

Email Spoofing

What is email spoofing?



Spoofing is when a spammer sends out emails using your email address in the From: field. The idea is to make it seem like the message is from you – in order to trick people into opening it.

The message actually originates from the spammer's email account and is sent from the spammer's email server. Criminals who use email for scams or frauds can use spoofed addresses to cover their tracks and avoid detection.

Email spoofing is forging an email header to make it look like it came from somewhere or someone other than the actual source. It is often an attempt to trick the recipient into making a damaging statement or releasing sensitive information, such as passwords.

If you're receiving bounced (returned) emails for messages that you never sent and that use as the return address your domain and addresses you never created, then this could be a case of spoofing.

Spoofing is possibly the most frustrating abuse issue to deal with, simply because it cannot be stopped. Spoofing is similar to handwriting many letters, and signing someone else's name to it. You can imagine how difficult that would be to trace.



How can I tell if i'm being spoofed?



- ✓ You see mailer-daemon error messages (returned emails) in your inbox that do NOT match any messages you sent out (as if someone sent a letter to another person and wrote your return address on the envelope instead of their own.)
- ✓ You get messages from people who received email from you that you did NOT send.

Difference between hacked and spoofed?

Your Sent folder may offer the best clue to whether you have been hacked or spoofed.



- ✓ If you DO find email in your Sent folder that you did NOT send: Your account has been compromised (hacked).
- ✓ If you DO NOT find any strange email in your Sent Folder: Your account has most likely been spoofed.


–End Transmission–

Information Security: It's a Shared Responsibility

REFERENCES

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