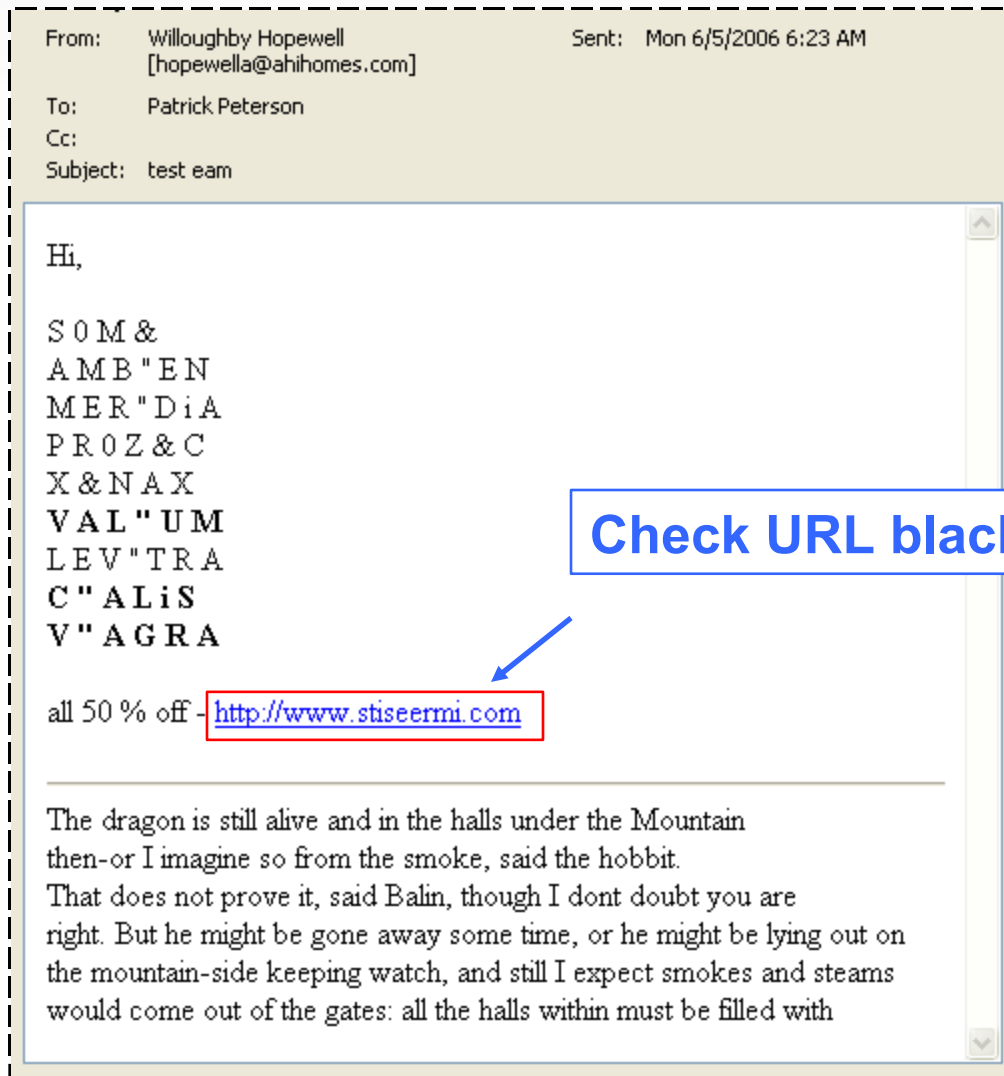
Kukudro-A: 3 hrs 38 mins Lead Time!





