



BACKSCATTER



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Many people are complaining about the number of bounce back email messages they receive in their inbox for email messages they never sent. The problem is known as backscatter and it is caused when spammers use your email address to send to an email recipient whose email address is no longer valid. The result is the email server bounces the message back to the original sender, which is falsely you. In addition, to spam email, backscatter can be used to maliciously attack servers with Trojans or mount Denial of Service (DOS) attacks against an organization's email server.

Backscatter is extremely difficult to filter out. If the message contains information that an email security device can filter out then it is dealt with. On the other hand if the message is generic in nature then it will bounce back into your inbox.

In order to have a significant impact on backscatter business all over the world would have to configure their email servers to stop bouncing back email messages for recipients whose email address no longer exists. AOL has taken steps for this, however most organizations are unwilling to make the changes to their email server configurations because it is important to notify an end-user in their organization of legitimate email messages that were not successfully delivered.

There are a couple of email standards that can help deal with the problem; however they have disadvantages associated with them as well. Also not all email servers can be configured to support these standards. They are known as Variable Envelope Return Path (VERP) and Bounce Address Tag Validation (BATV). BATV can be used to determine the validity of the email address being bounced back, because all legitimate email messages originating from your organization are authorized by the email server before it sends them. Thus bounce back messages that were not authorized and bounce back are eliminated. There are disadvantages with these standards as well. For example, using VERP, your email server load can increase significantly because every single email message leaving the organization has to be sent individually as opposed to many emails being grouped into one transaction.

The best action for you to take is to treat the message as malicious and permanently delete it just as you would any other questionable message that hits your inbox.

About Us

Centuric offers a comprehensive suite of products and services tailored to address the complex issues facing businesses today. Some of our main areas of expertise include Network Support Consulting Services, STORServer® Managed Data Services, Infrastructure Buildout and De Novo Services.

Centuric offers great value to its clients. In business since 2001, we employ a highly credentialed staff of professionals who deliver exceptional client service. Our company is nimble enough to react quickly to market changes, and we use the latest proven technologies. We have extensive regulatory compliance expertise. We also offer options for no capital expenditures through our managed services solutions. And our dedicated support and Help Desk personnel are always available to assist our clients.

For these reasons – and more – the 2008 South Florida Business Journal recently honored Centuric with a listing in four of its “Top 25” categories:

- Fastest Growing Private Companies
- Fastest-Growing Technology Companies
- Largest IT Consultant Firms
- Largest Computer Networking Companies

Centuric uses a federally recognized standard methodology to help our clients meet compliance and mitigate security risks. We have staff certified by the National Security Agency (<http://www.nsa.gov/>) utilizing INFOSEC Assessment Methodology (IAM). Our enhanced IAM methodology encompasses the GLBA requirements as well as the responsibility to protect institutional information and systems infrastructure.

Our Mission Statement

Centuric is focused on improving our clients’ business performance by providing technology solutions. Our core portfolio comprises on-site and remote support, managed services, systems integration and business applications. Our purpose and passion is to provide signature service that consistently exceeds client expectations.

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