

Re: Returning emails to sender

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Outlook/microsoft.public.outlook.general/2004-02/3113.html>

From: *Vanguard* (no-email_at_no-spam.invalid)

Date: 02/17/04

Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2004 23:37:17 -0600

"Gene" said in news:F2C5D67F-5012-4A7A-B2A9-BA9C5C064E1D@microsoft.com:

> ----- *Vanguard* wrote: -----

>

> "Gene" said in

> news:F1B33E35-CEA4-4955-96FD-F7315D4196BB@microsoft.com: > Is

> there a way in Outlook when you get unwanted mail that you can >

> have it automatically return the mail to the sender? Or can a

> rule be > writtne to do this?? >> Thanks

> >> Gene

>

> So you want to tell every spammer that they reach a valid and

> monitored e-mail address? Assuming that the return e-mail

> address is theirs instead of bogus? Assuming you think spammers

> don't hide to circumvent the retaliation from irate recipients?

>

> --

>

> *** Post replies to newsgroup. E-mail is not accepted. ***

>

>

> Even if you look at the headers that can be forged to??

Outlook has rules to look at only some of the headers (the ones the sender inserted into their message that is sent under the DATA command to their SMTP server). The spammer cannot alter the headers that get prepended by the SMTP server but they can try to fool you by inserting bogus Received header. Other than From, Subject, and basic sender-editable headers, Outlook cannot be told which specific headers to interrogate. It has a rule to check for message headers to contain some string but that doesn't specify which header has that string. You could enter "Received: ..." to try to have it interrogate the Received headers but unless the target string immediately following the header, as in "Received: ir2.motleyfool.com" so you could test on ir2.motleyfool.com being in the Received header, you can't find a string anywhere else in the header. And you don't get to specify which Received header to look in. Outlook's rule are very limited in what they will let you do, and none of them permit the use of regular expressions within a string.

Replying to wanted e-mail (presuming you have a means of determining such which you haven't specifically disclosed) with an auto-reply would be okay. Replying to "unwanted" e-mail (which you define) would NOT be wise if, for example, you were talking about spam. A pheasant hiding in the corn field stands a much better chance of not getting shot than one that gets flushed out and flies out into the open above the corn. Just hide by deleting the crap. Once you announce yourself to a spammer, you put yourself on their plate for them to poke at more often (because they now know the account is not only defined but is also monitored). Of course, if your intent it to actually get shot at more often (i.e., you're deliberately trying to run a spam trap), then go ahead and announce to the spammers that your e-mail account is actively monitored and they actually reached a valid account.

See the following article on how to make Outlook emulate an auto-respond server (but obviously Outlook has to be running to perform the action):

OL2002: How to Emulate the Out of Office Assistant
<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=311107>

Since part of this solution involves a rule, you could combine whatever rule you are now using to detect "unwanted" messages and incorporate it into this rule so it replies when the same condition(s) occur.

--

*** Post replies to newsgroup. E-mail is not accepted. ***