URL Spam Example

traditional content filter



Web Predicates for URL spam

Predicates

- Web Server Blacklist & Whitelists
- Domain Blacklists & Safelists
- Website Composition Data
 - Global Volume Data
 - Domain Registrar Information
- Dynamic IP Addresses
- Name Server Data

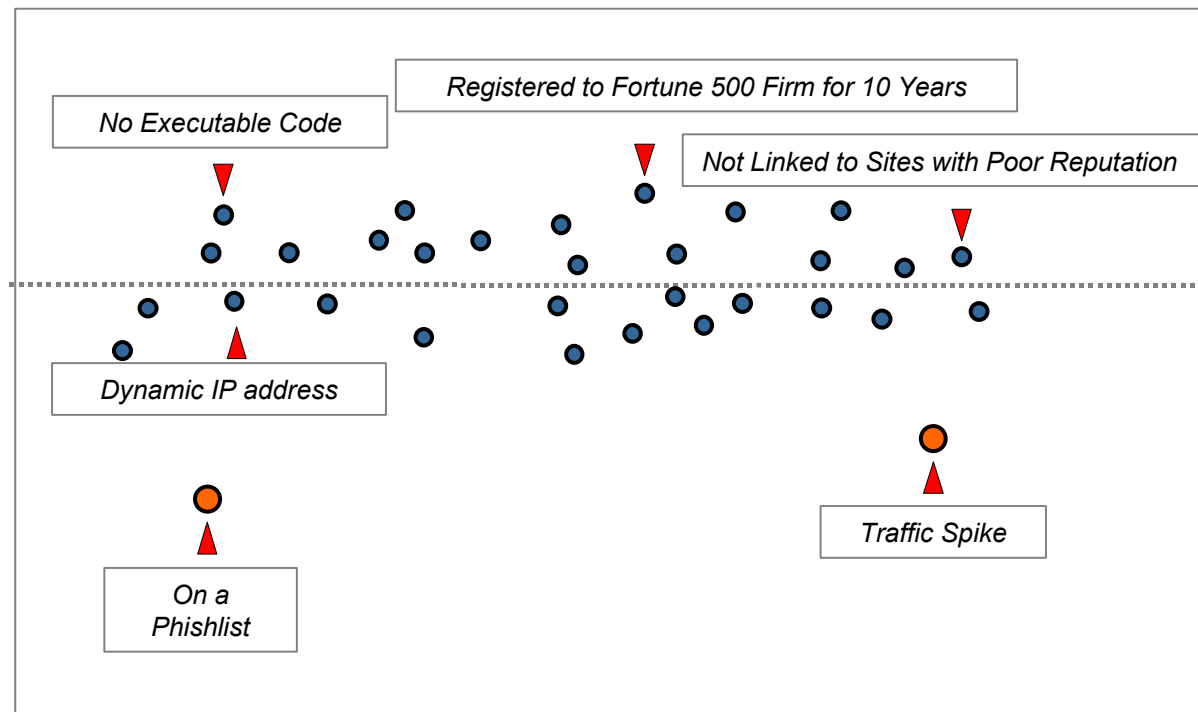
EMAIL DATA

Email Server Blacklists & Whitelists

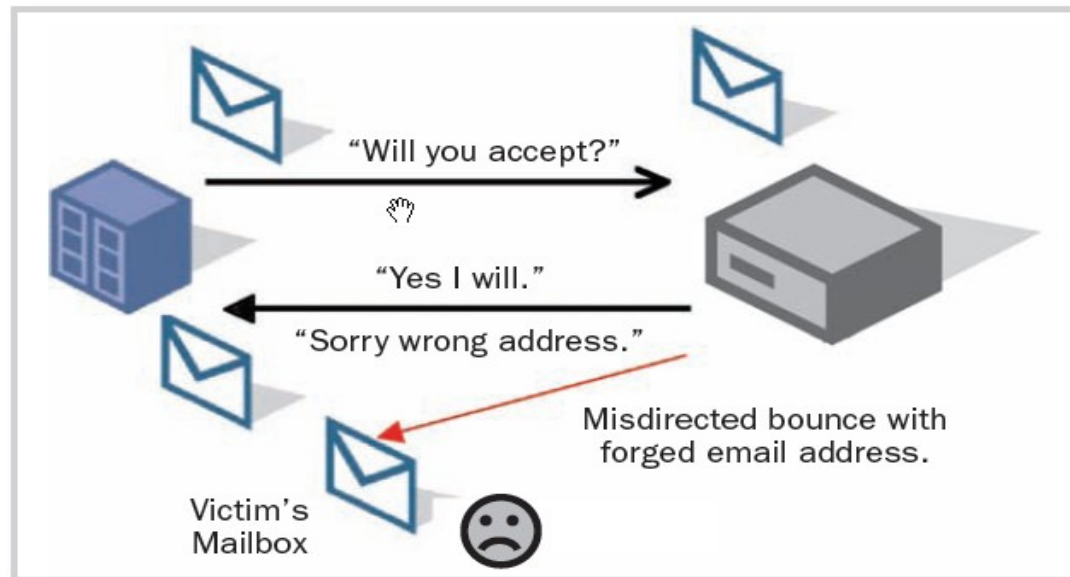
Spikes in URLs found in Emails

Good Reputation
+10

Poor Reputation
-10



Bounce DOS



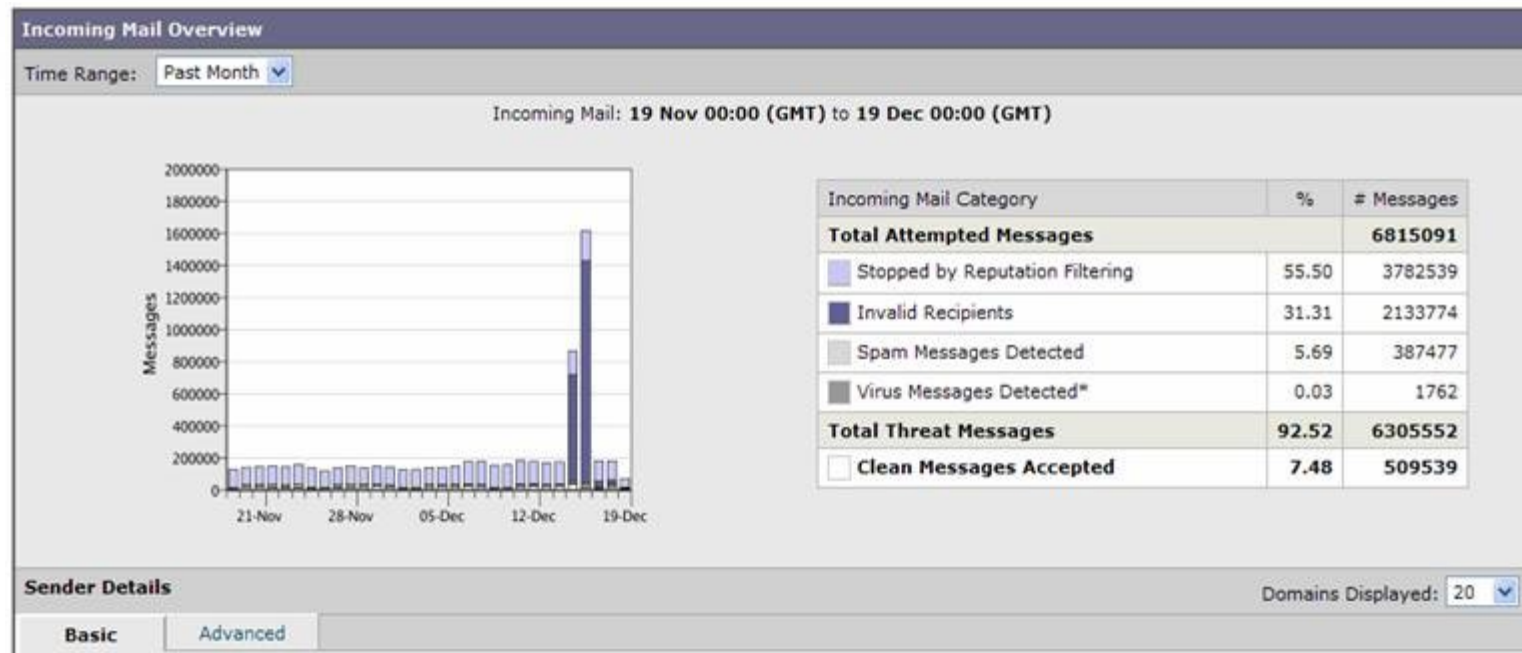
- Based on Bounce Address Tag Validation
- Proposed RFC

