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INTERNATIONAL MESSAGING
ASSOCIATES

Website: www.ima.com
Email: sales@ima.com

Hongkong
27/F, China Resources Building
26 Harbour Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: +852-2520-0300
Fax: +852-2648-5913

Philippines
6/F, Hanston Building
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines
Tel: +63 (2) 637-9090
Fax: +63 (2) 637-9898

USA
Toll Free No: +1 (800) 549-2762
Fax: +1 (888) 562-3561

Cover Story

Bridging the gap between Linux and Windows

Since 1994, Linux has emerged as a major player in the server operating system market. Its market acceptance has been meteoric, with growth predicted to remain at a steady 16 percent until 2004. It has even outpaced Windows in market growth and is rapidly gaining popularity with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as well as in the corporate server room.

Taking this trend into consideration, *International Messaging Associates* (IMA) has developed *Internet Exchange Messaging Server* (IEMS) 5 to bridge the gap between Linux and Windows users. This development essentially fulfills IMA's promise of reaching out and providing its services to a wider range of users and administrators.

System administrators will find it easy to configure IEMS 5 in a distributed environment while having the alternative to mix Windows and Linux machines. Installing IEMS 5 in a distributed environment reduces system loading by evenly distributing processing tasks and transactions among its different components residing on separate machines. As a result, the actual processing of messages speeds up because different modules on multiple machines execute tasks

autonomously and simultaneously. Administrators can currently install IEMS 5 on RedHat 6.2, 7.0.9, 7.1; Caldera Open Linux Server Version 2.3.1; Mandrake 7.2, 8 beta 1; SuSE 7.1; TurboLinux 6, and VALinux 6.2.3. Installation can be performed either by using an X Windows or non-X Windows environment. Both approaches provide simple and explicit steps for installing IEMS 5 on Linux.

In addition to supporting several versions of the Linux operating system, IEMS 5 is also fully supported on all major Microsoft Windows operating environments, including Windows 98, Windows NT, and Windows 2000 Server.

In order to control costs and to best utilize their existing IT staff, most data centers tend to focus most of their resources around common operating systems, such as Windows or UNIX/Linux. Now users no longer have to be concerned about what operating system or systems are in place in order to pick a winning email solution. IMA solves this problem through IEMS 5, a complete Internet messaging solution for environments made up of any combination of Linux and/or Windows servers.



System-level spam blocking via Internet Exchange Messaging Server's anti-spam module

“Spam is the cancer of electronic commerce. You can either kill it or cure it.” These were the words used by Colin Lloyd, Chief Executive of the British Direct Marketing Association, describing spam.

Spam is a collective term for unsolicited commercial messages similar to junk mail. Like cancer, spam spreads widely and rapidly. It also weakens the system by damaging precious computing resources. For example, spam clogs an ISP's available bandwidth causing Internet access to slow down. It floods an email user's mailbox with worthless, deceptive, and scheming stuff causing time and cost wastage.

With Internet Exchange Messaging Server (IEMS) 5, spam is prevented from invading your system via its anti-spam feature. It handles spam head on through system level spam blocking—a technique that blocks spam directly from its source. IEMS supports four methods of spam blockings, namely:

- **Site/Network Blacklisting**

IEMS allows its system administrator to create a list of IP (Internet Protocol) addresses banned from sending messages to IEMS. If the IP address of the remote host is included in the banned IP addresses list, IEMS' SMTPD (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol Daemon) rejects the connection

and informs the remote host that it is not authorized to send mail to IEMS. This method will then detect and control abusive messages before it enters the system.

- **Third-Party Relay Prevention**

Because of the strict measures companies are now enforcing against spam, spammers are becoming more innovative in looking for alternative means to continue sending spam. An example is using third-party relay systems where unsuspecting MTAs (Message Transfer Agents) are used to accept and relay spam mail. This conceals the true identity of the spammer.

