TOMORROW starts here.

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Advanced Email Security with ESA

BRKSEC-3770

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Technical Marketing Engineer



Agenda

- IPv6 support for ESA
- Specifics of Cloud/Hybrid Cloud E-mail Security and migration from onprem
- How Message Filters can help your mail flow
- Anti-phishing technologies: Outbreak Filters, DKIM and SPF; why and how to implement them





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Abstract

This technical session will tackle several advanced topics of e-mail security with a focus on Cisco's solution.

We shall begin by describing the level of IPv6 support in newer versions of AsyncOS, and what changes this brings to traditional e-mail processing.

Second part of the session will talk about recent trends of migrating towards the Cloud or Hybrid Cloud e-mail security solution, and what are the challenges and migration consideration.

This will be followed by a section on Message Filters, a powerful mechanism of mail flow filtering which was deliberately neglected out of caution.

Several Anti-phishing techniques will be laid out in the remainder of the session, outlining Cisco's Outbreak Filters, and providing insight into DKIM and SPF deployment considerations.

Prerequisites for this session are acquaintance with SMTP and e-mail security technologies; experience with Cisco E-mail Security products is desirable.

The target audience are security and email administrators of the enterprise email gateway. The audience will also benefit from following the session BRKSEC-3771 "Advanced Web Security Deployment with WSA" and BRKSEC-2695 "Embrace Cloud Web Security with your Cisco Network"



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IPv6

E-mail Security Appliance and IPv6

- IPv6 code existed in AsyncOS as a separate code train for years
- With AsyncOS 7.6, IPv6 merged into production releases
- Phased approach for IPv6 support more exposed functions first

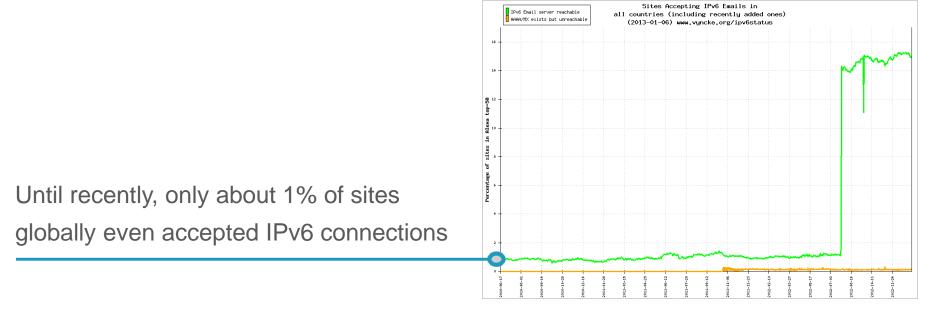
– Phase 1: basics

- Networking (dual-stacked interfaces, routing, NIC pairing)
- SMTP (HAT/RAT, SMTP routes, destination controls, SMTP Call-Ahead, filters)
- Reporting (reporting, tracking, trace)
- GUI/CLI

- Phase 2: everything else

- Inter-device communication (clustering, SMA communication)
- Infrastructure services (alerts, SNMP, DNS, LDAP, FTP, updates/upgrades, support tunnels)

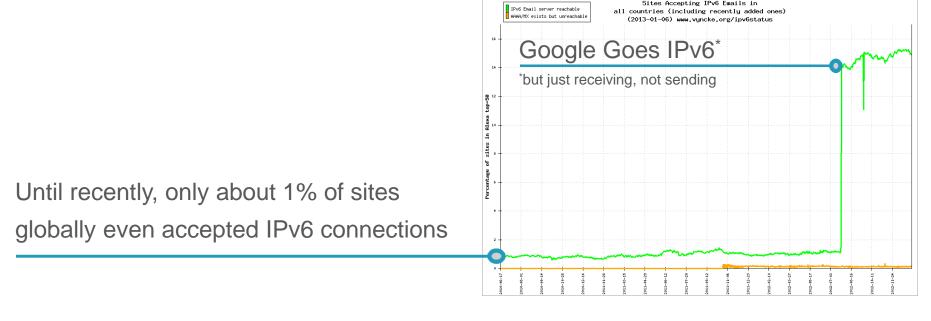
Time scale: June 2010 – December 2012



Eric Vyncke talks more about IPv6 security at BRKSEC-2003!



