

From: Brad Seiler
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To: Authentication Summit
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I would like to thank you for taking the initiative to discuss how to solve the pressing problem of false sender addresses in e-mail. This summer, while developing a simple SMTP server daemon, I learned SMTP and demonstrated to astonished friends my ability to end e-mails to them from "The Muffin Man" or even their own e-mail address. I believe that the best way for the Government to aid in preventing spam is to distribute to each domain name owner a private key or pad of some kind that would allow them to generate digital signatures for e-mail addresses at their domain. The owner would provide a public and private key for each e-mail address in a similar fashion to the public/private key system used now by VeriSign and other Certifying Authorities. This way, the software infrastructure for validating the signature already exists, but the power to certify is transferred from the Certifying Authorities to the domain owners. If a domain is suspected of spam, the entire domain can be blacklisted until the owner revokes the particular certificate in question. This way spammers will not be able to jump from address to address on the same domain, nor will they be able to spoof e-mails. I hope you find my comments helpful.

Brad Seiler