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## **I Think I've Become A Spam Addict**

**By Stupidman**

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I THINK I'VE BECOME A SPAM ADDICT

I recently wrote an article, "5 Reasons Why You Should Post A Free Classified Ad" and have received a lot of positive feedback about the article but nobody said anything nice about the spamsters.

I tried to imagine what the Internet would be like without spam and concluded my life would be negatively impacted by it's absence.

Most of the spam I get is funny. Ridiculous claims, poor syntax and bad spelling seem to be the constants. Sometimes when I try to reply to their scheme I am told by the server that they have been shut down. These pathetic souls are promoting something that is, at least temporarily, out of business. They cite U.S. House and Senate bills that died in session as evidence they are not spamsters. I have actually been advised that unsolicited bulk email is not spam.

When I check my email and find no new messages it's a let down. I feel unpopular, unloved. If it's a slow day and

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all I have is a little spam I read it. It's pretty obvious these front line spammers have been taken in by the slick website that provides a bundle of services for a fee which includes "blasting" a pitch to millions of "opt in" email addresses. I feel better just knowing there is somebody dumber than Stupidman. They're so dumb they probably don't know they're spamming plus they paid for the privilege.

I used to save the "Nigerian" letters that arrived by snail mail. The stamps were pretty and there was some variation in the story line. Visitors that came to my office were amused by my collection and often requested copies. I received a Nigerian email a couple of weeks ago that was sent from a Yahoo! account.

What a pleasant, nostalgic experience. The poor grammar, their admission of stealing \$70,000,000 from the Nigerian government (death sentence ?), offering me 30% to committ

a federal crime by laundering the money. All I had to do was provide them with the information necessary to raid my bank account and steal my identity. Sure it was spam, but it was entertaining. The Yahoo! account made me suspicious that this might be a "fake" Nigerian scheme. I hope not, as I thought it was uplifting to know that the Nigerians were using the Internet to improve their economy.

I've even received some educational spam. Got a long chain letter scheme in Spanish (or Spammish as it is referred to in the Stupidman household). It became a project for my son, Greased Lightning, and me to translate. As he'll be taking Spanish II next year this was a worthwhile family project. He even enjoyed it.

I don't like receiving the porn spam. It might be okay if I was single but I'm not. I worry that I'll be accused by The Boss, Mrs. Stupidman, or the kids of being a porn addict. (It's bad enough being a spam addict.) All I can do is delete it. On the rare occasions when they offer an "unsubscribe" you have to do it at a website. That sounds like a good way to get on even more porn lists.

If you are viewing an empty mail box and missing out on the rich, cultural experiences like the Nigerian letter and Spammish email, it may not be because you are unpopular.

It's probably due to your spam filters. Turn them off, have some fun and read the spam.

Stupidman, Internet Guru Trainee. Doesn't that say it all.

## **A Quick Look At Email Spam Filters**

**By Oliver Turner**

You must be eagerly finding for a way out to stop receiving Spam mails in your inbox. Take a quick look at email spam filters to get some idea on how to check spam. There are a number of email spam filters that you can use in your computer. For official purposes, you have anti server software spam where the spam filter is located in the server level to trap all email spam. They prevent them from reaching your inbox. The email spasm not only slows down the performance of the server, but also occupies a lot of storage space. Emails are the easiest and the best way for these viruses to spread.

### Working of Spam Filters

Anti spam software and anti spam solutions are essential to aid you in getting a clean inbox. The server spam filter or anti spam server is a software application that scans all the incoming email messages. With the help of their configuration, they identify Spam and prevent them from reaching your inbox. The spam mails not only eats away the storage space and make selecting your personal emails difficult, they also can contain viruses. Using anti spam filters is necessary as it saves both your time and money. But even when you are using anti spam filters, it is recommended to check the messages just to make sure that no personal message has been marked as spam. Even the server spam filters marks email as "false positive" to those that are identified as spam, but in reality they are valid messages. There are various anti spam programs that identifies Spam and sends it to the junk mail folder.

Not all spam filters work in the same way. Some of them are pre programmed where the know spammers are inserted. They accordingly block them. Some of the programs filter the emails based on the keywords used in the mails. Some of the email spam filters are configured and you can easily customize it or the network administrator can also customize it according to the requirement of the company.

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