

CT SPAM – Working Report – 13 June 2005

Introduction

In the past few years there has been an increasing amount of spam in the Internet, and the attacks against Internet users have also increased. These attacks usually have the purpose of abusing the end users' machines in order to send unsolicited email and also messages related to Internet fraud (phishing/scam).

In order to propose a national strategy to fight this issue and articulate a set of actions capable to involve the diverse relevant actors in the solution of this problem, the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (*) created the Task Force on Spam (CT-SPAM).

Objectives

The specific goals of the CT-SPAM are:

- To recommend technical procedures to fight spam;
- To provide the different actors with information about spam;
- To recommend codes of conduct for businesses, users and network administrators;
- To recommend bills to the congress;
- To participate in an international discussion about the issue.

Members

The members of the CT-SPAM are:

Henrique Faulhaber (Coordinator),
Antenor Cesar Vanderlei Corrêa,
Antonio Alberto Tavares,
Carlos Alberto Afonso,
Cássio Jordão Motta Vecchiatti,
Cristine Hoepers,
Ercio Alberto Zilli,
Klaus Steding-Jessen,
Luci Pirmez,
Marcelo Fernandes Costa,
Miguel Teixeira de Carvalho,
Rubens Kühl Jr.

Establishment of the CT-SPAM

The CT-SPAM was constituted and approved on 20 December 2004, during the regular meeting of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee's Council in its headquarters in

São Paulo, after a discussion of the proposal presented by the Councilor Henrique Faulhaber. On that occasion, the Committee saw a presentation about security and stability risks on the Internet due to the increasing amount of e-mails generated by spammers in Brazil and other countries (*spammers* who use the infrastructure of the Brazilian Internet in order to transform it in their message delivery point to the world), and also about the risks of unwanted messages from other countries.

The inappropriate use of the Brazilian network is against the commitment of high technical standards and security certification established by the CGI.br, that made it a reference organization in the world. Besides this, the fraud practices against users and businesses are a concern for the councilors, because they cause damages that range from user privacy loss to financial losses due to *phishing*, among others. This scenario also affects the structure and costs of telecommunication companies and ISPs.

After being approved, the CT-SPAM was formed as a team of five councilors, four advisors, including staff of CGI.br, one outside advisor and one representative nominated by the telecommunication sector.

Since then the CT-SPAM has been developing studies about the problem, proposing recommendations and performing in-country articulation with the most diverse actors of organized society. One of the goals of this articulation is to work as a partner of the federal legislative power, providing advisory for Representatives and Senators about anti-spam and electronic frauds related laws, with actions against current and future problems, fighting their variants in new technologies.

CT-SPAM plans to involve telecommunication companies, Internet providers, security groups, direct marketing businesses, and other segments directly related to the problem, in the technical and operational levels.

Being aware that the spam problem is generated in Brazil and outside its territory, the CT will work seeking to establish international contacts in order to share experiences, establish working groups and cooperate with the development of technical and operational procedures among different countries and organizations that wish to contribute to the development of the Internet and of good practices and security.

Further, we'll present the actions and procedures already performed until this date or which are underway, as well as the plan and schedule of the following steps and the expected results.

Activity Background

The first meeting of the CT-SPAM happened on 14 January 2005, with the purpose to define the group's agenda and the work's start-up.

On the 30th March 2005, the CT-SPAM held an internal seminar in order to define the elements, proposals and directions for the work to be developed. On that date the lawyers Omar Kaminski and Amaro Silva Neto made a presentation about legal aspects of spam. After that, the consultant Rubens Kühl Jr gave a speech about technological aspects, with technical suggestions. Concluding the presentations, Cristine Hoepers and

Klaus Steding-Jessen, of the Computer Emergency Response Team Brazil (CERT.br), a CSIRT sponsored by CGI.br, presented the work they developed about security aspects related to the theme. The members of the CT decided to develop feasibility studies for the following actions:

- Awareness initiatives (media, ISPs);
- Wider distribution of the documents produced by CERT.br, both for final users and network administrators;
- Speakers' recommendations about the implementation of direct delivery filtering on port 25, preventing the delivery of e-mails without a valid account/server.