Time scale: June 2010 – December 2012

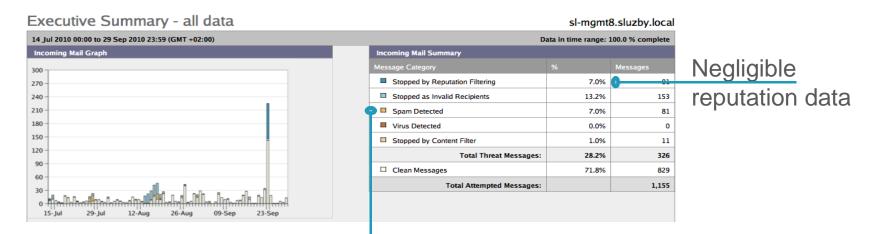


Eric Vyncke talks more about IPv6 security at BRKSEC-2003!



SBRS and IPv6

Back in 2010...



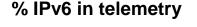
Traces of IPv4 spamming tools

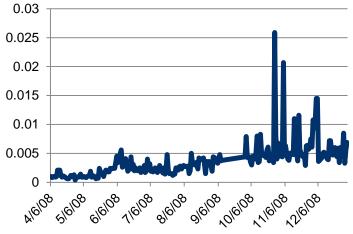


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...Not Much Different Today!

- Reality:
 - 1-2% of SMTP traffic is IPv6
 - IPv6-enabled spamtraps, although in place, not providing relevant amount of traffic
 - Lack of data feed providers for IPv6 SBRS





- Still, it's a thing to come, and we're ready and:
- We Need Your Help: Have IPv6? Give us your feed!



Demonstration

- Configuring an IPv6 interface
- Sending an e-mail through IPv6 interface to IPv4 destination
- Sending an e-mail through IPv4 interface to IPv6 destination
- Viewing IPv6 information in tracking/reporting



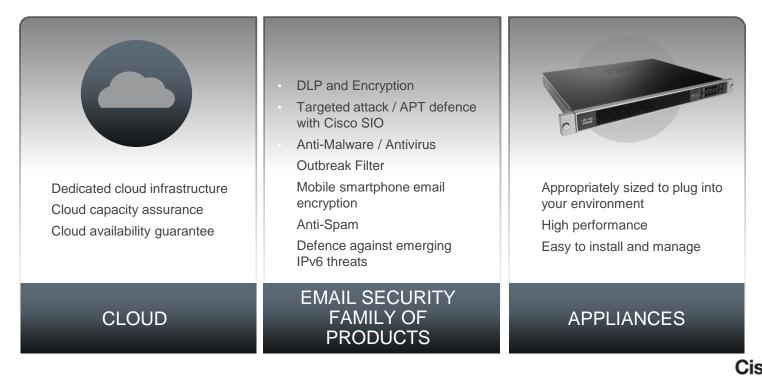
Cisco (ive,



Cloud/Hybrid Migration

Cisco Cloud E-mail

Choice of delivery options



Cisco Cloud E-mail

Why migrate?

- Lower operational cost vs. on-prem
- Guaranteed scalability / capacity assurance
- Service Level Agreements
 - 99.999% uptime
 - 99% inbound spam catch rate
 - 1/1 million FP rate
 - 100% known virus catch rate
 - 99.999% CRES uptime

Hybrid model: Best of both worlds

- Cloud for inbound, on-prem for outbound



Demonstration

- Connecting to a cloud system
- Connecting to Cisco ROS, opening a ticket



Migration Considerations

Challenge: Recipient validation and group policies

- Solution 1: Leverage SMTP Call-Ahead and open up your LDAP to the cloud
- Solution 2: SMTP Call Ahead in the cloud + local policies on on-prem appliances

Challenge: Using Message Filters for incoming mail processing

- Solution: Open a ROS ticket for CLI access

Challenge: Using complex Incoming Mail Policies

- Solution: Alert the Activation Team, or work with your Cisco Security SE
- Challenge: Split reporting/tracking
 - Solution: Submit reporting data from hybrid devices to cloud SMAs
- Caveat: Careful about the amount of generated traffic



Virtual Gateways are not supported

- Use Hybrid Deployment and on-prem ESAs for marketing email etc.

Limited administrative access

 "Administrator" account locked down; "Cloud Administrator" given to customers; limitations: no network configuration, shutdown/reboot, upgrade, cluster manipulation etc...

LDAP required a hole in the firewall

- But can be encrypted...
- Upgrades are scheduled and performed according to Cisco's upgrade schedule



Be careful what you wish for...

In-the-cloud and on-prem boxes can't be combined in a single cluster

Do you really want to do that?

