



EXCERPT FROM VBSPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2014

INTRODUCTION

This month saw 16 full solutions on the test bench, all but one of which achieved a VBSpam award. There were seven solutions that didn't block a single legitimate email and, combining this with a high spam catch rate and a low newsletter-blocking rate, earned a VBSpam+ award.

THE TEST SET-UP

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

For those products running on our equipment, we use *Dell PowerEdge* machines. As different products have different hardware requirements – not to mention those running on their own hardware, or those running in the cloud – there is little point comparing the memory, processing power or hardware the products were provided with; we followed the developers' requirements and note that the amount of email we receive is representative of that received by a small organization.

To compare the products, we calculate a 'final score', which is defined as the spam catch (SC) rate minus five times the weighted false positive (WFP) rate. The WFP rate is defined as the false positive rate of the ham and newsletter corpora taken together, with emails from the latter corpus having a weight of 0.2:

$$\text{WFP rate} = (\# \text{false positives} + 0.2 * \min(\# \text{newsletter false positives}, 0.2 * \# \text{newsletters})) / (\# \text{ham} + 0.2 * \# \text{newsletters})$$

Products earn VBSpam certification if the value of the final score is at least 98:

$$\text{SC} - (5 \times \text{WFP}) \geq 98$$

Meanwhile, products that combine a spam catch rate of 99.5% or higher with no false positives and no more than 2.5% false positives among the newsletters earn a VBSpam+ award.

Mailshell Mail Agent

SC rate: 99.91%

FP rate: 0.00%

Final score: 99.91

Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.86%

Abusix SC rate: 99.94%

Newsletters FP rate: 0.0%



A year after its last participation, *Mailshell Mail Agent* returns to the VBSpam test – and what a return it is! The product missed just 117 spam emails – a score bettered by only two other products – and did not misclassify any emails in the ham corpus or in the newsletter corpus.

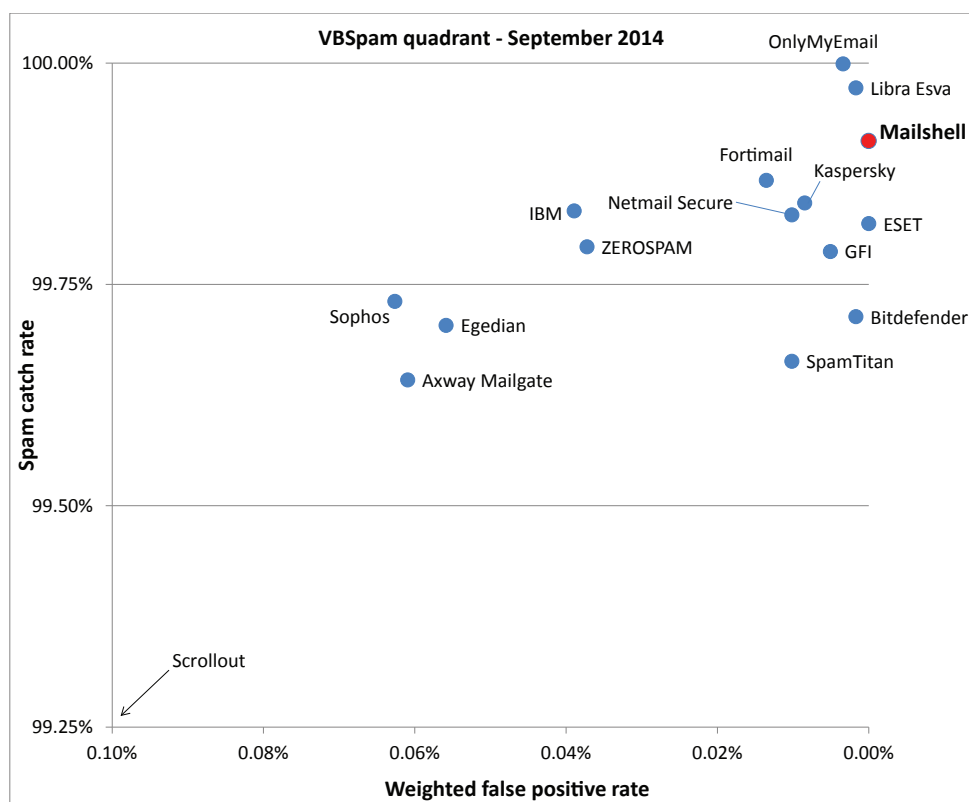
This impressive performance earns *Mailshell* a very well deserved VBSpam+ award.



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| Product name | True negatives | False positives | FP rate | False negatives | True positives | SC rate | Final score |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| OnlyMyEmail | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 1 | 133019 | 99.999% | 99.98 |
| Libra Esva | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 37 | 132983 | 99.97% | 99.96 |
| Mailshell | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 117 | 132903 | 99.91% | 99.91 |
| ESET | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 241 | 132779 | 99.82% | 99.82 |
| FortiMail | 11747 | 1 | 0.01% | 176 | 132844 | 99.87% | 99.80 |
| Kaspersky LMS | 11747 | 1 | 0.01% | 210 | 132810 | 99.84% | 99.80 |
| Netmail Secure | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 228 | 132792 | 99.83% | 99.78 |
| GFI | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 283 | 132737 | 99.79% | 99.76 |
| Bitdefender | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 381 | 132639 | 99.71% | 99.71 |
| IBM | 11744 | 4 | 0.03% | 222 | 132798 | 99.83% | 99.64 |
| SpamTitan | 11747 | 1 | 0.01% | 448 | 132572 | 99.66% | 99.61 |
| ZEROSPAM | 11744 | 4 | 0.03% | 276 | 132744 | 99.79% | 99.61 |
| Egedian | 11741 | 7 | 0.06% | 394 | 132626 | 99.70% | 99.42 |
| Sophos | 11741 | 7 | 0.06% | 358 | 132662 | 99.73% | 99.42 |
| Axway | 11743 | 5 | 0.04% | 476 | 132544 | 99.64% | 99.34 |
| Scrollout | 11737 | 11 | 0.09% | 1793 | 131227 | 98.65% | 97.73 |
| Spamhaus ZEN* | 11748 | 0 | 0.00% | 14042 | 118978 | 89.44% | 89.44 |
| Spamhaus DBL* | 11747 | 1 | 0.01% | 89645 | 43375 | 32.61% | 32.57 |

*The Spamhaus products are partial solutions and their performance should not be compared with that of other products. Please refer to full report for full product names and details.