EXCERPT FROM VBSPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW MARCH 2013

VIRUS BULLETIN VBSPAM TESTING

The VBSpam test methodology can be found at http://www.virusbtn.com/vbspam/methodology/. As usual, email was sent to the products in parallel and in real time, and products were given the option to block email pre-DATA. Five products chose to make use of this option.

As in previous tests, the products that needed to be installed on a server were installed on a *Dell PowerEdge R200*, with a 3.0GHz dual core processor and 4GB of RAM. The *Linux* products ran on *CentOS 6.3* or *Ubuntu 11*; the *Windows Server* products ran on either the 2003 or the 2008 version, depending on which was recommended by the vendor.

To compare the products, we calculate a 'final score', which is defined as the spam catch (SC) rate minus five times the false positive (FP) rate. Products earn VBSpam certification if this value is at least 98:

SC - (5 x FP) ≥ 98

Meanwhile, those products that combine a spam catch rate of 99.50% or higher with a lack of false positives earn a VBSpam+ award.

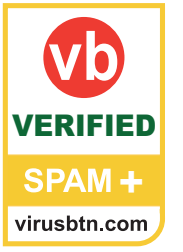
As usual, the test ran for 16 consecutive days, from 12am GMT on Saturday 16 February 2013 until 12am GMT on Monday 4 March 2013. A bug in one of the main test MTAs caused the test to be interrupted for a short period a few times. To ensure that no product's performance was affected by this interruption, we liberally excluded emails from the test that were sent immediately before or after each interruption.

The corpus contained 84,576 emails, 71,298 of which were part of the spam corpus: 56,781 were provided by *Project Honey Pot* and 14,517 by *spamfeed.me*, a product from *Abusix*. They were all relayed in real time, as were the remaining emails, consisting of 12,532 legitimate emails ('ham'), 223 newsletters and 523 phishing emails provided by *Wombat Security Technologies*.

There was a significant drop in average spam catch rates this month: 15 of the 19 complete solutions missed more spam than they did in the last test. Most products also saw their false positive rates increase. This wasn't too surprising, however, as prior to the test, a number of new sources of legitimate emails were added, including emails in German, French, Greek and Russian – non-English emails tend to trigger more false positives.

Libra Esva 2.9

SC rate: 99.94%
FP rate: 0.0%
Final score: 99.94
Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.93%
Abusix SC rate: 99.99%
SC rate pre-DATA: 91.76%
Wombat SC rate: 96.0%
Newsletters FP rate: 0.0%



Libra Esva first joined the test three years ago and has been impressing us with very high catch rates ever since. It was as long ago as 2011 when the product's catch rate last dipped below 99.9% – and this test is no exception. What is more, the virtual appliance has historically had rather low false positive rates: it was the first product to achieve a VBSpam+ award upon its introduction, and has been edging close to a second one ever since.

In this test, even with a more difficult ham corpus, the product achieved a clean sheet, including a lack of false positives amongst the newsletters. It performed very well on phishing emails too, and easily earns its second VBSpam+ award.

(For the full VBSpam comparative review please see http://www.virusbtn.com/vbspam/archive/list)