



EXCERPT FROM VIRUS BULLETIN ANTI-SPAM COMPARATIVE REVIEW, MARCH 2011

Halon Mail Security

SC rate: 99.71%

FP rate: 0.00%

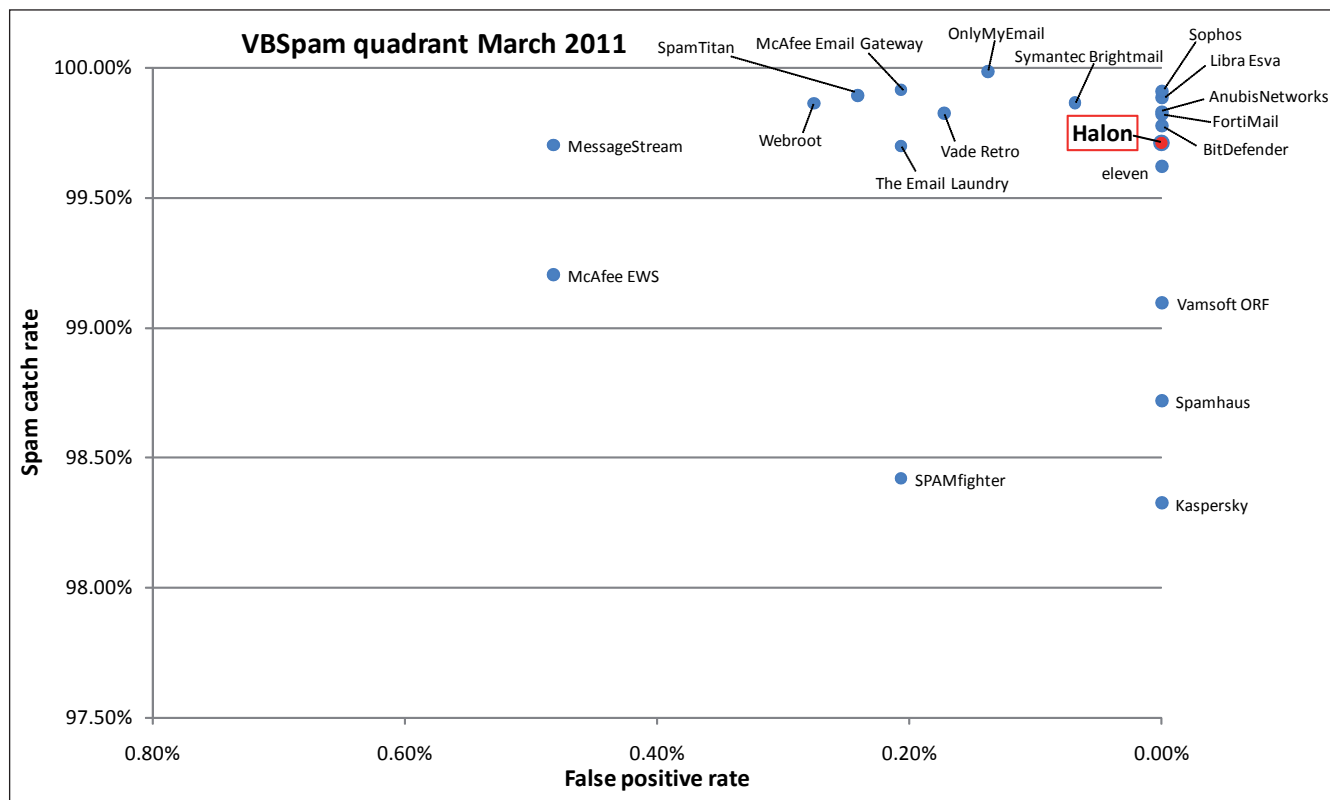
Final score: 99.71

Project Honey Pot SC rate: 99.72%

Abusix SC rate: 99.69%

Halon, a Swedish company, offers three spam-filtering solutions: a hosted solution, a hardware appliance and a virtual appliance; we tested the latter.

The product was installed easily on *VMware* and setting it up was equally straightforward. A nice, intuitive web interface lets the administrator change settings where necessary and I was particularly charmed by the fact that the product uses its own scripting language that can be used to fine-tune its performance. This will give more tech-savvy sysadmins the possibility to add their own rules to tailor the product specifically for their organization's particular needs.



	True negatives	False positives	FP rate	False negatives	True positives	SC rate	Final score
Anubis Networks	2901	0	0.00%	230	137669	99.83%	99.83
BitDefender	2901	0	0.00%	305	137594	99.78%	99.78
eleven	2901	0	0.00%	521	137378	99.62%	99.62
FortiMail	2901	0	0.00%	244	137655	99.82%	99.82
Halon Mail Security	2901	0	0.00%	400	137499	99.71%	99.71
Kaspersky Anti-Spam	2901	0	0.00%	2311	135588	98.32%	98.32
Libra Esva	2901	0	0.00%	155	137744	99.89%	99.89
McAfee Email Gateway	2895	6	0.21%	113	137786	99.92%	98.88
McAfee EWS	2887	14	0.48%	1097	136802	99.20%	96.79
MessageStream	2887	14	0.48%	408	137491	99.70%	97.29
OnlyMyEmail	2897	4	0.14%	16	137883	99.99%	99.30
Sophos Email Appliance	2901	0	0.00%	122	137777	99.91%	99.91
SPAMfighter	2895	6	0.21%	2179	135720	98.42%	97.39
SpamTitan	2894	7	0.24%	143	137756	99.90%	98.69
Symantec Brightmail Gateway	2899	2	0.07%	183	137716	99.87%	99.52
The Email Laundry	2895	6	0.21%	413	137486	99.70%	98.67
Vade Retro	2896	5	0.17%	240	137659	99.83%	98.96
Vamsoft ORF	2901	0	0.00%	1245	136654	99.10%	99.10
Webroot	2893	8	0.28%	185	137714	99.87%	98.49
Spamhaus ZEN+DBL*	2901	0	0.00%	1768	136131	98.72%	98.72

*As the only partial solution in this test, the results for Spamhaus are listed separately from the full solutions.

Of course, a user-friendly interface is only meaningful if the product itself performs well, but that was certainly the case here. With a good spam catch rate and no false positives at all, *Halon Mail Security's* final score is among the highest in this test and earns the product a well-deserved VBSpam award.

Methodology

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. Four products of the products chose to make use of this option.

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 97:

$$SC - (5 \times FP) \geq 97$$

The test ran for 16 consecutive days, from around 12am GMT on Saturday 5 February 2011 until 12am GMT on Monday 21 February 2011.

The corpus contained 140,800 emails, 137,899 of which were spam. Of these, 80,755 were provided by *Project Honey Pot* and 57,144 were provided by *Abusix*; in both cases, the messages were relayed in real time, as were the 2,901 legitimate emails – a record number for our tests.

As before, the legitimate emails were sent in a number of languages to represent an international mail stream.

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