International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
Hammamet, 25 October – 3 November 2016

Resolution 52 – Countering and combating spam

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

Countering and combating spam

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

recognizing

a)　　　relevant provisions of the basic instruments of ITU;

b)　　　that the Declaration of Principles of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) states in § 37 that "Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cybersecurity should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels";

c)　　　that the WSIS Plan of Action states in § 12 that "Confidence and security are among the main pillars of the information society", and calls for "appropriate action on spam at national and international levels",

recognizing further

a)　　　the relevant parts of Resolutions 130 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

b)　　　the report of the chairman of the two ITU WSIS thematic meetings on countering and combating spam, which advocated a comprehensive approach to combating spam, namely:

i)　　　strong legislation

ii)　　　the development of technical measures

iii)　　　the establishment of industry partnerships to accelerate the studies

iv)　　　education

v)　　　international cooperation;

c)　　　the relevant parts of Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

considering

a)　　　that exchanging e-mails and other telecommunications over the Internet has become one of the main means of communication between people around the world;

b)　　　that there are currently a variety of definitions for the term "spam";

c)　　　that spam has become a widespread problem causing potential loss of revenue to Internet service providers, telecommunication operators, mobile telecommunication operators and business users;

d)　　　that countering spam by technical means burdens affected entities, including network operators and service providers, as well as users who unwillingly receive such spam, with significant investments in networks, facilities, terminal equipment and applications;

e)　　　that spam creates problems of information and telecommunication network security, and is increasingly being used as a vehicle for phishing and spreading viruses, worms, spyware and other forms of malware, etc.;

f)　　　that spamming is used for criminal, fraudulent or deceptive activities;

g)　　　that spam is a global problem, with different characteristics in different regions, which affects many stakeholders and, therefore, requires collaborative work and international cooperation to address it and find solutions;

h)　　　that addressing the issue of spam is a matter of urgency;

i)　　　that many countries, in particular developing countries[1], need help when it comes to countering spam;

j)　　　that relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and relevant information from other international bodies are available which could provide guidance for future development in this area, particularly with regard to lessons learned;

k)　　　that technical measures to counter spam represent one of the elements of the approach mentioned in *recognizing further b)* above,

noting

the important technical work carried out to date in ITU-T Study Group 17, and in particular Recommendation ITU-T X.1231 and the ITU-T X.1240 series Recommendations,

resolves to instruct the relevant study groups

1　　　to continue to support ongoing work, in particular in Study Group 17, related to countering spam (e.g. e-mail) and to accelerate their work on spam in order to address existing and future threats within the remit and expertise of ITU-T, as appropriate;

2　　　to continue collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and with the relevant organizations, including other relevant standards organizations (e.g. the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)), in order to continue developing, as a matter of urgency, technical Recommendations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through joint workshops, training sessions, etc.,

further instructs Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1　　　to report regularly to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group on progress under this resolution;

2　　　to support ITU-D Study Group 2 on countering and combating spam in its work providing technical training sessions and workshop activities in different regions related to spam policy, regulatory and economic issues and their impact;

3　　　to continue its work on developing Recommendations, technical papers and other related publications,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1　　　to provide all necessary assistance with a view to expediting such efforts, working collaboratively with relevant parties that combat spam with a view to identifying opportunities, raising awareness for such activities and identifying possible collaboration, as appropriate;

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[1]　These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2   to initiate a study – including sending a questionnaire to the ITU membership –indicating the volume, types (e.g. e-mail spam, SMS spam, spam in IP-based multimedia applications) and features (e.g. different major routes and sources) of spam traffic, in order to help Member States and relevant operating agencies identify such routes, sources and volumes and estimate the amount of investment in facilities and other technical means to counter and combat such spam, taking into account work that has already been carried out;

3   to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General's initiative on cybersecurity and with the Telecommunication Development Bureau in relation to any item concerning cybersecurity under Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and to ensure coordination among these different activities;

4   to contribute to the report of the Secretary General to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academia

to contribute to this work,

further invites Member States

1   to take appropriate steps to ensure that appropriate and effective measures are taken within their national and legal frameworks to combat spam and its propagation;

2   to work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to counter and combat spam.