

From: Scott Prigan  
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 5:35 PM  
To: Authentication Summit  
Subject: Comments on Email Authentication

I just noticed that September 30 is the deadline to submit written comments for the Federal Trade Commission-National Institute of Standards and Technology's "Email Authentication Summit."

Please remember that much of the spam problem is a user problem -- i.e. people who promiscuously publish their email addresses.

And however nefarious the spammers may be, we don't want to shut down the internet to combat them!

To this end it is **IMPERATIVE** that **NO PROPRIETARY SOLUTIONS** be employed in combatting spam. All solutions should be **OPEN SPECIFICATIONS ONLY!!**

It would be better to take more time to explore effective solutions than to stampede off and "kill the goose that laid the golden egg."

Specific issues involving proprietary vs. open solutions include:

7. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would have to be an open standard (i.e., a standard with specifications that are public).

YES~

8. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards are proprietary and/or patented.

NO!!!

9. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would require the use of goods or services protected by intellectual property laws.

NO!!!

22. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would impact the ability of consumers to engage in anonymous political speech.

**MUST NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT!**

23. Whether any safeguards are necessary to ensure that the adoption of an industry-wide authentication standard does not run afoul of the antitrust laws.

**\*\*** By all means, make sure Microsoft does not use this as a lever to attack Free and Open Source software. If this be the case, the U.S. will likely soon find itself a technological backwater, while the world moves ahead without us!

Sincerely,

Richard S Prigan  
Citizen

--