Envelope MAIL-FROM address changes so

'bob@from.com' becomes 'prvs=bob=385c70f2a@from.com'

Bounce Address Tag Validation

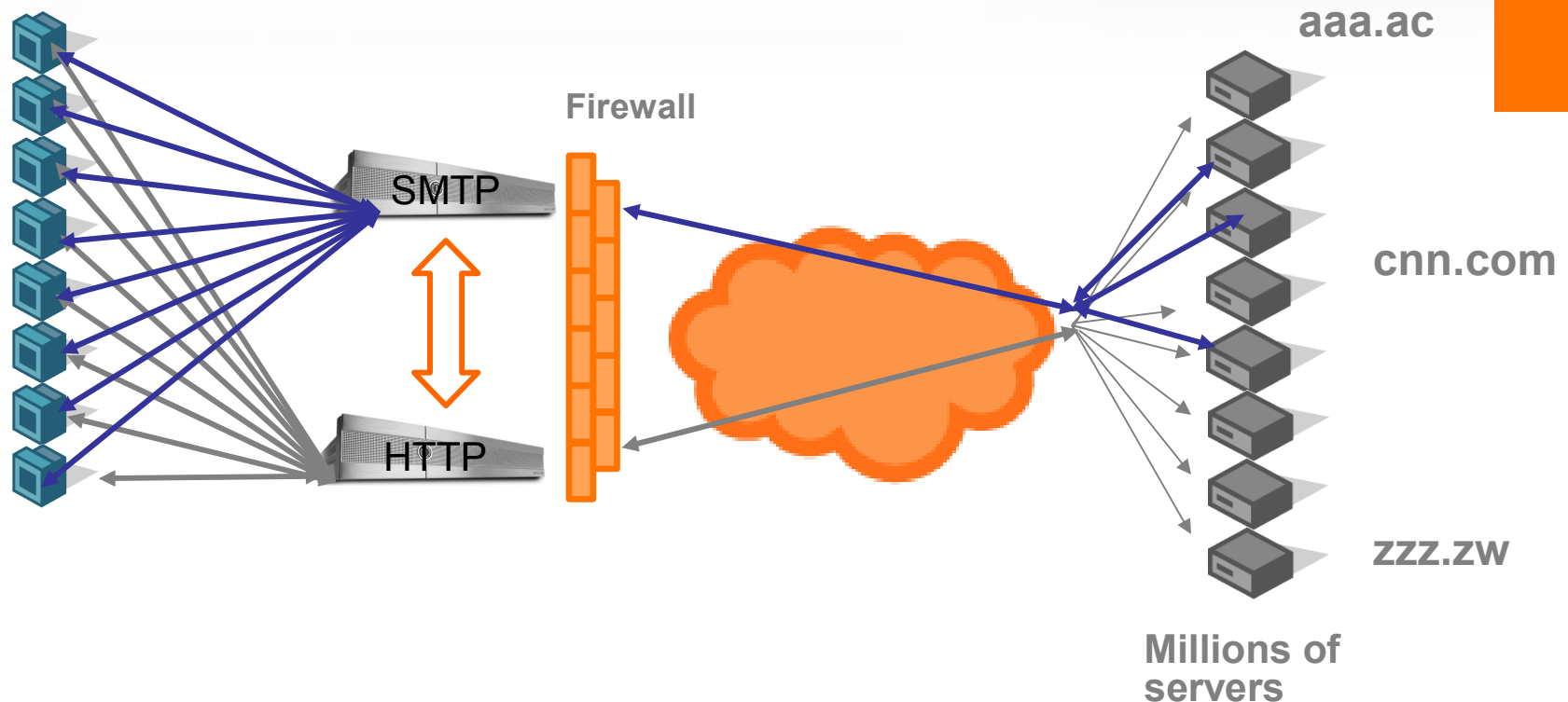
Bounce DOS Protection



Rebuilding Trust in Email



Step1# Email and Web internet gateways must share predicates to secure against evolving threats



