



EXCERPT FROM VIRUS BULLETIN ANTI-SPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW, NOVEMBER 2011

Mailshell Anti-Spam SDK

SC rate: 99.90%

FP rate: 0.00%

Final score: 99.90

Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.84%

Abusix SC rate: 99.96%

Newsletters FP rate: 0.00%

In this, its second test, *Mailshell* proved to be more than a one-hit wonder: the SDK, which is used by other anti-spam solutions, continued to block all but one in 1,000 spam emails and, once again, missed no legitimate emails or newsletters. With the second highest final score, the product's second VBSpam award is well deserved.



THE TEST SET-UP

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

As in previous tests, 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 *SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 11*; 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

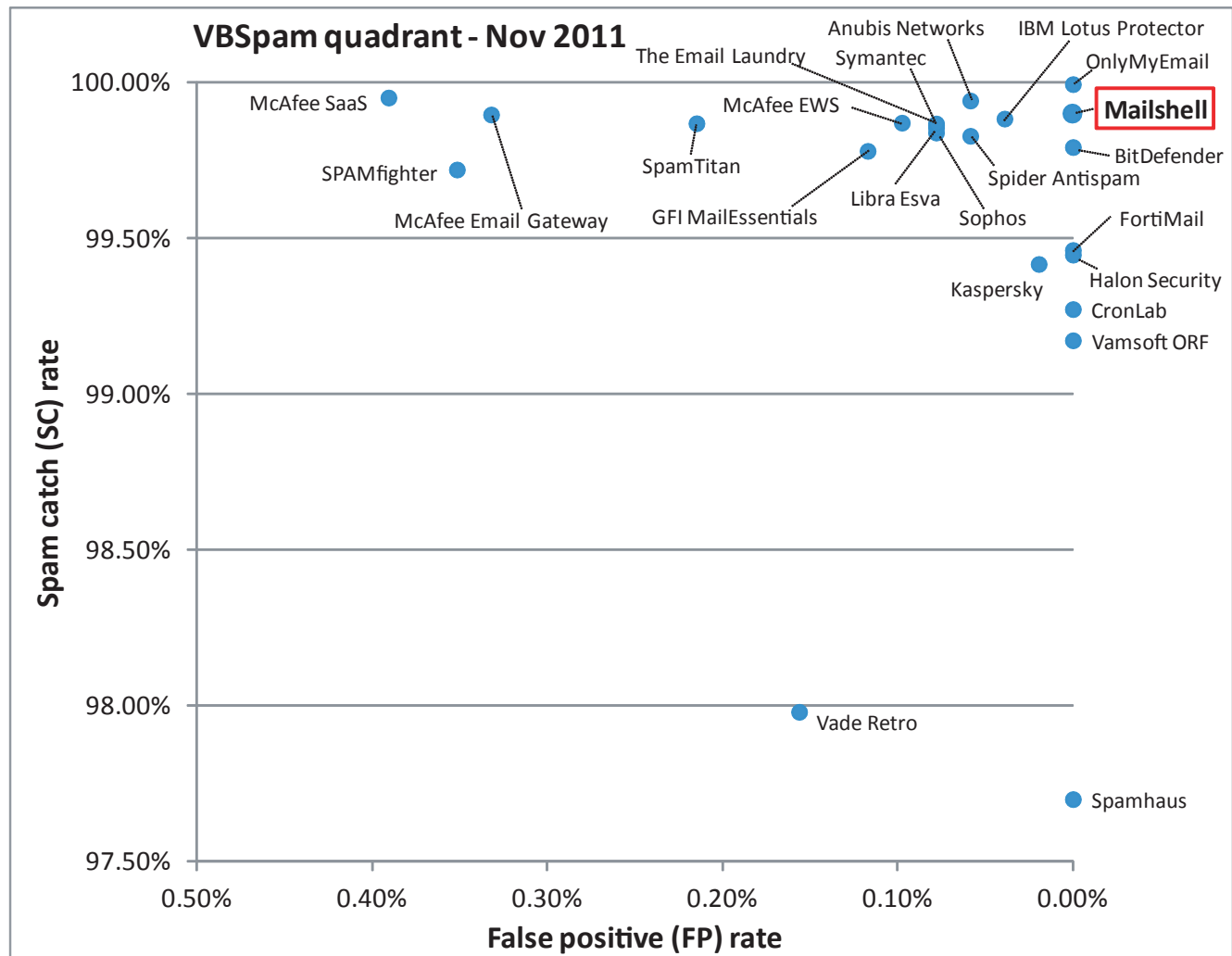
false positive (FP) rate. Products earn VBSpam certification if this value is at least 97:

$$SC - (5 \times FP) \geq 97$$

Products ranked by final score*	
OnlyMyEmail	100.00
Mailshell	99.90
BitDefender	99.79
IBM Lotus Protector	99.69
Anubis Networks	99.65
Spider Antispam	99.54
Symantec Messaging Gateway	99.48
The Email Laundry	99.47
Libra Esva	99.47
FortiMail	99.46
Sophos Email Appliance	99.45
Halon Security	99.45
McAfee EWS	99.38
Kaspersky Anti-Spam 3.0	99.32
CronLab Anti-Spam	99.27
GFI MailEssentials	99.20
Vamsoft ORF	99.17
SpamTitan	98.80
McAfee Email Gateway	98.24
McAfee SaaS	98.00
SPAMfighter	97.96
Vade Retro	97.20

* Full solutions only.





The test ran for 16 consecutive days, from 12am BST on Saturday 22 October 2011 until 12am GMT on Monday 7 November 2011.

The corpus contained 119,105 emails, 113,774 of which were spam. Of these, 59,321 were provided by *Project Honey Pot* and 54,453 were provided by *Spamfeed.me*, a product from *Abusix*. They were all relayed in real time, as were the 5,119 legitimate emails ('ham'). The remaining 212 emails were all newsletters – a corpus that was introduced in the last test.

On this occasion we saw more products having difficulties with legitimate emails than in recent tests and, interestingly, it was mostly different emails that caused the problems. As a result, the top right-hand corner of the VBSpam quadrant has thinned out somewhat.

In this test there were 24 products on the test bench, 22 of which were full solutions, while the other two were blacklists. All full solutions achieved a VBSpam award, but there was more distinction between the products' performance than in recent tests and some only just reached the certification threshold.



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