At request of the group, the CT-SPAM members' Cristine Hoepers and Klaus Steding-Jessen, from CERT.br, and Rubens Kühl Jr., of the University of São Paulo, wrote a document called "*Tecnologias e Políticas para Combate ao Spam*" (Technologies and Policies to Fight Spam), as of 13 May 2005.

On April 28, 2005 the CT-SPAM had its second working meeting, with the purpose to assess the results of the first internal seminar and the actions performed so far, and to coordinate the next initiatives of the group. After that, the tasks and responsibilities were assigned. The following issues were discussed:

- The possibility of a closed meeting with telecommunication companies, the major ISPs, Abranet and Anatel;
- The development of an anti-spam website and a brochure;
- A study comparing anti-spam laws;
- Public seminars;
- Events' participation; and
- International articulation.

Next Activities

1. *Seminar with telecommunication companies to discuss technical solutions*

The group is going to organize a seminar on June 21, 2005, with representatives of telecommunication companies and ISPs in order to discuss the document "Technologies and Policies to Fight Spam" written by members of the CT-SPAM, to share experiences and to seek support for promoting the studies and the site to be developed.

2. *Website Development*

The group decided to develop and promote a website with good practices and anti-spam procedures. The on-line material shall include information for different audiences. The group established a communication sub-group formed by Lucy Pirmez and Marcelo Costa to manage this initiative.

Intended Audience

The site's content, as mentioned, shall have a specific context for each audience, to provide information that can be easily absorbed by each specific public. It is important to note that each **public** has different **needs**.

Information will be available through specific links, according to the following intended audiences:

- 1) Consumers / Internet users
- 2) Businesses
- 3) Telecommunication companies
- 4) Internet Service Providers
- 5) Direct marketing companies
- 6) Media

3. *Legal Aspects*

The group concluded that it would be more adequate if CERT.br makes an assessment of the relevant aspects of anti-spam laws of the European Community and Australia. The Brazilian bills will also be considered.

Procedure:

The group will prepare a technical report about what is and what is not pertinent in the existent international legislation, which will be used as basis for a reference document with recommendations for the legislative branch. Simultaneously, the group intends to approach Deputies and Senators in order to begin the dialogue with the Congress.

4. *Public seminar*

An public seminar is planned for 23 August 2005, on the event Rio Info, with presentations of CGI.br, CT-SPAM members and sub-committees.

5. *Events*

The CT-SPAM will participate on following events:

1. GTER/GTS (SP) – 5 July – Presentation for network administrators
2. WSIS Cybersecurity (Geneva) – 28-30 July
3. Meeting of the OECD Spam Task-Force on 27 July (Geneva)

(*) About the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br)

The Brazilian Internet Steering Committee was established by the Interministerial Ordinance 147 of 31 May 1995, with the purpose to promote the society's involvement in decisions about Internet implementation, management and use in Brazil. The goals of the entity are to promote technical quality, innovation and dissemination of the offered services, to assure fair and free competition and to guarantee the maintenance of appropriate conduct standards by users and providers.

The major responsibilities of the Committee are:

- To establish strategic guidelines related to the use and development of Internet in Brazil;
- To establish guidelines for the relationships between Government and society, the performance of Domain Names registration, the allocation of IP Addresses and the management of the country code Top Level Domain “.br” (ccTLD), at the best interests of the Internet community in the country;
- To propose research and development programs related to the Internet, that can assure the maintainance of the technical quality and innovation, and also to stimulate its dissemination across the national territory, constantly seeking for opportunities to add value to the assets and services associated to the Internet;
- To promote studies and recommend procedures, policies and technical and operational standards for Internet services and network security, as well as for its crescent and adequate utilization by the community.

Composition of the CGI.br

The Comitê Gestor da Internet no Brasil is constituted by a Council with 21 members, 10 of them nominated by the Federal Government and eleven selected through electronic elections to represent the business and academic areas and the third sector. The CGI.br is coordinated by the representative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.