Phishing
URLs & Domains

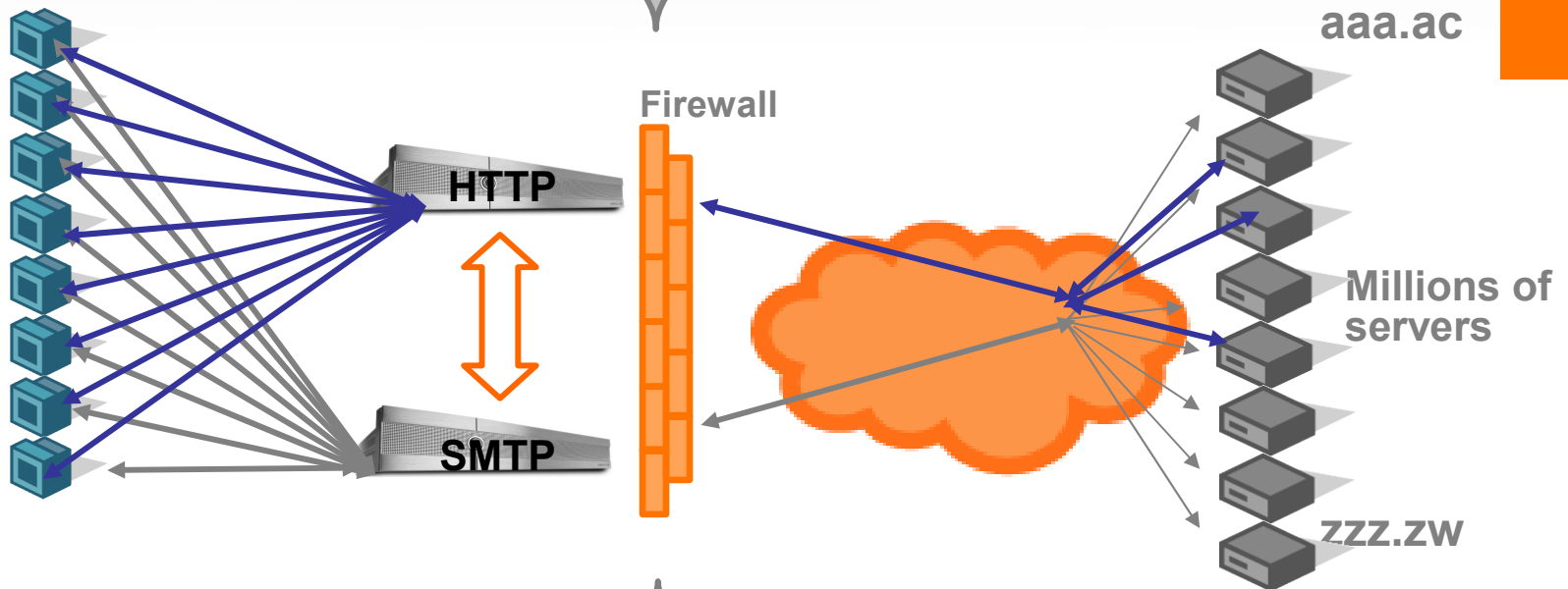
Malware
URLs & Domains

Malware CLSIDs

Malware Binaries,
Short checksums

Malware
User Agents

Broad Set of Anti-Malware Predicates



Broad set of AntiSpam Predicates

SpamTraps

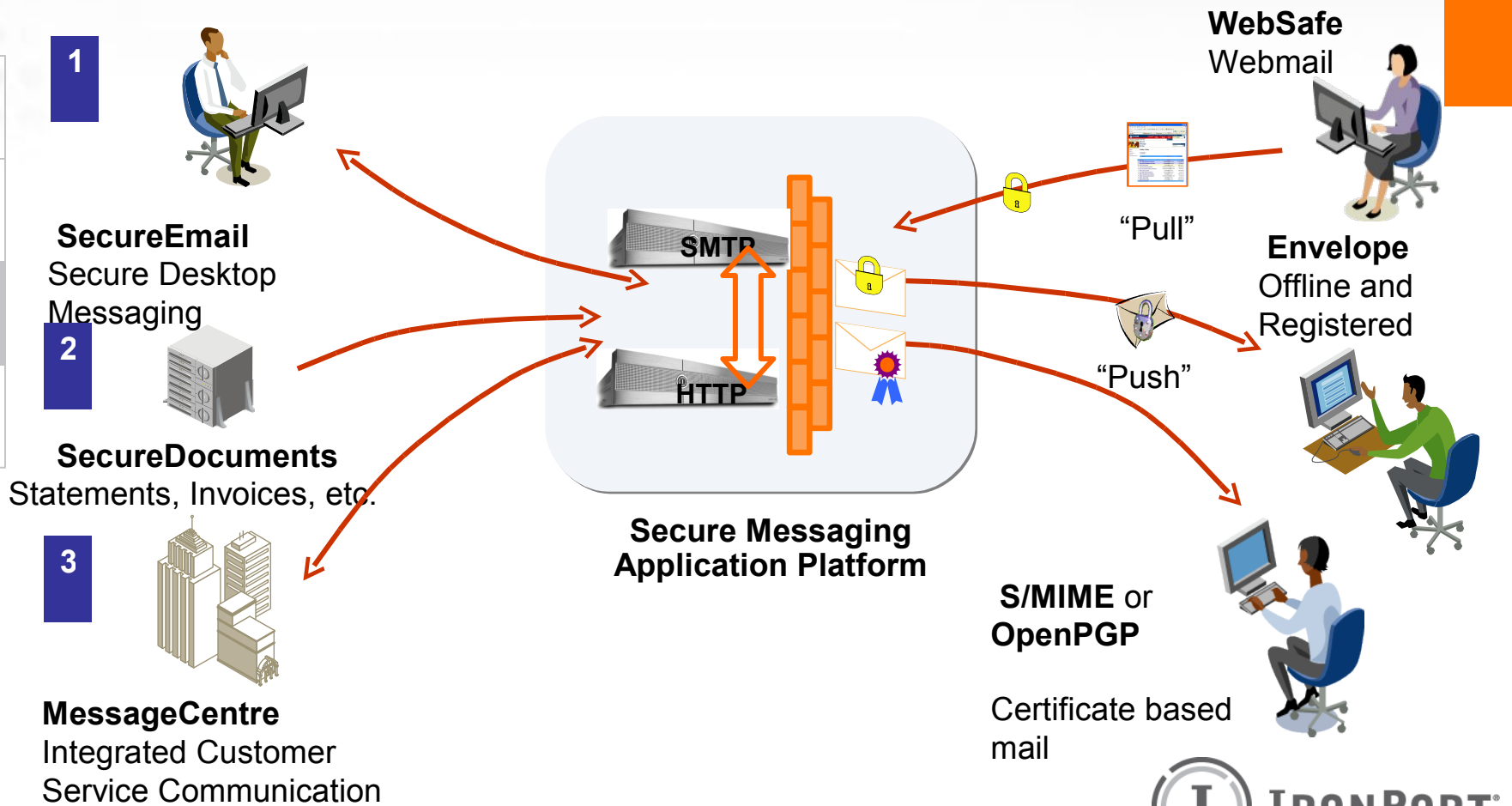
Complaint
Reports

Message
Composition

White/Blacklists

Volume

Step2# Establish encrypted email applications



Without the need for Client software for any mail platform

Steps 1&2 address Business needs and concerns



- Businesses rely on electronic communications for many of their business processes, however...
 - Concerns about security, especially B→C and B→B



- Legislation and regulations impose tighter regimes for information security and governance
 - Data Protection Act, ISO17799, Sarbanes-Oxley, ...



