

## Re: xp sp2

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-09/6955.html>

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**From:** cquirke (MVP Win9x) (*cquirkenews\_at\_nospam.mvps.org*)

**Date:** 09/05/04

Date: Sun, 05 Sep 2004 18:11:47 +0200

On Sat, 04 Sep 2004 15:01:34 -0700, Malke wrote:

>Davidem wrote:

>> *I have been getting about 4 times as much spam since loading sp2.*

>> *I'm using mailwasher, any ideas*

>*The amount of spam you get has nothing to do with Windows.*

The amount of spam sent to him, yes. The amount of spam he gets, that may be affected by SP2 if SP2 changes the way any spam-filtering software he uses might work. It's not an area I have much expertise.

(the amount of spam sent to you...)

>... *has to do with:*

>1. *Whether you ever posted your real, unmunged email address*  
(public address exposure)

>2. *Whether you ever had one of the many viruses*  
Malware generally, yes; some send info home, some forward mail, some provide interested parties with virtual mouse-and-keyboard (RATs)

>3. *Whether anyone you know well enough to have had your email address*  
Doesn't have to be "well", when crummy email apps automatically add addresses to the address book on every reply or send!

Addresses are also harvested:

- from mail stores, documents, can be any files on infected PC
- from the Internet
- by guessing, e.g. john1 + @ + somebigdomain.com
- by buying a spamfood CD full of addresses (archaic?)

>4. *Whether you ever replied to a spammer, even if it was to "opt out".*

At this point, it's worth mentioning some other verification traps:

- web-bugs, i.e. links to remote graphics in HTML "message text"
- helpful ISPs/mail services that bounce right-domain, no-address
- helpful ISPs/services that bounce infected mail for real addys

>*Spam is horrible and spammers should die horribly.*

I'm more merciful; I don't demand suffering, as long as they die :-)

Tips to limit email address visibility:

- stop your wretched email app auto-feeding your address book!
- use BCC: if sending "public" mail to multiple recipients
- strip addresses out of public posts and forwarded email
- use a throw-away alias for sites that demand an email address
- kill remote graphic download in email "message text"
- mung your email address when posting to public forums
- use alias for public forums and your web site's "mailto"

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"I think it's time we took our  
friendship to the next level"  
'What, gender roles and abuse?'

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