

Re: blocked by dnsbl.sorbs.net

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.admin/2006-11/msg02265.html>

- *From:* "Rich Matheisen [MVP]" <richnews@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 20 Nov 2006 20:40:07 -0500
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"Peter Lawton" <devnull@fakedomain> wrote:

That's the trade off with any spam filtering of course, if you get 1,000,000 email messages a year of which 700,000 are spam and 300,000 are legitimate you're never going to block all 700,000 spams with 0 false positives.

While that's true, the false positive rate on a good spam filter is way less than 1%. As he's discovering (and a lot of discovered long ago), a RBL can have a 100% false positive ratio for a particular IP address, and an overall false positive ratio measured in double digits.

A good enterprise spam filter (not one customized for an individual) will have a 2% to 5% false negative ratio. RBLs have about a 60% false negative ratio.

You need to tune your spam filtering to suit your particular needs, if you can't afford to block a single legitimate email message then you're probably not going to be able to block much spam either.

There are other alternatives to simply "blocking" an e-mail. The message can be quarantined (leaving it up to the recipient to decide what to do with it), or the message can be marked in some way so the user (or the users spam filter) can deal with it.

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Rich Matheisen
MCSE+I, Exchange MVP
MS Exchange FAQ at http://www.swinc.com/resource/exch_faq.htm
Don't send mail to this address <mailto:h.pott@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
Or to these, either: <mailto:h.pott@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> <mailto:melvin.mcphucknuckle@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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