- Businesses can see efficiency savings and new business and revenue opportunities
 - Statements – 60p (paper) vs. 5p (electronic)
 - Customer service - £2.60 (call centre) vs. 6p (email)



January 31, 2004
5:57:34 PM PST

To: **luke@postx.com**

Password:

Open

POSTX
POWERED

citibank 花旗信用卡月結單

- Payment mode/Information
- Marketing Message/ Link
- Term and Condition linkage
- Customer Service
- Your statement



Your statement

119
 台北市信義區基隆路1段159號5樓之1
 李達夫 先生/小姐
 0287871315
 0000062256620220
 花旗VISA透明卡
 4563188400187203

本期應付總帳單	25,300
最低應繳金額	5,000
繳款截止日	12/25/03

信用額度: 80,000
 結帳日: 2003/12/8

Account activity

簽帳日	入帳日	消費類型	說明	金額
			上期應付帳款	94,568
11/15	11/16		謝謝您! 提款機付款(郵局繳款)已入帳	- 1000X
11/22	11/23		主卡會員年費	1000X
11/22	11/26		自動轉帳付款-花旗銀行	1000X
11/25	11/29		利息費用	1000X
			小計	1000X
11/15	11/16	郵購直銷	代繳電話費	1000X
11/22	11/23	郵購直銷	代繳電費	1000X
11/22	11/26	郵購直銷	代繳水費	1000X
11/25	11/29	一般商品	東森得易購股份-分期本金第1期/共12期	1000X
			這是您的主卡1000X-1000X-1000X-1000X新增消費	1000X

https://messagecenter.chase.com - Secure Message Center - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Secure Message Center

Help | Close window

Inbox

Select All

Delete Selected

Move selected to folder



Go

Send Message

Folders:

- [Inbox \(1 new\)](#)
- [Sent Messages \(5\)](#)
- [Draft Messages \(0\)](#)
- [Special Offers \(0\)](#)
- [Disputed Charge \(0\)](#)
- [Deleted Messages \(0\)](#)

Add/Manage Folders

Hot Tips

Messages will be removed 90 days from the day they are received.

Name of Sender

Subject

Date

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card Support	Re: Payment Inquiry	05/08
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card Support	Message Acknowledgement	05/08
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card Support	Re: Other/Inquiry Not Listed	04/12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card Support	Re: Fees/Finance Charges	04/11

