

Re: What Constitutes SPAM?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.dentistry/2005-01/1561.html>

From: Robert Morien (*PhD_failure_at_nousefulinfo.com*)

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Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2005 15:00:14 -0800

In article <f68du01acv8ej5ntmrjmk705oig6bcpqvb@4ax.com>, Joel M. Eichen <joeleichen@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > *On Thu, 13 Jan 2005 15:39:24 GMT, "Gregory P. Cole, B.S., D.D.S.*
- > *\(Flap\)" <drgregorycole.dds@verizon.net> wrote:*
- >
- > *RULES:*
- >
- > *Hi Greg!*
- >
- > *Good question!*
- >
- > *I suppose someone who surfs over here and makes one post like, "Oh my*
- > *dental bills were so high until I found,*
- >
- > *www.dentaldiscountplansforripoff.com.*
- >
- > *Well W_B is gonna report him and perhaps validly so. Too much*
- > *gratuitous spam in NGs is frowned upon.*

Please explain what "un-gratuitous spam" might be. In the online world, it is either spam or on-topic (with the casual exception of announced OT posts and the occasional mistake).

- >
- > *Usenet is better without too much commercial stuff.*

There are numerous groups where commercial stuff is accepted, tolerated or the reason for the groups existence. That's why you are encouraged to read a groups charter or FAQ.

- >
- > *But what of an aggregator who grabs content with no attribution,*
- > *massages it a bit, and then passes it off as his own?*

You mean a copyright violater? Check up the consequences of copyright violation.

sci.med.dentistry: Re: What Constitutes SPAM?

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- > *Would that be a good business model?*

If it is a business model then it would be a commercial post which makes it spam. Is spamming a good business model?

- >
- > *Supposing the guy did not like Mark Tarka and suddenly he filtered all of Mark's posts?*

He'd be exercising his constitutional rights, possibly even some commercial rights.

- >
- > *Jeez, that reminds me of the Soviets who simply prohibited the press from keeping reports of airplane crashes out of the papers.*
- >
- > *Could that happen at USENET?*
- >
- > *You betcha*
- >
- > *Usenet is uncensored discussion*

Generally.

- . Yes individuals can chose to ignore a
- > *poster, but what if someone unilaterally decided to block all of*
- > *someone's posts? In my opinion that is far worse than some commercial*
- > *stuff.*

Rule # 1: Spammers always lie

Rule # 2: If a spammer tells you something else, see rule #1.

Rule # 3: Spammers are stupid.

- >
- > *More later.*
- >
- > *I have a feeling this OFF-TOPIC discussion will be very interesting.*
- >
- > *Joel*
- >
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- >>>
- >>> *This brings up an interesting subject.*

Re: What Constitutes SPAM?

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> >>

> >> *Without commercial interests, the usenet or bulletin boards, was an extremely costly affair. I recall buddies who paid hundreds of dollars per month for a simple messaging system. They used it for business purposes, not for chatting endlessly.*

> >>

> >> *One guy was a radio show talk host who used it to get ideas for his show.*

> >>

> >> *Me too.*

> >>

> >> *I use the resources consistently for ideas. Therefore I am quite tolerant of people who want to support it with some informational/cxommercial blending.*

> >>

> >> *This is not SPAM. Spam to me means too much of anything is no good.*

> >>

> >> *Joel*

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