

SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, how to limit it?

Spam has become really popular for the last 2 or 3 years. This can be worst than your regular mail that arrives to your house. Some people would receive 50 or 100 spam email per day, and boy what type of email. It seems that everybody need to consolidate his credits, pay their mortgages, meet girls, or other that I won't name here.

There are some rules that may help you reduce your spam volume. This can be applied for Schlumberger or for your personal email account.

1) Separate email addresses! (One for Junk, one for Real People)

So the first idea is to use an email address that will be used to communicate with friends, business related, legitimate talks. That's the email you will check everyday. Don't use it for none physical people, ask your correspondent to avoid sending you gift cards, hallmark cards to that email address.

Then use a different email address for all the commercial websites, registrations, etc. Open a free account on yahoo.com or hotmail.com. Ask to receive hallmark cards and other generated website that offers free stuff (but harvest email to sell them). This email can be checked only once per week.

2) When you register on website, be very careful!

On commercial website you will nearly always have a box (automatically checked) that says: "Do you want to receive future, updates, product announcements, etc.". This is to say, "Hey, can we sell your address to advertising companies that harvest lists?"

3) If you get caught by spam, Play Dead!

Once you start receiving spam, don't jump on the "unregister me" button or link. This is 75% of the cases used to identify your address as a valid address. And of course that valid email will be sold at a higher price to mailing lists! Don't give them that pleasure. Play Dead, don't reply, don't click on the link, trash the email.

4) If you receive too much spam, what to do?

Change your email address and notify your buddies. Apply rules 1 to 3.

5) Don't trust commercial people, don't give your valid email

On the phone avoid giving your valid email address or your alias@slb.com address. This commercial people will spam you with advertisement. Give then your "spam" account if you need to.

At home, how to handle the spam?

Some applications will help you filtering spam. For a while we could identify addresses from which spam would come and block them. But lately these addresses or domains change for each send. So software like Eudora 6.x will learn your correspondents' addresses and consider each new address that comes to you as potential spam. After a learning process, this software starts to be accurate at 80 or 90%. If you want to try such software go to www.eudora.com and get the free version for home use.

The Best Palm Pilot, no need for batteries, never crashes!

From time to time you may need some vital information, like bank accounts, credit card numbers, emergency phone numbers, taxi numbers, social security numbers, etc. If you look at your wallet, it is already exploding from cards, papers, and doesn't even fit in your pocket or your purse. So you went to that nice little Palm pilot, but you find out that it runs out of battery just when you need that vital information.

Why not having all you need on a business size piece of paper that will fit in your wallet. Go to Excel, put all these information, shrink it and print it so it fits on a business card.

Unsecured you would say? Just scramble it a little bit. Don't put on the same line the full bank number or credit card number. Use permutation or use fake phone number to hold the remaining credit card number. One phone number will have the 4 last digit of your card number, or the verification code. That should be enough to stop the most common thieves in case they get hold of your cheat sheet.