

## Re: What is the best way to hide email addresses in a web site from SpamBots?

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2004-06/5042.html>

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**From:** clintonG (*csgallagher\_at\_REMOVETHISTEXT@metromilwaukee.com*)

**Date:** 06/22/04

Date: Tue, 22 Jun 2004 13:56:52 -0500

Using ISO-8859-1 encoding as the safemail.org sites generates is a sham. The site should be taken down as it is probably a phishing hole used to collect legitimate addresses from those who don't know any better.

How do I know this? I've developed encoding schemes myself (years ago) using Cold Fusion and ASP. I discovered that none of the browsers I tested with can parse the mailto: protocol handler if it was encoded. Thus, even scripts used by amateurs can find the mailto: and grab any characters that follow and simply decode them. Its a piece of cake.

Using JavaScript to build the address dynamically is also a sham that to my surprise is still being touted by developers that are supposed to know better. Let me make it clear:

TEXT EMBEDDED IN THE BODY OF A WEB PAGE IS INSECURE

The JavaScript method is easily foiled by anybody that has 'screen scraping' and 'regular expressions' scripts. Cheap Linux hack box harvesting farms can be built from old machines for what? Under \$100 a box if that?

At the moment, the only way to display an e-mail address in a web page 'securely' is to use an imaging methodology that requires a human operator to read something and/or interact with a form.

Still, that is not really 'secure' but is 'presumed' to be an effective defense as actually harvesting the address would require a human operator to see and manually record the addresses one at a time. So, this method is only as secure as the hassle factor allows.

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<%= Clinton Gallagher

A/E/C Consulting, Web Design, e-Commerce Software Development

Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin USA

NET csgallagher@REMOVETHISTEXT metromilwaukee.com

URL <http://www.metromilwaukee.com/clintongallagher/>

"Raterus" <raterus@spam.org> wrote in message

news:uzlf08GWEHA.2844@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

Here is one option

<http://www.safeemail.org/>

though I believe as spambots get smarter, they'll eventually catch on.

You could also look at javascript email cloakers, there are many out there.

Also you could always just use an image to display your email, but I'd follow this articles advice.

<http://www.15seconds.com/issue/040202.htm>

"Miguel Dias Moura" <web001@27NOSPAMlamps.com> wrote in message

news:%23JRngyGWEHA.4032@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...

> Hi,

>

> i have some email addresses in a web site of a client.

> Can you tell me what are the best ways to somehow hide the email addresses  
> from the SpamBots.

>

> Can you give the a list of:

> 1. What To Do

> 2. What Not To Do

>

> Thanks,

> Miguel

>

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