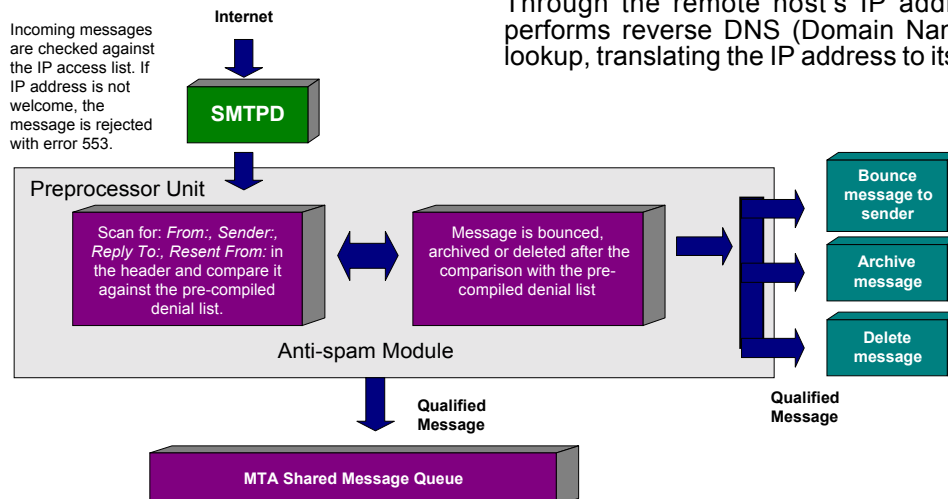
IEMS solves this problem by allowing its system administrator to maintain a list of IP addresses that are authorized to relay mail to IEMS. With this list, IEMS can deny relay for unfriendly addresses, and allow relaying for desirable machines or networks, such as local POP3 (Post Office Protocol version 3) or IMAP4 (Internet Mail Transfer Protocol version 4) mail clients.

- **Remote Name Verification**

In this method, IEMS checks the authenticity of the remote host's FQDN (Fully Qualified Domain Name) and permits only authentic ones to send mail to IEMS.

Through the remote host's IP address, IEMS performs reverse DNS (Domain Name System) lookup, translating the IP address to its equivalent

Detecting Spam Messages



name in the DNS. If the resulting name from the lookup matches the FQDN supplied by the remote host, the FQDN is authentic and the remote host is allowed to send messages to IEMS. Otherwise, the connection request is denied.

• **Sender Address Verification**

The message sender address (envelope) is conveyed in the SMTP MAIL FROM command prior to the actual transmission of the message. If the source did not forge this address, it will point back to the original spammer. IEMS allows for the configuration of known addresses that correspond to unfriendly addresses. When matching addresses are encountered during the SMTP MAIL FROM dialogue, the message is rejected before it gets to the network.

The anti-spam module supports RBL (Real Time Blackhole List) for optimum anti-spam protection. Below are some of the RBL systems supported by Internet Exchange:

- MAPS-RBL (Mail Abuse Prevention System's Real-time Blackhole List)
- MAPS-DUL (Mail Abuse Prevention System's Dial-up User List)

- IMRSS (Internet Mail Relay Services Survey Project)
- ORBS (Open Relay Behavior-Modification System)

The anti-spam Preprocessor Module will also check for the message header after the message pass the SMTP level checking.

Once a message has been detected and tagged as spam by the anti-spam module, any of the following actions can be applied:

- Archive the mail
- Delete the mail
- Bounce the mail to the sender

There is a saying that "for every ounce of prevention is a pound of cure". Through IEMS, spam's entry is prevented in the first place. At system level during SMTP session, IEMS stops spam at its source by providing not one, but four methods for blocking spam. These methods complement each other, giving the system administrator full control over which messages should enter the system, thus ensuring full-scale spam protection.

Accessing a closed mailing list

Archiving, which is done by the DL (Distribution List) Manager, is the process of storing information.

There are two types of distribution lists that are commonly used in the Internet, the open and closed distribution lists. The Internet Exchange Messaging Server (IEMS) DL Manager supports both types to provide the system administrator, list owner and the subscribers with a wider range of options.

Archives of open lists are accessible to members and non-members while archives of closed lists are exclusive to its members only. Thus, when remote users (those whose email addresses are not included in the Directory Services) of a closed mailing list would like to view posted messages in the

closed lists, he needs to undergo a registration procedure.

The IEMS' DL Archives registration procedure distinguish list members from non-members.