- Network data definitely not shared between them
- On-prem boxes and Cloud boxes have completely different policies
- Only advantage: "single pane of glass" management

Drawbacks

- Cloud and on-prem must be on the same SW versions
- Unnecessarily complex configurations exchanged between all units
- Would require privilege escalation beyond "Cloud Administrator" role, and CLI access



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Message Filters



"Message filters allow you to create special rules describing how to handle messages as they are received by the Cisco IronPort appliance. A message filter specifies that a certain kind of email message should be given special treatment. Cisco IronPort message filters also allow you to enforce corporate email policy by scanning the content of messages for words you specify."

> Cisco AsyncOS 7.6 for Email Advanced User Guide Chapter 6, "Using Message Filters to Enforce Email Policies



Message Filters: What They Are

- High-performance scriptable filtering capability
- Accessible from the CLI only (filters command)
- Working on entire mail flow
- Allowing complex logical operators between conditions
- Executed serially
- If enabled, always executed

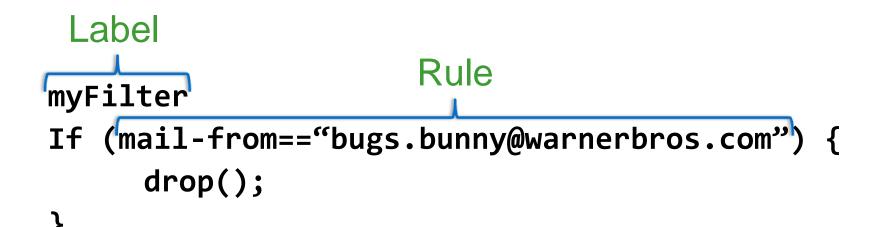
myFilter If (mail-from=="bugs.bunny@warnerbros.com") { drop();



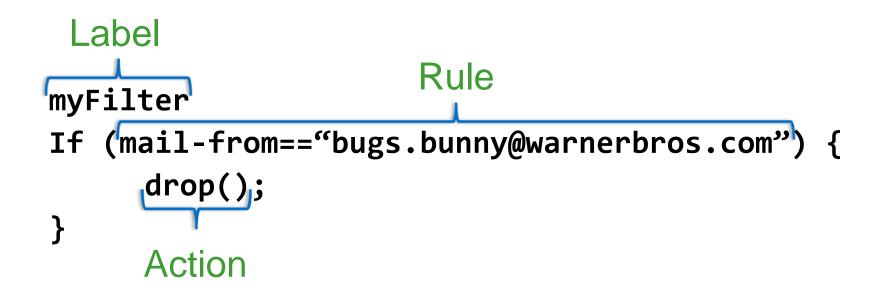
}

Label myFilter If (mail-from=="bugs.bunny@warnerbros.com") { drop(); }







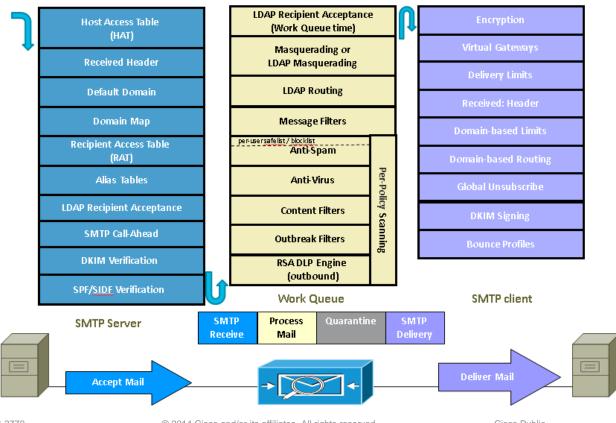








Message Filters in the Pipeline





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Message Filters vs. Content Filters

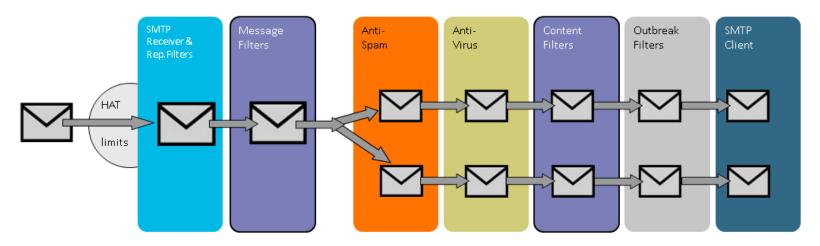
- Content Filters
 - Executed after the Policy Engine
 - Executed after security engines
 - Nice, easy-to-use GUI
 - Limited scope of conditions/actions
 - Either "AND" or "OR" logical operators between all conditions
 - Separate set of filters for Incoming and Outgoing mail
- Message Filters
 - Executed before the Policy Engine
 - Applies to the entire mail flow
 - More flexible in both capabilities and scriptability





For Your Reference

Mail Policies cause message splintering



- Different recipients may have different mail policies
- A message is splintered into multiple policies after Message Filters
- Message Filters can only apply one policy



devNoExe:

```
if (rcpt-to-group=="Development") {
    drop-attachments-by-filetype("Executable");
};
salesNoHTML:
```

if (rcpt-to-group=="Sales") { html-convert();

};

- What happens if a message is sent to two: Sales and Development?
- What happens if they are in Development and Management?

