

Re: Fully spam/virus filtered mail, and reliable outbound relay

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From: Frank Hahn (*fhahnisfake_at_yahoo.com.invalid*)

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On 6 Jun 2004 22:24:30 GMT, Jem Berkes <jb@users.pc9.org> wrote:

- > *I am considering offering email services from my servers at pc9.org.*
- > *This might be of interest to people who are dissatisfied with their*
- > *ISP's mail services -- too slow/unreliable, trouble sending mail due*
- > *to ISP being listed on spam blocklists, or too many viruses/sending*
- > *being received.*
- >

[snipped]

- > *If you want to try out the mail services there is currently NO COST*
- > *during this testing phase. Contact jb@users.pc9.org (accounts will*
- > *not be given to everyone). The account will cost you nothing until*
- > *June 30. After that, fees will likely be \$5/month for an account.*
- >
- > *Here is what I currently offer:*
- > *+ POP3 mailbox (over SSL only), 20 MByte storage*
- > *+ Authenticated SMTP for relaying (over SSL only), small volumes only*
- > *+ SpamProbe or SpamBayes trainable spam filter, through a web interface.*
- > *This way, you configure your own account to eliminate what you consider*
- > *spam. Honestly, this is the most powerful spam filtering technology*
- > *available today. After 50 - 100 messages of manual training, the filter*
- > *can automatically differentiate spam from non-spam with high accuracy.*
- >
- > *FILTERING: I stress that * you * train the filter for your own account.*
- > *This means that you teach it over time what's spam, and what's not. When*
- > *properly trained it's unlikely that legitimate messages will be caught.*
- > *My own experience is only 1 false positive in 2000 emails.*
- >
- > *An ideal user for these services would be someone who needs to reliably*
- > *send mail but who is dissatisfied with their ISP's mail relay.*
- >

Jem:

I am currently interested in finding a SMTP provider that offers access to their server via some other port besides port 25. Currently,

my ISP is blocking outgoing port 25 because of virused/infected/trojaned machines on their system. They were threatened to be placed on some blacklist (I believe) by some large ISP provider.

For a short while, they would only allow you to use the email address they assigned you in the From: line even though they required SMTP AUTH to send email. I regularly send out emails (resumes, some correspondence, direct replies to Usenet postings) using my yahoo.com address.

Right now, my choices are to pay an additional \$10.00 per month (US 120.00 per year) to my ISP for a buisness account that does not block outgoing port 25 or place restrictions on what can be put in the From: line. To me this seems like extortion.

Another option is to join something like fastmail.fm. It looks like my two cheapest choices would be to either pay a one time \$14.95 for a member account or \$19.95 a year for a full account. It looks like both of these offer access to their SMTP server on port 26 and maybe on someother port.

Your prices are in between the two. Above you mentioned charging \$5.00 per month (or \$60.00 per year). I am really only interested in accessing an external SMTP server. As far as spam filtering goes, I do all of that on my own. If I can use my own From: and Reply-To: line, then I can continue to download my email using either fetchmail or fetchyahoo.pl (perl script to download email from yahoo.com).

Even at the \$15.00 or \$20.00 per year that fastmail.fm charges, they are offering more services than I really want.

These are just some comments to think about.

Good luck.

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Frank Hahn
Real programmers don't bring brown-bag lunches. If the vending machine doesn't sell it, they don't eat it. Vending machines don't sell quiche.