



# Spam and its Prevention

Spam floods the internet with countless copies of the same message in the hopes that someone receiving the message will buy something. The problem is someone sending spam can send millions of emails for almost no cost. Because of this, many people get flooded at work and at home with hundreds of unwanted mail. This can pose a problem in businesses where the employees are constantly having to delete these messages and can be offended by their content. Because of the disruption caused by spam, we recommend that all of our clients take steps to prevent it. It is important while preventing spam to make sure that you only block spam and that you do not block legitimate email messages.

The best way to prevent spam is before it ever

reaches the user. If spam is stopped by your email server then your employees will never have to deal with the messages themselves. If you have a server that hosts your own email then it can be as simple as installing anti-spam software on the



server. If you use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to host your email it might only require changing a setting or making a phone call, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> party may not have spam-blocking functions; and if they do, you would likely have very little control over it.

If you do have your own email server, we recom-

mend specific anti-spam software that we have found to be effective. It uses a large database that is constantly being updated with the addresses of the companies that send spam. When your server receives a message that it perceives as spam, it will put that message in a spam or junk folder, or it can just delete the message.

If your email is being hosted by another company, there may be settings on their server that we can help alter to prevent spam. If your hosting company has poor anti-spam filtering it would be a good idea to have us call them so they know how important it is for your company not to be getting these messages. If they can not offer proper protection it might be a good idea to find a new email hosting company or to host your own email.

## TAKE \$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ FROM M&H CONSULTING

Refer a new client to M&H Consulting and mention this offer to us, and you will receive \$250 cash or \$500 off your next M&H invoice. Call for details.

## The Importance of Regular Maintenance

For most businesses these days, computers are an integral part of day to day operation. Even your local neighborhood bakery has at least one. However, how can you make sure that the computers are going to work as efficiently as possible for as long as possible? Regular maintenance.

Maintenance encompasses many things. For a workstation, this may include performing a tune-up, cleaning out temporary files, and if necessary opening the case and blowing out any accumulated dust. This will help the computer run at its maximum potential and is the best way to avoid operating system issues and ensure prolonged hardware life. For businesses that have a server as part of their network, maintenance would also include checking backup logs, making sure backups occurred properly, and checking key components to ensure proper operation. This is a very general explanation of maintenance – most plans are customized based on individual needs.

The benefits of this are numerous. By having a qualified technician on site on a regular basis, any potential problems could be seen ahead of time, so they can be fixed in a timely manner and not disrupt business. Also, hardware will generally last longer. Many of the problems computer users face however, are caused by faulty software. Over time, the operating system may not be updated with the latest patches and updates, and files that no longer need to be on the machine can cause issues with system resources, and at a minimum affect per-

formance. Regular maintenance will help take care of this. It's like getting a tune-up for your car. After a while of use, the oil needs to be changed in order to properly lubricate the engine. The same can be said for your computer.

By having the computers worked on regularly, the common problems that plague businesses can be avoided. Computers and the data they hold will last longer, and the possibility of a hardware failure that will cost both time and money will be greatly reduced.



"My screen keeps freezing."