

Re: Dr. Math: An email forgery case

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-03/msg05539.html>

- *From:* "Sufic Hokidmin" <spamless@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 28 Mar 2006 18:57:53 -0600
-

"r!chard tchen" <richard@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:5189898.1143590913116.JavaMail.jakarta@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Dear Vladimir, UpChunky, et al.,

I'm the Math Forum's discussion administrator, and so noticed these recent cross posts to the sci.math, sci.math.symbolic, and alt.math.recreational newsgroups.

As I've conveyed to Vladimir under separate correspondence, we regret the occurrence of such spoofing abuses of our Ask Dr. Math service; and have already furnished him with relevant data to investigate the matter further.

(Ask Dr. Math, however, operates independently of public discussions such as sci.math. Moreover, the Forum publicly archives but a fraction of Dr. Math interactions, and only after removing personally identifying information -- and, in the first place, our volunteer doctors accept questions and follow-ups only via submission to a web form, as suggested by the "DO NOT REPLY VIA EMAIL" text that Vladimir quoted from our auto-reply confirmation.)

Now, to maintain web archives of sci.math and other public discussions in a way that connects discussants to their historical and future posts, the Forum continuously and automatically reserves accounts based on activity from a unique e-mail address.

At 1:55 PM -0500 3/28/06, UpChunky wrote:

FYI -
the on-line Math Forum has a problem of mapping its
user names to posted
email return addresses.

For example, whoever posts with a return address of
invalid@xxxxxxxxxxxx is
mapped by the math forum as being posted by "Scott
Berg".

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So perhaps, then, not unlike UpChunky regularly posts from the address spamless@xxxxxxxxxxxxx, Scott Berg consistently contributes from invalid@xxxxxxxxxxxxx -- and both have done so not via the Forum, which archives their activities accordingly, but from third-party news servers:

spamless@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (UpChunky)
<http://mathforum.org/kb/profile.jspa?userID=221416>

invalid@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (Scott Berg)
<http://mathforum.org/kb/profile.jspa?userID=122889>

For help modifying a dormant discussion account reserved for you by the Math Forum -- or if we may assist you with other questions or concerns about the Forum and our services -- please follow the mathforum.org links to

Contact Us

<http://mathforum.org/cgi-bin/mailto.pl?key=44&to=%27Discussions%20Administrator%27>

In the meantime -- if you haven't already, I invite you to read

Math Forum >> Discussions >> FAQ
<http://mathforum.org/kb/help.jspa>

About the Forum
<http://mathforum.org/about.forum.html>

Again, we regret this apparent spoofing; and thank you all for your patience.

So you see that you have a problem on Math Forum, because when Math Forum picks up an external thread it changes the poster's name, according to MathForum's user database, which is incorrect and wrong.

--

Richard Tchen

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