



The Geeks Speak

Want to CAN your Spam?

The Geeks Speak is a periodic electronic publication of Hargraves Computer Services offering helpful tips on various computer-related issues.

Believe it or not, there really are steps you can take to try to stop spam. Bear in mind that for every spam-killing trick you may learn, there are thousands of spammers out there constantly looking for a way to defeat it. None of the options listed here will stop spamming completely but if we all practiced these methods of protecting our privacy we could greatly reduce the amount of spam received every day.

❑ Use a Strainer

There are a multitude of filtering products out on the market today that are flexible and simple to operate. We all have our favorites; Terry specifically uses Inbox Protector from GBS. Not sure which best fits the needs of your company? Call us and we'll be happy to help find the right program.

❑ "Remove me"...NOT

Never reply to the "remove from list" option. If a merchant doesn't mind sending spam in the first place, he couldn't care less whether you want off the list. Choosing this option does confirm however, that spammers have a live person on the other end and subsequently increase the frequency and number of messages they send.

❑ Ask your Mail Man

Most mail providers have anti-spam options but you may have to search to find them. Be aware that no anti-spam service is perfect. Some spam will still slip through the mail and conversely, some legitimate mail will be flagged as spam. If you get complaints that mail is consistently sent out and you're not receiving it, you can usually add these addresses through the provider.

❑ Don't Get Personal

Use free mailboxes (e-mail) such as Yahoo, Excite or Hotmail when surfing the web and signing up for services. By taking advantage of a throw-down address instead of a real one, you can also identify the organization that gave away your personal information.

❑ UNcheck that box

Watch your option flags. There are always a number of boxes to **uncheck** to keep you off mailing lists. These pesky boxes are almost always ON by default. Read all the text on every screen to verify you've unchecked yourself off spamming lists.

Most importantly, Hargraves Computer Services does not wish to burden your mailbox with information you do not want. So if you don't want to receive further tips, call, fax or e-mail us to remove your name from our mailing lists. All requests will be honored instantly and your name will be permanently removed from our e-mail list . . . we promise. No questions asked.

Look for our next issue when the *Geeks Speak* focuses on how to keep distribution lists private and avoid spammers "harvesting" forwarded addresses from personal e-mails.