

URGENT petition against Opt-OUT clause.

Hi all,

Just read (from Straits Times forum) about a new proposed legislation by Singapore's IDA, which includes a clause to opt-OUT of receiving unsolicited commercial email. In other words, commercial spammers will be legally allowed to FLOOD your inboxes as long as they include a link to 'unsubscribe'. <= Please think for a moment: Can you imagine the consequences of that? Just allowing spam to be sent would already have inconvenienced us, because we have to sort & delete the spam mail & manually click on 'unsubscribe' links (worse yet if the links do not work)!

The deadline for the public to voice their opinion is 26 July 2004, 12 noon (S'pore time). If you would prefer to have an 'opt-IN' instead of 'opt-OUT' policy, so as to advocate a tougher stance AGAINST unsolicited commercial email spam, please take a moment to send an email stating your opinion, to:

[antispam\\_submissions@ida.gov.sg](mailto:antispam_submissions@ida.gov.sg) (Pls note: there is an 'underscore' between the words 'antispam' & 'submissions').

Here's my take: Why support an ineffective policy that waits until we have become victims of spam before we can seek legal redress? Why not implement an 'opt-IN' policy (the system used in Australia & UK) that instead prevents spam? Give consumers the FREEDOM OF CHOICE to decide if they wish to receive such advertising.

Sincerely,

Sharon

Straits Times Forum: 25 July 2004

Opt out of proposed law

MANY Singaporeans are probably unaware that a new law proposed for the control of e-mail spam suggests an opt-out regime.

This would allow marketers to legally send promotional e-mail messages or subscribe anyone to its mailing list without first seeking consent from the Internet user so long as they provide an option for removal from the list or to unsubscribe.

However, this approach may not be a foolproof method of getting rid of spam. Many would have realised by now that a request to unsubscribe from a list just confirms the validity of an e-mail address and may lead to further spamming.

Singaporeans appear to be largely silent on the subject of the proposed legislation. But the deadline for sending in comments on the legislation is noon tomorrow.

EDMOND NG CHOON CHAI

Spam not the way to boost e-commerce

I AM a little different from most normal users of e-mail and the Internet. I don't consider myself a tech nerd or anything like that.

But I do know one thing: I disagree strongly with the proposed opt-out law for spam ('Fighting spam: Opting out is in'; ST, June 23).

Here are some points I would like to raise:

- Don't the problems really start with spammers getting a 'hit' once an e-mail message they sent is opened?
- Isn't time and money already wasted every day just on deleting spam?
- Won't more time and money have to be spent in answering such messages to get yourself off the mailing lists of those sending spam? (Not forgetting the server space required to sustain such traffic.)
- How many people have had to change their e-mail accounts as a last resort because of the innumerable messages they receive? And this is not a permanent solution either.
- Why do we have to wait for the United States to take stronger action against spam before following suit?

Pushing for an opt-in option may not do much yet but it will show that Singapore takes a tough stance against spammers.

Providing an opt-in option also allows users – who are, after all, the ones paying for Internet usage - the freedom of choosing which lists they would like to be on.

There are ways of promoting e-commerce advertising; spamming is not the right way.

ALVIN LIM SOO YONG

I am a 20 year old male currently serving as a NSF in the SAF. As such, I usually check my mailbox only once or twice a week. Each time my mailbox would be flooded by up to 300 mails at once, of which 95% would be spam. I have tried unsuccessfully several times to unsubscribe to the advertisers, but each time it only served to bring even more spam into my mailbox.

I strongly agree with the views and comments of various Singaporeans above. I wish to reiterate my wish that an op-IN instead of a op-OUT policy be put in place by the IDA. As the IT hub in the region, Singapore should present an antispam stand and thus serve as an exemplary model

in e commerce. I hope that the IDA would reconsider it's op-OUT policy and the repercussions on Singapore's IT culture.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Eric Tai