

Relays Question

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We recently ran into a problem on our network with viruses. I believe it was a series of issues caused by our service provider. First, an Anti-Virus version update was botched and large number of systems were unprotected by AV. Second, the Firewall was configured so that anyone could send via port 25. Third, at the same time we opened relaying internally. Can't be sure, but I do not believe it was related to opening up relaying internally.

The question is, with the firewall configured so that only our Exchange server can use port 25 outgoing (connecting to another server in a DMZ to send the mail on), if we set up relaying so that computers on the inside of the network can use the Exchange server as an open relay – do we have anything to worry about?

The reason for the question is that we are implementing new software that is meant to work with any e-mail server and requires POP3 and SMTP. It requires that the workstations have the ability to use our mail server as a relay as well. My concern is that if we get hit with another virus, what will the outcome be? Are there any viruses setup to detect open relays on a network and use them? I am not an expert on this matter at all, but I have to believe the answer is yes there are viruses smart enough to detect and use an unspecified open relay... Thoughts?

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