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```
noBadguysPresos:
```

```
if ((mail-from=="@badguys.com") AND (attachment-
type="ppt|pptx")) {
    quarantine("Badguys");
    notify(infosec@cisco.com);
```

};



Actually, Regex is always on

```
noBadguysPresos:
if ((mail-from=="@badguys\\.com") AND (attachment-
type="ppt|pptx")) {
    quarantine("Badguys");
    notify(infosec@cisco.com);
};
```

```
Don't forget to double-escape (\\)!
```

 The Email Security Appliance uses Python Regex syntax (<u>http://docs.python.org/2/howto/regex.html</u>)



More Coolness: Action Variables

 Action Variables are expressions that are dynamically expanded based on the content/context of the message

 Can be used in Text Resources (notifications, headers, footers, and Content Filters too!



Supported Action Variables

- \$EnvelopeFrom
- EnvelopeRecipients
- \$RecvInt
- \$RecvListener
- \$RemotelP
- \$remotehost
- SReputation
- \$Hostname
- \$Group
- \$Policy
- \$MID

- \$BodySize
- \$filenames
- \$filesizes
- \$dropped_filename
- \$dropped_filenames
- \$dropped_filetypes
- \$filetypes
- \$MatchedContent
- ScertificateSigners

- \$AllHeaders
- \$Header["name"]
- \$Subject
- \$Date
- \$Time

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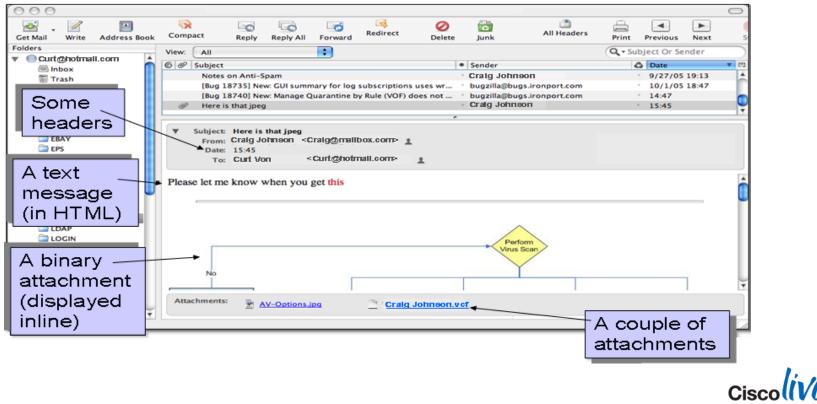
- Timestamp
- \$GMTTimeStamp
- \$FilterName



For Your

Reference

What is a Message Body?



What is a Message Body? (2)

```
From: Craig Johnson<Craig@mailbox.com>
Subject: Here is that jpeg
To: Curt Von <curt@hotmail.com>
Content-type: multipart/mixed; boundary="Boundary_11111" • MIME multipart/mixed + Boundary
This is a multi-part message in MIME format. Preamble
Content-type: multipart/alternative; MIME multipart/alternative + Boundary_22222
--Boundary 11111
 boundary="Boundary 22222"
  --Boundary 22222
  Content-type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset=us-ascii
  Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
  Please let me know when you get this! Alternative text part
  --Boundary 22222
  Content-týpe: text/html; charset=us-ascii
  Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
  <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
    Alternative HTML Part
  <html>
  </html>
  --Boundary_22222-- Alternative HTML Part
--Boundary 11111
```



What is a Message Body? (3)

Content-type: image/jpeg; name=AV-Options.jpg Content-transfer-encoding: base64 Content-disposition: inline; filename=Antivirus-Options.jpg

Filetype verified by fingerprinting

/9j/4AAQSkZJRgABAQEAYABgAAD/2wBDAAgGBgcGBQgHBwcJCQgKDBQNDAsLDBkSEw8UHRof
KACiiigAooooAKKKKACiiigD/9k=

```
--Boundary_11111
Content-type: text/plain; CHARSET=us-ascii; name="Craig Johnson.vcf"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline; filename="Craig Johnson.vcf"
```

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:3.0
N:Johnson;Craig;;;
```

```
...
END:VCARD
```

--Boundary_11111--





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So... What IS a Message Body???

