Decreasing SPAM Email
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Background
There are multiple levels of SPAM detection and subsequent blocking in place for University (ut.edu) email. However, the prevention of SPAM will always be behind the curve as new and more inventive ways to send SPAM email are continuously created. Therefore, SPAM cannot be completely eliminated using current techniques and blocking filters available.

Level 1 – Blocking SPAM at the University Level using Barracuda SPAM Filters
All incoming ut.edu email is passed through one of two University SPAM filters. Each SPAM filter has a capacity of processing up to 64,000 emails per hour (64,000 x 2 = 128,000 per hour). During peak SPAM attack periods these capacities have been reached and even exceeded causing email processing to slow so a third SPAM filter will be installed prior to the startup of the fall 2007 term. Average daily email received by the University is between 200,000 and 300,000. The Barracuda SPAM filters use a number of methods to block SPAM as follows.

A. Register of Known SPAM Operations
There are organizations whose sole purpose is to keep databases of known SPAM sites. Each day the University Barracuda SPAM filters automatically check with the most prominent of these, such as Spamhaus.org and RBL (Real-time Blackhole List), for an updated list of sites sending SPAM. These SPAM sites are added to The University’s SPAM Blacklist. Email received from Blacklisted sites is blocked by the Barracuda SPAM filters and never received by the individual user.

B. SPAM Blacklist
In addition to sites automatically added to the University’s SPAM Blacklist for automatic updates as mentioned in “A” above, sites can be manually added by the University. You can call the IT Help Desk at ext. 6293 to “Blacklist” sites. This should be done with caution as no email from a blacklisted site will be allowed through the SPAM filter and therefore will never be seen by intended recipients.

C. SPAM Whitelist
Sites can be added to a Whitelist for the University. When a site is Whitelisted all email from that site will be allowed to pass through the SPAM filter. This, in essence opens a hole for SPAM to come through. Spammers try to use Whitelists to their advantage, therefore, the University whitelist should include as few sites as possible.

D. Individual Barracuda Accounts
Currently on a very limited basis, additional Barracuda SPAM filtering can be managed by an individual email user. For assistance and specific instructions, please contact the IT Helpdesk.
**Level 2 – Blocking Unwanted Email From Your Individual Inbox using Microsoft Outlook**

SPAM can be also be blocked from your inbox on an individual basis you use Microsoft Outlook to manage your email.

While logged on to Outlook

- Right-click the email and choose Junk E-Mail from the menu.
- Choose Add Sender to Blocked Senders List.

**SPAM vs. Email viruses or Worms**

Not all unwanted email is SPAM. What may look like SPAM is sometimes really part of a worm. A worm is malicious code that sends emails out to all addresses in a user’s address book. More explanation....