To register, click the **Register** button on the DL Archives' Login screen. This displays the registration form wherein the user must enter his email address and password before pressing the **Login** button.

The DL Archive verifies the authenticity of the request by sending an email to the DL Manager engine. The DL Manager engine, in turn, sends the user an authentication reply email to get his email address and password. If the user intends to subscribe, he must provide his password and confirm it by clicking the **Register** button.

Once the DL Manager receives the request, it is forwarded to the system administrator or list owner. The list owner accepts it and notifies the DL Manager, which will then notify the user that his request was accepted.

However, if the DL Manager encounters the word **deny** in the Subject header of the message sent by the list owner, it will reject the user's application. The DL Manager then notifies the user that his request was denied.



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Manager.....	Ana Cruz
Editorial Consultant.....	Tim Kehres
Writers.....	Karen Madrid Reenan Hornilla Sonia Inserto
Contributor.....	Wilbert Nahil
Layout Artists.....	Reenan Hornilla Dulce Montemayor



Q While using the cc:Mail Gateway, all email aliases entries on the "Users" window fails to show. What could be the cause of this problem and how do i solve it?

A This problem is caused by a corrupted database. To solve the problem, consider the following steps:

1. Shut down Internet Exchange Gateway for cc:Mail.
2. From *c:\ieccmail\queue* directory please copy **SMTPADR.BTR** to **SMTPADR_BAK.BTR** (this serves as your backup file). Also from *c:\ieccmail* directory please copy **SMTP.ADR** to **SMTP_BAK.ADR** (this serves as your backup file).
3. Delete **SMTP.ADR** from *c:\ieccmail* directory.
4. Open Internet Exchange Gateway for cc:Mail on *c:\ieccmail* directory. Click **SYSMAN.EXE**.
5. On the cc:Mail Gateway Control Panel, click **Run** then select **Address Conversion**. The "Address Conversion Program" screen appears. Click **Database->Address File Conversion** wherein *c:\ieccmail\queue\smtpr.btr* is given, then click **Ok**.
6. On the cc:Mail Gateway Control Panel, click **Run** then select **Address Conversion**. The "Address Conversion Program" screen appears. Click **Address File->Database Conversion** wherein *c:\ieccmail\smtpr.adr* is given. Then, click **Ok** and **Close**.

7. On the Control Panel again, click **Setup** then **Users**.

Q We are using Internet Exchange Gateway for cc:Mail version 3.14. The time in the log files is an hour late even though the computer clock is set to the correct time. How can I fix it?

A Sometimes enabling DST (DaylightsavingTime) does not take effect immediately, so we have to do it manually. To fix it, set the local timezone of Internet Exchange Gateway to "Use system TZ variable" for it to correspond to the system time. You can do this in */configure/setup/gateway* on Internet Exchange Gateway Control Panel.

For Date/Time Properties:

1. To display date/time properties, click the current time displayed on the Taskbar located on the lower right hand corner of your computer.
2. Set the local time zone on the **Date/Time Properties** window.
3. Tick **Automatically adjust clock for daylight saving changes** below the time zone.
4. Click **Apply**, then **OK** button.

For Internet Exchange Gateway Control Panel for cc:Mail v3.14:

1. Go to *\Start\Programs\Internet Exchange for cc:Mail\IMA Internet Exchange* and select **Internet Exchange Setup**.
2. Under the Internet Exchange Setup, click *\Configure\setup\Gateway*.

3. Set the local time zone.
4. Click the **daylight saving time** option.
5. Click **Apply**, then **OK** button.

Q I want to transfer our existing Internet Exchange for Lotus Notes v3.14 Gateway to a new machine without changing the Server Name and FQDN. Do you have any instruction on how to transfer the Internet Exchange Lotus Notes without re-installing everything? Please note that we have hundreds of users and peers in our database.

A Yes. To transfer Internet Exchange Lotus Notes without reinstalling everything, do the following:

1. Copy the whole Internet Exchange Gateway directory on a new machine.
2. Copy IELN.INI from the Windows or Winnt Directory and move it to the Windows or Winnt Directory of the new machine.
3. Restart Internet Exchange.