- RFC5322: Anything following the headers, regardless of the content type
- Humans: The textual part following the headers, but not the binaries
- Email Security Appliance:
 - The first text/plain part following the headers
 - The first multipart/alternative part following the headers, if it contains a text/plain part
 - Binaries encoded within the first text/plain part (e.j. uuencoded) are considered attachments



Add policy granularity

```
noASfromSalesToMgmt:
if ((rcpt-to-group=="Management") AND (mail-from-
group="Sales")) {
        skip-spamcheck();
};
                            The Policy Engine can only OR
                            senders/recipients in policy specification
```

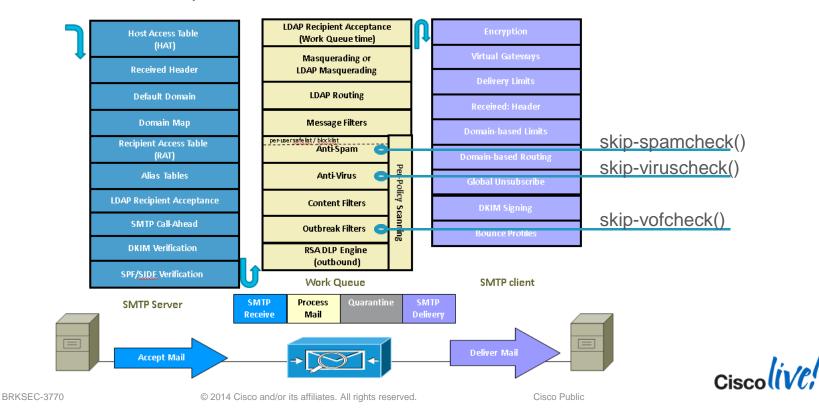
Message Filters can skip security engines





For Your Reference

You can't control Anti-Spam and Anti-Virus with Content Filters!



Delay Delivery of Large Messages

Set up a quarantine to retain 8 hours, then release

if ((recv-listener=="OutgoingMail") AND (body-size > 10M) AND
(date > "01/30/2013 08:00") AND (date < "01/30/2013 1600")) {
 quarantine("Delayed");
 notify(postmaster@domain.com, "\$EnvelopeFrom Trying to
 send large messages";
};</pre>

 Method 2: Use altsrchost() to change delivery IP addressand QoS on the routers



Processing S/MIME signatures

```
notOurkey:
if ((signed-certificate("signer") AND (signed-
certificate("signer") != "cisco\\.com$")) {
    notify(infosec@cisco.com, "Outgoing S/MIME message
signed with non-Cisco certificate!);
    quarantine("Policy";
}
```

};



Processing S/MIME signatures

```
notOurkey:
if ((signed-certificate("signer") AND (signed-
certificate("signer") != "cisco\\.com$")) {
       notify(infosec@cisco.com, "Outgoing S/MIME message
signed with non-Cisco dertificate!);
       quarantine("Policy";
};
        Message is signed
                   But, not by us!
```



The most polite Message Filter in the world ©

```
obfuscateMailBombs:
```

```
if (addr-count("To", "Cc" > 30) {
    strip-header("Cc");
    edit-header-text("To", "undisclosed-recipients");
};
```

 Your friends mass-mailing jokes are also a spammer's best friend. Don't let them get away with it!



Optimising and Streamlining

- Regex is less expensive than Boolean , in every aspect
 - Bad:

```
if (attachment-filename=="\\.exe$") OR (attachment-filename=="\\.com$") OR
(attachment-filename=="\\.bat$") OR attachment-filename=="\\.dll") {
```

– Good

```
if (attachment-filename=="\\.(exe|com|bat|dll)$") {
```

Auto-optimisation: Use nested IFs to avoid auto-optimisation

```
if ((recv-listener=="Incoming") AND (rcpt-to-group=="Sales"))
```

VS.

```
if (rcpt-to-group=="Sales") {
```

if (recv-listener=="Incoming") {



Optimising and Streamlining (2)

- Filters with Final Actions first drop(), bounce(), skip-filters()
- Most executed filters first
- Clean your filters up!
 - Filters that are inactive are still evaluated just actions are not executed
 - Check for filters that are never triggered: search through mail_logs for matches
 - If you need to keep unused filters, insert a "catch-all" filter at the end of your used ones"

```
if (true) {
  skip-filters();
}
```



