

Privacy and Anonymity

Laith Al-Qabbani, Mohannad Al-Raie

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Laithq@gmail.com, r.mohannad@gmail.com

Abstract—In this paper, we present the set of ethics related to using the e-mail. These ethics are essential to guarantee the privacy for anyone using the e-mail. In addition to that, we will discuss one type of e-mail threats called SPAM and will try to open the reader's eyes on how we get the spam into our e-mails and the way it really affects us.

I. INTRODUCTION

Electronic mail (usually called e-mail) has become an important part in almost everyone's life, and no one can manage with his life without using it. With this exponentially increasing demand of using this great technology, people started questioning how private and secure this technology can be. Of course, with the presence of bugs and hackers nothing can be considered as a 100% secure as will be discussed in the subsequent sections.

II. E-MAIL AND CRYPTOGRAPHY

E-mail is more like a post card than a letter in an envelope. Where anyone who intercepts your e-mail can read it if it's sent as plain text. This is where the need of encrypting your e-mails shows up. So if you would prefer your e-mail to be readable only by those you send it to then you might consider encrypting it. The most popular free program that uses cryptographic techniques to protect information is called PGP or (Pretty Good Privacy).

III. SPAM

Spam is junk e-mail and this usually gets into the e-mails of those who:

- 1) have purchased something over the internet.
- 2) have their e-mail address published on a website.
- 3) have subscribed to a news service.
- 4) have participated in news groups or mailing lists.

In fact, some ISPs and other internet businesses have sold lists of their customer's e-mail addresses to spammers which is considered unethical. Spammers have been known to use programs to randomly generate e-mail addresses.

Spam causes many harms and it can compromise and slow down the whole network. In order to fight that back,

there is now big anti-spam movement and here are various spam filters you can get to filter out and delete spam.

IV. EMAIL ETHICS

Every user of the internet is using the email frequently and depends on it for sending and receiving the messages. So, there are many rules and set of ethics that should be considered when using the email. The most important habits that should be avoided when you are using the email:

- 1) *Denial* :
You should not to claim that have not read or received a message when you actually have.
- 2) *Disclosing someone else's email address for harm*:
If you subscribe someone else to a newsletter, hoping to flood him with unwanted junk, you are not an ethical email user.
- 3) *Misidentifying yourself*:
You should not use and supply a false email address just to confuse the receiver.
- 4) *Broadcast bad messages*:
If you broadcast, for example, an embarrassing message to cause harm to someone, intending later to claim that you sent it by accident, you are not using the email in the proper way.
- 5) *Silence*:
Sometime, people choose not to reply to someone so as to give offense, and this makes them to behave unethical. Off course, sometimes you need not to reply of specific reasons and not to give offense.
- 6) *Misrepresenting a quote*:
If you excerpt a previous message, and alter it in any way other than to indicate deletions, this is totally unethical behavior.

7) *Pleading false confusion:*

If you claim not to understand a message, when you actually do, so as to cause delay, you're over the line.

8) *Intentional ambiguity:*

You should not write a message ambiguously to slow things down **and make**, and then ~~claim~~ it was clear.

9) *Wandering eyes:*

You should avoid to read other people's email without permission, either at their desks (whether or not they're present), or by any other means.

V. CONCLUSIONS

After mentioning the ethics of using the e-mail, it should be clear that if everyone using the e-mail showed his commitment to those ethics no one would ever have to worry about the privacy of his data, because what applies on the others applies on you too. Finally, everyone has to keep this in mind "if you can get into others' private information, others can **also get into yours**".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of Dr. Ayman Al-Meleh in this work.

REFERENCES

- [1] "Protecting your Privacy on the Internet." The Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner, 16 Feb. 2007: 2-7.
http://www.privacy.gov.au/internet/internet%5Fprivacy/index_print.html
- [2] <http://www.chacocanyon.com/pointlookout/050406.shtml>