

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20580

Various public databases suggest that the IP address, [insert number], may be an open relay mail server or an open proxy server. We understand that you have a server using this IP address. This email has important information that may affect your organization's online presence. If you are not the registered owner, please forward this message to the appropriate contact.

We are sending this email as part of "Operation Secure Your Server," a joint project of the United States Federal Trade Commission and other government agencies around the world that are concerned about the problems associated with the proliferation of unsolicited commercial email (spam). We want you to learn how to secure your servers and avoid becoming an unwitting source of spam. As a first step, we would suggest closing your open relay or open proxy server.

Open relays and open proxies are servers that allow any computer in the world to "bounce" or route email through them to other Internet mail addresses. Open relays and open proxies are often exploited by people who flood the Internet with spam. This abuse creates problems for consumers worldwide, as well as for law enforcement and your organization. For example, recipients may think the spam comes from your system; unknown third parties may use your servers and Internet service resources; your network connections may become clogged with traffic; your administrative costs may increase; or your Internet Service Provider may shut down your Internet service. Securing your server will help you protect your system from being misused.

We offer additional information about open relays, open proxies, and how to protect your organization from the dangers associated with these unsecured servers, including step-by-step instructions on closing them. Click on [www.ftc.gov/secureyourserver](http://www.ftc.gov/secureyourserver) to view a dedicated Web page, including a list of agencies partnering in this project. For direct access to the instructions for closing your open relay or open proxy, click on [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/secureyourserver.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/secureyourserver.htm).

If you have questions about the instructions or this letter, please write to [secureyourserver@ftc.gov](mailto:secureyourserver@ftc.gov).