

Research Firm Completes Three Year Test Plan Proving Spam Can Be Made Obsolete, Foresees Possible Repercussions

SAN FRANCISCO October 12, 2007 - Argent Solutions LLC, Novato, California and Ingenious Systems Research LLC of Dover, Delaware announced today the results of a three year "live environment email test" that has proven that existing Internet infrastructure can be used to eliminate spam globally. ISR says the results of the test were conclusive. No spam was received by any test participant and no legitimate emails were lost in the process.

The focus of the test, which used 1.17 billion real emails, was to measure the performance of a source verification system dubbed the "Forensic Sender Test" (FST). "Source verification" is verifying that a received email isn't from a forged sender, commonly referred to as "spoofing". According to ISR, the FST differs from other source verification systems such as Microsoft's Sender ID by eliminating the requirement to do mass modification of mail exchanger registrations or software, the primary obstacle to adoption of other systems. The FST, by contrast, relies solely on already-available data to expose email spoofs. The elimination of spoofing removes the opportunity for identity theft crimes through email.

Using the FST system as a core, a user authentication layer was added rounding out what ISR founders Steve Jackson and Mike Walker called their MailVICE project. This layer uses the FST information to allow the end user to reliably pick and choose their email "buddies" in much the same way instant messaging applications do. There is absolutely no use of email content examination in the project. A \$10,000 cash reward offered to the thousands of test participants for any spam delivery remains unclaimed. ISR says users also reported a renewed trust in their email as a messaging facility because lost email from false-positive filtering is no longer possible.

ISR has concerns that the results could bring new dangers to their venture once the spammers realize that the system is the first available with no possibility of circumvention. ISR claims that, based on the unexpected reduction of total SPAM volume to test recipients, if used on a wide enough scale, the project would financially hobble the SPAM industry hitting the criminal segment that relies on spoofing for identity theft the hardest. "We didn't really mean to go up against international crime syndicates," says Jackson, "but the criminals could certainly see this as an attack and retaliate." ISR President J.C. "Duke" Thompson also believes that "legitimate" mass email marketers may be angered by the unavailability of back-door access to users' inboxes.

MailVICE is distributed by Argent Solutions.

For additional information please contact: Argent Solutions at 415-226-3300 or go to the website at: <http://www.argentsolutions.net> <http://www.mailvice.com>
Ingenious Systems Research, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company.