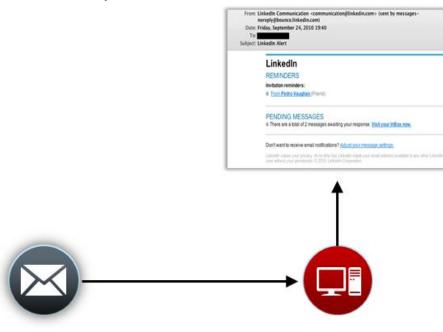
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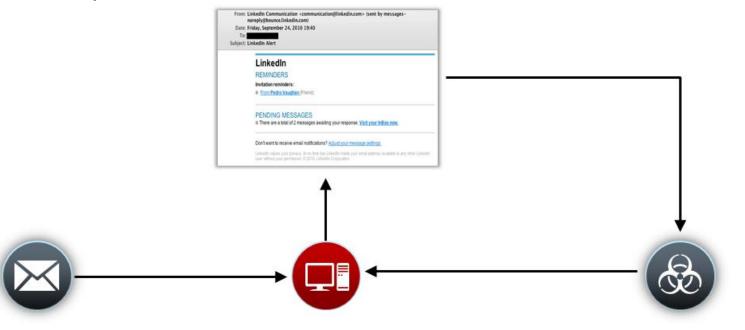
Anti-Phishing: OF, DKIM And SPF

Introduced in AsyncOS 7.5.x





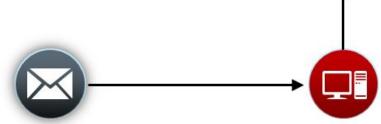






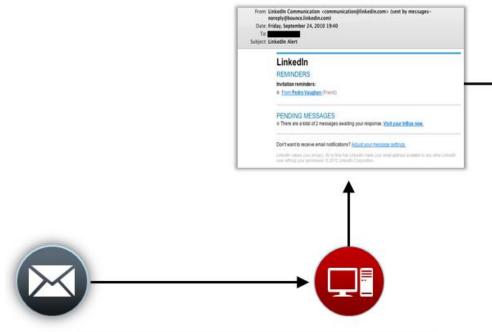








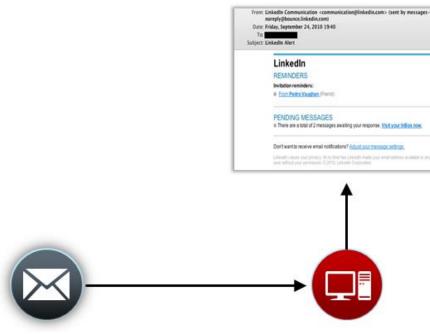


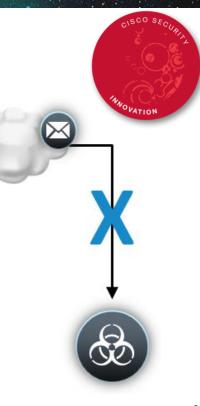














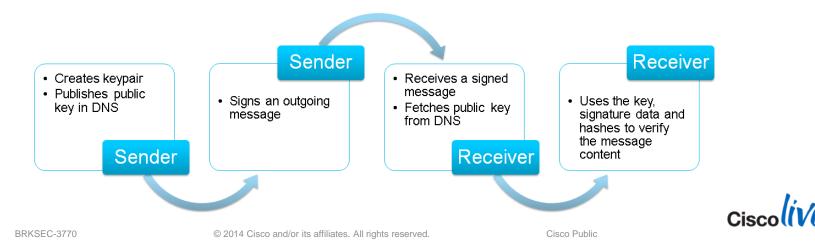
Demonstration

- Configuring Message Modification to On in Outbreak Filters configuration
- Sending a message with "X-Advertisement: outbreak" and a URL
- Verifying the URL got redirected in Webmail



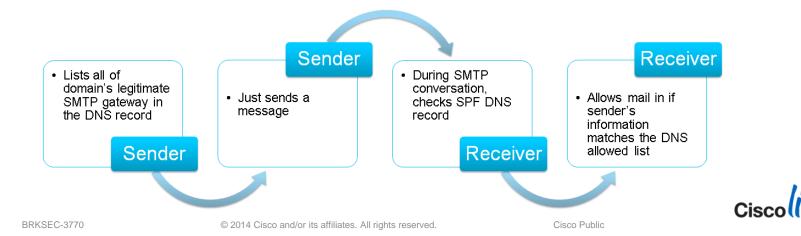
Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM) – RFC5585 et al.