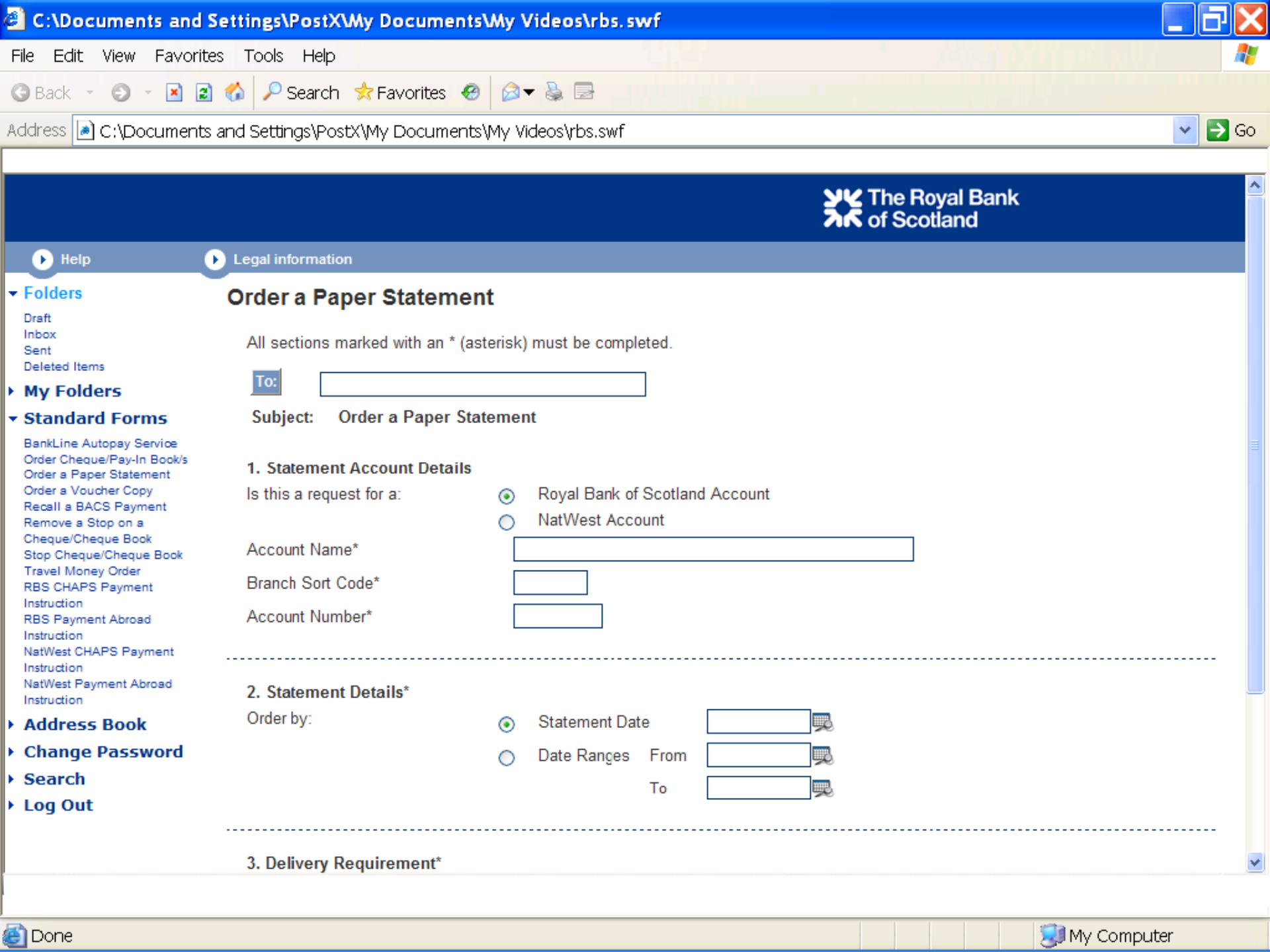
Legend: New Read Soon to be removed System notice

Done



Internet

Customer Center





From: dr.heart@privatepractice.postx.com
To: patient@postx.com
Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2005 14:01:13 -0800
Subject: Appointment Reminder

Secure Reply

Dear Judith Smith --

You are currently scheduled to see Dr. Jones on Friday, May 14, 2004 at 2:00pm.

If you need to reschedule this appointment, please call 123-4567, or you may respond securely to this email using the 'Secure Reply' button at the top of this page.

Regards,

Jane Allen
Administrator

PostX Secured Email



A New Class Of Email Emerges

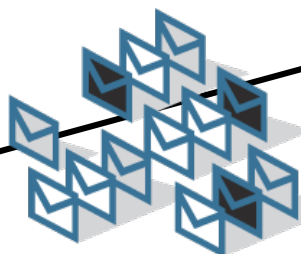
Secure, Authenticated, Business Class Mail



Trusted Sender



Unknown Sender



+ DK Authentication
+ Encryption
+ Positive Reputation
Reliable, unrestricted service

- Unwilling to authenticate
or encrypt
Service restrictions and filtering

Questions

Thank You

James Todd
Technical Manager
IronPort Systems
james@ironport.com

