

I believe in both legal and technological measures.

in reading the papers, I realise there are two motivations

- 1) to allow e-commerce to flourish
- 2) to prevent the email system from being hijacked and exploited by bulk mailers

a) email must be identifiable and addresses must not be spoofed.
b) the subject matter besides containing [adv] should contain eg:
[adv-pharmaceutical], [adv-sexuallyexplicit] [adv-itproducts]
[adv-consumertelecoms] [adv-bankmortgage] etc the full listing of which should be defined by the IDA, this allows spam filters to easily block those that are complete annoyances over those that are actually welcomed

The subject matter should also not be mangled to avoid spam filters: eg: the use of ci@l.i.s and cialis etc..

c) the opt out mechanism is TOTALLY USELESS, we are taught that to click on any opt out mechanism is to verify with the spammers that your address is a legitimate address which will eventually lead to your email address being resold. The opt in mechanism is also nearly useless since it will allow any spammer to acquire a nice list of valid email addresses, furthermore, outlaws will ignore these, after all these are very same people that will spoof the emails or use zombied home computers as a distributed bulk mailing system.

d) Legal measures must be enforceable by the public, maybe a simple claim with the small claims tribunal with the copy of the message and email headers. it must be actionable that legal measures can and be taken over the person SELLING the product , (as opposed to the person mailing the product information), we have to stop spam at the source.

perhaps by forwarding the mail to the IDA, ida will have an automated inbox address that will attempt the discovery of the person doing the mailing etc and provide the relevant papers that can act as authoritative papers for filing a legal action. (pretty much like spamcop's output)

all bulk mailing from singapore companies must contain both the ROC number of the bulk mailer and the ROC number of the company offering the product

e) with regards to foreign mail. it has to be a cooperative effort (that isn't a paid effort)

1) all email incoming from overseas to the main ISP's (singtel,starhub, pacnet, qala, lga etc) must be filtered at the server's SMTP server to best effort (except where mail is properly labeled in portion b and with non spoofed addresses). obvious virus mail must be blocked at the isp (eg: netsky) gateway. as are RNDR messages.

2) all ISPs should block port 25 so that domestic users cannot use the SMTP protocol without a formal application (which should be granted automatically), this is to prevent domestic pc's that are not patched with antiviral measures from being taken hijacked by trojans and turned into a spamming zombie.

3) all isps should ensure that their commercial customers MX entries have an appropriate RMX entry (or SPF)

4) all isps should try to encourage means to prevent RNDR attacks and Spam Bombing.

5) ISP's should be granted the right to perform an internal network scan of their customers for compromised pcs. the IP address range doing the scanning should be publicised so that security conscious people can be aware that it is a benign scan and not an attack. any compromised pcs should have the customer informed by email and then two weeks later their connection should

be suspended while customer service performs a clean up action for them at customer cost if the customer choose's too.

6) demand that all antivirus products (norton,clearsweep,mcafee etc) and smtp servers (ms exchange etc) sold in singapore follow a standard template for NDR messages. this allows corporate isps to block them with standard commercial filters (thus preventing RNDR attacks) rather than having to customise a template for every single variant of program.

7) it is also technologically capable that NDR messages arising out of an outgoing message from that mail server be allowed to bypass the above filters based on timestamp and messageid values, thus legitimate NDR messages are accepted while RNDR attacks are denied.

--

the point is that we need to demonstrate that we can keep our internal networks clean, and thus lead the way that if everyone kept their networks clean , mail would no longer be the spewing

thank you
Chris Low