SPAM

Article URL
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Published: 28 August 2006

Last updated on 24 May 2008.

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Electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings. Some people define spam even more generally as any unsolicited e-mail. However, if a long-lost brother finds your e-mail address and sends you a message, this could hardly be called spam, even though it's unsolicited. Real spam is generally e-mail advertising for some product sent to a mailing list or newsgroup.

SPAM is iritating, time-consuming and a wast of bindwidth.
Some say that 60-80% of all email-traffic is spam.

You can prevent getting spam-mail. But not giving your email-address to everyone, and not post it on every site.
But even if you are carefull, you'll still recieve spam after a while.

There is software that prevents spam from getting in your inbox. By filtering all mails using filters, and sending to another map (or delete them).
A list of anti-spam software can be found here

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If you have a emailserver and you want to remove spam-email from your users mailboxes, one of the following software might help you.
http://spamassassin.apache.org