



EXCERPT FROM VIRUS BULLETIN ANTI-SPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW, JANUARY 2013

Mailshell Anti-Spam SDK

SC rate: 99.84%

FP rate: 0.00%

Final score: 99.84

Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.85%

Abusix SC rate: 99.79%

Newsletters FP rate: 8.9%

We were pleased to see the return of *Mailshell* to the VBSpam test bench, especially when it equalled the spam catch rate it achieved in September 2012 (its last entry). What is more, the anti-spam SDK – which is used in many third-party solutions – did not block any legitimate email. While the 16 missed newsletters may be a minor concern, *Mailshell's* developers have good reason to celebrate converting the product's fourth VBSpam award into a VBSpam+ award.



THE TEST SET-UP

The VBSpam test methodology can be found at <http://www.virusbtn.com/vbspam/methodology/>. Email was sent to the products in parallel and in real time, and products were given the option to block email pre-DATA. Five products chose to make use of this option.

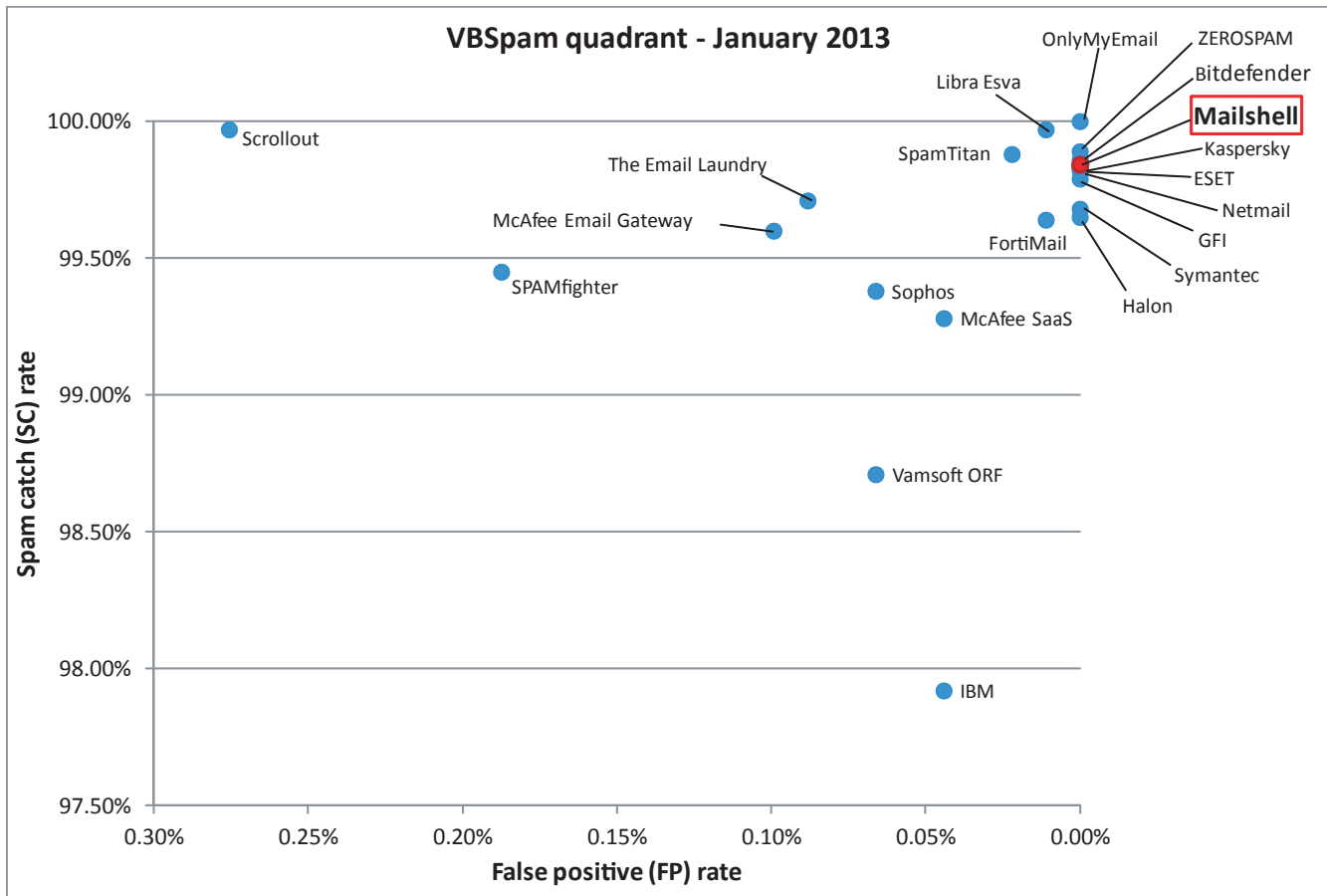
The products that needed to be installed on a server were installed on a *Dell PowerEdge R200*, with a 3.0GHz dual core processor and 4GB of RAM. The *Linux* products ran on *CentOS 6.3* (*Bitdefender*) or *Ubuntu 11* (*Kaspersky*); the *Windows Server* products ran on either the 2003 or the 2008 version, depending on which was recommended by the vendor.

To compare the products, we calculate a 'final score', which is defined as the spam catch (SC) rate minus five times the false positive (FP) rate. Products earn standard VBSpam certification if this value is at least 98 (note that this threshold has been raised as of this test – previously it was 97):

$$SC - (5 \times FP) \geq 98$$

Complete solutions sorted by final score	
OnlyMyEmail	100.00
Libra Esva	99.91
ZEROSPAM	99.89
Bitdefender	99.86
Mailshell	99.84
Kaspersky LMS	99.83
ESET	99.83
Netmail Secure	99.82
GFI	99.79
SpamTitan	99.77
Symantec	99.68
Halon Security	99.65
FortiMail	99.58
The Email Laundry	99.27
McAfee Email Gateway	99.10
McAfee SaaS	99.06
Sophos	99.05
Scrollout	98.59
SPAMfighter	98.51
Vamsoft ORF	98.38
IBM	97.70





Meanwhile, those products that combine a spam catch rate of 99.50% or higher with a lack of false positives earn a VBSpam+ award.

The test ran for 16 consecutive days, from 12am GMT on Saturday 22 December 2012 until 12am GMT on Monday 7 January 2013.

CORPUS

The corpus contained 74,240 emails, 64,988 of which were part of the spam corpus. Of these, 58,772 were provided by *Project Honey Pot*, and 6,216 were provided by *Spamfeed.me*, a product from *Abusix*. They were all relayed in real time, as were the remaining emails, consisting of 9,073 legitimate emails ('ham') and 179 newsletters.

CONCLUSIONS

With no fewer than ten VBSpam+ awards being earned by products in a single test, this report will be received with great joy by many participants. And, of course, it is very good news

for the millions of people whose inboxes are protected by these products.

At the same time, outstanding performances like the ones seen in this test are a challenge for the tester: they are an encouragement to find some niche that presents 'difficult' emails that pose an even bigger challenge for participants. After all, the goal of the test is to show how products compare with each other – and if the differences become smaller, we need to find ways to make them visible.



*Mailshell Inc., 695 5th Street, Suite #3,
San Francisco, CA 94107, USA
Phone 415.348.8728, Fax 415.276.5749
Email partners@mailshell.com
www.mailshell.com*