

comp.security.unix: Re: "proving" a user received an email (good gosh)

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Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.unix/2002-10/0424.html>

From: Chronos Tachyon (chronos@chronos.dyndns.org.no.spam.please.example.com)

Date: 06/26/02

From: Chronos Tachyon <chronos@chronos.dyndns.org.no.spam.please.example.com>

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2002 23:16:46 -0500

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

On Tue 25 Jun 2002 06:19 pm, Faux_Pseudo wrote:

>
> --(Once upon a time, in comp.security.unix)--
> --(Bruno Wolff III said it like only they can.)--
>> *It someone really needs a confirmation that the message was read by a*
>> *human, it should ask for a confirmation in the body of the message.*
>
>
> *Bad idea. Any user where confirmation is an issue is a user who knows*
> *enough to not confirm delivery of the message. What would be better*
> *is a "X-Lieing-User: yes" header that the mail client or MTA can check*
> *and find out if the message did get properly routed and then the mail*
> *client can look for the header and at the top of the email put a*
> *little "In opening this mail a notification was sent to the sender"*
>

Spam, spam, spam, spam, Spam, spam, spam, spam, ...

Any sort of automatic use of Delivery Status Notification would be exploited by spammers in all of about 5 minutes to confirm the existence of valid e-mail addresses, thus making them more valuable when selling them to other spammers. It would be worse than 1x1 transparent GIFs pointing to a script on a remote HTTP server, since while no valid message **requires** that remote image loading be turned on, any sort of mandatory DSN **couldn't** distinguish between spammers and legitimate use.

And, although an "X-Lieing-User: yes" header (in the fine spelling tradition of HTTP's "Referer:", perhaps?) might be somewhat useful, there are MANY legitimate situations where you don't want e-mail being sent to the same provider as your outgoing mail server -- for instance, when I occasionally post from my Earthlink account at home, I use the e-mail address of my

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broadband connection a