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## ***Comparing Meridius and IronPort***

In order to provide faster and more reliable email delivery, efficient spam screening, and virus protection, CITS is in the process of implementing a new email-handling architecture to replace our current one. As part of this process, CITS is replacing the Meridius spam quarantine with an IronPort email security and spam quarantine solution.

The new IronPort interface will provide features comparable to those in Meridius. This document will highlight some of the differences between the Meridius and IronPort systems.

Feature	Meridius	IronPort
Email filter terminology	Meridius calls the filter categories Whitelist and Blacklist.	IronPort calls the filter categories Safelist and Blocklist.
Managing quarantined messages	Meridius allows four actions: 1) release 2) release and add to Whitelist 3) delete 4) delete and add to Blacklist	IronPort only allows three actions: 1) release 2) release and add to Safelist 3) delete Blocklist additions must be done manually.
Using Wildcards in the email filter	Users could use the wildcard * when entering emails or domains in the Whitelist or blacklist.  Users could enter * to their Whitelist to set Meridius to allow all messages through the filter.	The IronPort system does not accept wildcards when entering addresses in the Safelist or Blocklist.  Users cannot totally override IronPort's filtering of certain spam and virus-containing messages.
Adding entries to the Safelist or Blocklist	Meridius accepted full and partial email addresses, domains, and usernames (like "jane") to be added to either list.	IronPort only accepts addresses in the following formats: user@domain.com, server.domain.com and domain
Number of entries in the Safelist or Blocklist	Meridius allows for 300 entries in whitelist and 300 entries in blacklist.	IronPort limits safelists and blocklists in a combined total and not individually. Users are allotted 500 entries total to use in their Safelist and/or Blocklist.
Blocklist action	When a message is blocked by Meridius, the sender receives an error message stating that their message could not be delivered.	IronPort puts the message in the user's quarantine. The sender does not receive any notification that their message was blocked.
Safelist action	When a message is sent from an address in your whitelist, Meridius will still scan a message for spam content. If a message is spam and is from a safe listed address, it still may be quarantined or dropped.	When a message is sent from an address in your safelist, IronPort will not scan the message for spam content. This does not prevent the message from being scanned by other filters, like message size or blocked content.

Feature	Meridius	IronPort
Quarantine notification message details	Meridius' quarantine notification message contains a link to the quarantine page.	IronPort's quarantine notification message contains a link to the quarantine page, a digest of the previous day's quarantined messages, and the web address of the quarantine page if the link does not work.
List mail and valid bulk emails getting caught as spam	Meridius may quarantine messages it considers "Bulk" mail, or mass mailings, even if they are legitimate messages.	<p>IronPort will not automatically quarantine all bulk email messages or messages from listservs. The system will allow valid "Bulk" email messages through the filter.</p> <p>If users do not want to receive legitimate bulk email messages from vendors, they can unsubscribe from these lists.</p>
Emails deleted from quarantine	In Meridius, emails deleted from quarantine are kept in the "Deleted Items" folder. This folder is emptied every evening; until then, the deleted messages are retrievable.	When you delete a message from your IronPort quarantine, it is permanently deleted.

## Questions?

For questions on the new IronPort system, call the Assistance and Service Center (ASC) Help Desk at 410-706-HELP (4357) or send an e-mail to [help@umaryland.edu](mailto:help@umaryland.edu).