- Asymmetric encryption based message integrity, authentication, and nonrepudiation
- Information stored in DKIM Signature header
- Verification key obtained from DNS



Sender Policy Framework (SPF) – RFC4408

- Simple, DNS-based anti-spoofing technology
- Lists all legitimate SMTP gateways for a domain; provides information on what to do with senders not on the list ("-": hard fail; "~" soft fail)
- Provides no integrity checking (susceptible to MitM) or non-repudiation



As a sender:

- Avoid spoofing of your messages
- Increase your reputation
- Avoid getting blacklisted
- As a receiver:
 - Block phishing and spoofing attacks
 - Apply more liberal policies to AUTTHENTICATED external sources
 - And, universally, help keep the Internet a nice and safe place be a good Internet citizen



The easy path: Use the tools on the Email Security Appliance

- Create a signing keypair
- Configure a DKIM signing profile using the key, and specify parameters:
 - Domain name, canonicalisation method, what to sign, additional tags to use, and which messages to sign
- Generate the DNS record and add it to your DNS zone(s)
- Use the "Test" option of the DKIM profile to verify if keys in the pair match



DKIM Signature





\$ host -T -t txt 20120113._domainkey.gmail.com

20120113._domainkey.gmail.com descriptive text "k=rsa\; p=MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA1Kd87/UeJjenpabgbFwh +eBCsSTrqmwIYYvywlbhbqoo2DymndFkbj0VIPIldNs/m40KF+yzMn1skyoxcTUGCQ s8g3FgD2Ap3ZB5DekAo5wMmk4wimD0+U8QzI3SD07y2+07wlNWwIt8svnxgdxGkVbb hzY8i+RQ9DpSVpPbF7ykQxtKXkv/ahW3KjViiAH+ghvvIhkx4xYSIc9oSwVmAl5Oct MEeWUwg8Istjqz8BZeTWbf41fbNhte7Y+YqZOwq1Sd0DbvYAD9N0ZK9vlfuac0598H Y+vtSBczUiKERHv1yRbcaQtZFh5wtiRrN04BLUTD21MycBX5jYchHjPY/wIDAOAB"



The easy path: Use the tools on the Email Security Appliance

- Enable DKIM in Mail Flow Policies
 - Signing in Outgoing Mail Flow Policy ("RELAY" by default)
 - Verification in Incoming (or Default) Mail Flow Policies
- Use Message Filters or Content Filters for verification
- Parse Authentication-Results header in Message Filters, or use "DKIM Authentication" Content Filters rule



- Figure out your outgoing SMTP sending hosts
- Create your SPF record
- Publish it for the world!
- Biggest challenge: Figuring out your outgoing SMTP sending hosts
 - You think you know them... but
 - There's always a rouge PC with no SMTP gateway configured
 - Internal applications might send e-mail directly
 - Servers/services from DMZ might send alerts/notifications





"My opinion is that any company which does not know where their SMTP servers are has to commit seppuku in front of the building starting from the CIO. DNS administrators can prove their loyalty by cutting one finger from their right hand."

Member of Messaging Support Team

Very Large Global Corporation, a Cisco Email Security Customer





"My opinion is that any company which does not know where their SMTP servers are has to commit seppuku in front of the building starting from the CIO. DNS administrators can prove their loyalty by cutting one finger from their right hand."

Member of Messaging Support Team

Very Large Global Corporation, a Cisco Email Security Customer



\$ host -t txt cisco.com

cisco.com descriptive text "v=spf1 ip4:171.68.0.0/14 ip4:64.100.0.0/14 ip4:64.104.0.0/16 ip4:72.163.7.160/27 ip4:72.163.197.0/24 ip4:128.107.0.0/16 ip4:144.254.0.0/16 ip4:66.187.208.0/20 ip4:173.37.86.0/24 ip4:173.36.130.0/24 ip4:204.15.81.0/26 ip4:216.206.186.129/25 ip4:208.90.57.0/26 mx:res.cisco.com ~all"

\$ host -t txt google.com

google.com descriptive text "v=spf1 include:_netblocks.google.com include:_netblocks6.google.com ip4:216.73.93.70/31 ip4:216.73.93.72/31 ~all"

\$ host -t txt amazon.com

amazon.com descriptive text "v=spf1 include:spf1.amazon.com include:spf2.amazon.com
include:amazonses.com -all"



Email Security Appliance and SPF

 Not much to do there – publish your SPF records, configure verification in MPF, and use Message Filters or Content Filters to enforce (spf-status or spfpassed rules)

