



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

Halon Mail Security

SC rate: 99.71%

FP rate: 0.00%

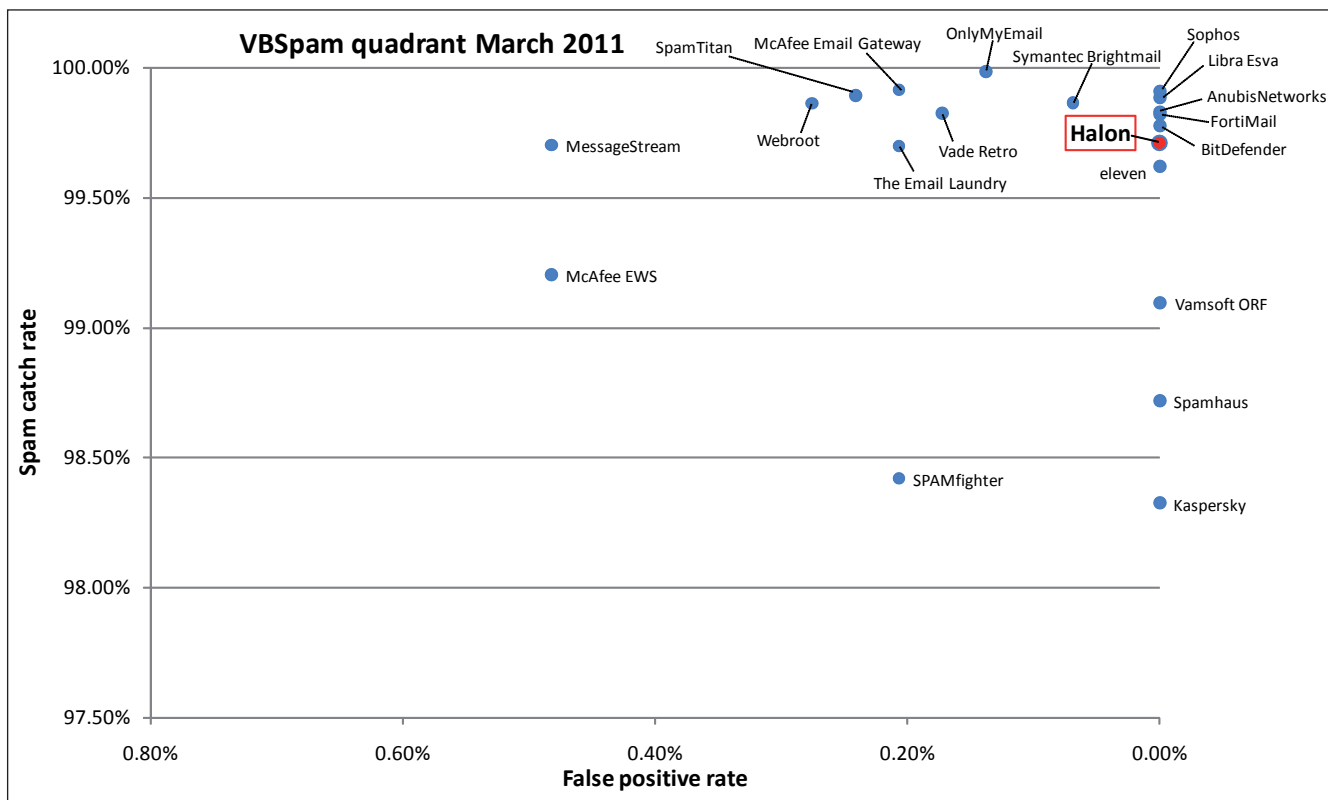
Final score: 99.71

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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