

Re: SPF Records

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.dns/2006-04/msg00142.html>

- *From:* "Herb Martin" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 21 Apr 2006 09:02:49 -0500
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"Ace Fekay [MVP]"

<PleaseSubstituteMyActualFirstName&LastNameHere@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:OQ2ReKoPGHA.2912@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

In news:1141242510.442963.132960@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Carl R <carlrimmel@xxxxxxxxxxx> stated, which I commented on below: I found RFC 1035. I defines DNS RR types, but it didn't specifically mention length about any specific record, but it did say a "Name" can only be 255. The text data in a TXT is a "name" by it's definition, as I read from the article and noted below from RFC 1035:
<http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1035.html>

Maybe I can help.

If you write a TXT record (for SPF etc) that is too long (and I forget the actual limit but generally make it fit in the dialog width and you are ok) then you WILL get truncated behavior -- if not in the console itself, in the return value to client requests.

IF HOWEVER you (artificially) use your own line breaks it seems to work for most all purposes.

There are also absolute limits beyond which at least some clients and SPF processing software (that is common) will blow up on your records.

The following (rather long) record works -- it is LITERALLY 5 lines as shown:

```
v=spf1 ip4:64.202.167.0/24 ip4:64.202.189.0/24
ip4:64.202.166.0/24 ip4:64.202.165.0/24 ip4:64.202.163.0/24
ip4:68.178.144.60/31 include:in.spf.secureserver.net
include:spf.learnquick.com include:deleted.com
include:ak.learnquick.com ip4:68.178.144.167 -all
```

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2.3.4. Size limits

Various objects and parameters in the DNS have size limits. They are listed below. Some could be easily changed, others are more fundamental.

labels 63 octets or less

names 255 octets or less

TTL positive values of a signed 32 bit number.

UDP messages 512 octets or less
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John had a point earlier on about keeping response records less than 512, but that would be the total response of a query, meaning, if a query was for an MX record, all the MX records for a zone will be returned. Hotmail and Yahoo have over 512 in the response, but each record is barely a line long. In this case, the TXT record is just that, a record, and has limitations based on the RFC.

So, I would not bash Microsoft about this because they're just following the RFCs, as are other DNS vendors. So I think you were a little quick to point fingers without doing a little simple research on it to prove/disprove it.

Ace