Security Features			Add Condition	
Spam Detection:	⊙ On ◯ Off			
Virus Protection:	⊙ On ◯ Off		Message Body or Attachment	
Encryption and Authentication:	TLS:	Off Preferred Required	Message Body SPF Verification Message Size What are the SPF Verification results to match Attachment Content Attachment File Info SPF Verification: SPF Verification:	
	SMTP Authentication:	Off Preferred Required		
	If Both TLS and SMTP Authentication are enabled:	Require TLS To Offer SMTP Authentication		CDE Varifiantian
Domain Key/DKIM Signing:	On Off		Attachment Protection Subject Header	
DKIM Verification:	On Off		Other Header	Pass
	Use DKIM Verification Profile:	DEFAULT \$	Envelope Sender	Neutral
SPF/SIDF Verification:	On Off		Envelope Recipient	SoftFail
		SIDF Compatible 🗘	Receiving Listener	🖂 Fail
			Remote IP/Hostname	TempError
	Downgrade PRA verification result if 'Resent-Sender:' or 'Resent-From:' were used:	● No ○ Yes	Reputation Score	PermError
			DKIM Authentication	
	HELO Test:	Off • On	SPF Verification	



Demonstration

- Configuring a DKIM signing profile
- Sending outgoing message, view signature
- Receiving a DKIM-Signed message, verifying signature
- Configuring SPF verification
- Receiving an SPF-verified message

The Future

A shining new star on the skyline: DMARC

- Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance draftdmarc-base-00
- Combines DKIM and SPF to eliminate their shortcomings
 - DKIM provides no way to advertise
 - SPF provides no integrity checks
- Additional layer: DKIM and SPF must be in sync
- Provides mechanism to send feedback back to the senders
- Based on DNS TXT records



Agari.com

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=agari.com; i=@agari.com; q=dns/txt; s=s1024; t=1340901310; x=1372437310; h=mime-version:in-reply-to:references:date:messageid:subject:from:to:cc; bh=VL1kbrttnEN3rBcJqiuYwwCXKG+X0ivxazuWBsqsy1c=; b=OhHljRyHHtRSnP1fHPqL7eEsW4E5uKhz3nsiVQ7v2EtcA7orMqtitDL5A1/Inx6/lvkckKs28eFrcFduPluIPpMc9t+4+gw TKDIXq0A041b1bFCdfnYoe8XNvR/7UmcYIdV36tP/A06eQQ8bY0gFXCK00KoZv9b2yuuxsC4f5go=;

s1024._domainkey.agari.com descriptive text "v=DKIM1\; k=rsa\; p=MIGfMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBgQDQwPqBxkI0c1YVnJv30ccfbd3S68p8E5BafsirMBaSPxqIgnzaxNSyPp8 INEPL61cIRKo3u195Px5XHNwjEfq76BvDu7eUYXxY8zKcAS74heKAeyfpVaMFWHUzCoujPNzzorCIRtP5CuY+ILw+Vj1SKN6x 1BWhouCSHWhOr/vcYQIDAQAB"

agari.com descriptive text "v=spf1 ip4:82.135.8.34 ip6:2001:a60:901e::22 ip4:72.250.241.196 ip4:74.250.241.195 ip4:74.217.77.9 ip4:74.217.77.10 ip4:74.116.66.11 ip4:74.116.66.12 include:_spf.google.com include:support.zendesk.com -all"

_dmarc.agari.com descriptive text "v=DMARC1\;p=none\;pct=100\;ruf=mailto:d@ruf.agari.com\;rua=mailto:d@rua.agari.com"



Ciscolive!



And a Little More...

The Future

Coming soon to a Cisco Email Security environment near you!

- AsyncOS 8.0 and ESAv: Virtual Email Security Appliance
 - OVF file; ESXi 4.1 and 5.0 supported
 - 4 different virtual appliances, roughly equivalent to current hardware models
 - Available to all existing hardware appliance customers at FCS
 - No limitation on number of instances run
- Centralised Policy Quarantines
 - Migration Wizard for existing on-box quarantines
 - Search through multiple quarantines, release messages from multiple quarantines at once
- FIPS support and more, including Customisable Reporting Dashboard, Quick Links, and Landing Page in the web UI



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Q & A

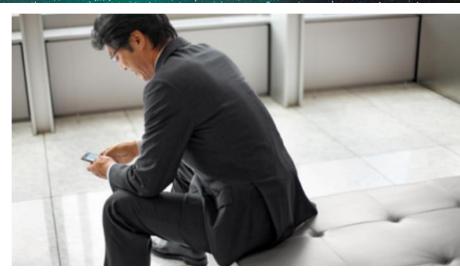
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