



History Of Spam

The first spam was sent by the Digital Equipment Corp. in 1978. It was sent to all western ARPANet addresses to sell a new computer. ARPANet was an early Internet, created by the Army.

In January 1994, a worried person wrote a letter about the end of the world to every address on USENET.

Then in April 1994, a couple of lawyers sent an advertisement to all USENET groups. Then they bragged about it in a book that didn't sell well.

How They Find You

If your e-mail address is anywhere on a Web page, you get spam. Programs called *Web-crawlers* scan all Web pages and look for words that include the @ symbol. Those addresses are collected, and you get spammed.

To keep that from happening, change the spelling of your e-mail address. Instead of Ryan@blm.net, change it to RyanNOSPAM@blm.net. Mention on the Web page that friends should remove NOSPAM from your address and tell them why. *Start a fad.*

P.S. from Beakman: Just so you know, .com does not mean computer or communicate. It means commercial. .edu means school. .org means non-profit organization. .ca means Canada. .net is network.

Dear Readers,
Let's start 2003 with
a new e-mail address
for your questions

Jax Place
San Rafael, California

Beakman or Jax
P.O. Box 30177
Kansas City, MO 64112
Questions, name & address

One morning last summer, Beakman and I checked our e-mail, and we had gotten 172 separate pieces of junk e-mail. It took over an hour to download because we use a dial-up modem and not some fancy DSL. So we just shut off our e-mail address.

One enormous problem with that is that we miss *you and your e-mails*.

We miss real e-mails from real people and not the spam stuff that wants us to buy ink cartridges, or to change our bodies.

Fight Back

Put a link to this URL on your Web page:
<http://members.hostedscripts.com/antispam.html>
This page creates 100 different fake e-mail addresses every time a Web-crawler looks at it. The spam will bounce back to spammers over and over again. It chokes the spammer on his or her own e-mails. This is a rather delicious idea. You can also generate anti-crawler code for your page at <http://innerpeace.org/escrambler.shtml>.



Hating spam has nothing to do with the delicious, canned, processed, chemically preserved meat product made by the Hormel Co.

The name Spam came from a contest that Hormel had to choose the name. Spam means *spiced ham*, for short.

The strange comedy group Monty Python did a skit on their TV show about a restaurant that served every item with Spam.

An unpleasant waitress kept repeating *Spam* on and on. (This type of comedy is called absurdity [ab-SURD-a-tee].) It was hilarious. A *hit*.

So the word *spam* came to mean: *words that you get piles of, that don't mean anything, and on top of that, are irritating, and a criminal theft of your download time.* For short.