



FCC Computer Security Notice



MAY 2002

E-MAIL SPAM

From time to time you may receive electronic mail Spam, or junk e-mail. Junk e-mail and e-mail Spam are both terms for advertising and e-mail sent to you which you did not ask for or did not want. These types of unsolicited e-mails include: chain letters, pyramid schemes, requests for financial support and even invitations to visit pornographic web sites.

There are a variety of different options to consider when you receive such unwanted, unsolicited e-messages.

First, *never* reply to e-mail Spam, even if it is to send a "remove" request. You should simply delete unwanted e-mail traffic. Most e-mail Spammers ignore your response, or worse, they add you to their validated e-mail address lists. Some Spammers are known to sell or share their validated e-mail lists for others to use.

Another alternative to consider if you continue to

receive the same message from the same person or with the exact same subject line is to contact the FCC Computer Resource Center at (202) 418-1200 to assist in creating a GroupWise rule to block [or auto-delete] recurring e-mail Spam.



Accessing pornographic material, sending chain letters and forwarding pyramid schemes is prohibited over FCC computer systems. As important, transmitting such types of e-mail Spam over the Internet may be illegal.

As previously discussed, your best defense is not to respond to unsolicited e-mail Spam, but simply delete these messages.

COMPUTER SECURITY TIP OF THE MONTH:

MAKE SURE TO INSTALL VIRUS SCANNING SOFTWARE ON YOUR LAPTOP AND HOME COMPUTER AND KEEP VIRUS SCANNING DEFINITION FILES UP TO DATE.

OTHER SITES THAT CONTAIN E-MAIL SPAM INFORMATION

- What is e-mail Spam? <http://spam.abuse.net/overview/whatisspam.shtml>
- Why is e-mail Spam bad? <http://spam.abuse.net/overview/spambad.shtml>
- US Postal Inspection Service notice on chain letters: <http://www.usps.gov/websites/depart/inspect/chainlet.htm>
- Federal Trade Commission Guide to dealing with e-mail Spam: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/spam/>
- You can also reference additional information on the FCC Computer Security Program at: <http://intranet.fcc.gov/omd/itc/csg/index.html>

NOTE FROM THE FCC COMPUTER SECURITY OFFICER

I anticipate publishing a monthly Computer Security Notice to highlight and educate FCC computer users on a variety of different topics. The topics range from virus prevention and management, protecting files on your computer both at work and at home, e-mail security, using your PDA securely and password protecting files on your removable media, i.e., diskette or CD-Rom. As needed, I will publish more than one notice per month. Your comments and feedback on these notices is greatly appreciated.