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From Meridius to IronPort – a Move to Better Performance

Why is the Campus Switching from Meridius to IronPort?

Both Meridius and IronPort perform email spam filtering and virus-blocking functions, but IronPort is a superior product. Here are just a few of the reasons why:

- Very high accuracy rate; better performance than Meridius
- Better message tracking and reporting capabilities (administrator functions)
- Ability to also screen outbound email traffic (e.g., to prevent emails that appear to contain SSNs or bank-routing numbers from being exposed to possible hacking)
- IronPort continues to innovate and enhance their product to meet future threats

Advertising Emails vs. Spam

Meridius and IronPort use different formulas for dealing with “bulk” advertising email. Meridius tends to quarantine everything along these lines as spam—in much the same way that some people immediately discard any mail they receive at home that doesn’t have first class postage on it as “junk” mail. IronPort, on the other hand, will pass through email that’s trying to sell you something if it appears that you have subscribed to receive it—just as many people purposely choose to receive certain catalogs, sale notices, coupon mailings, etc. at home.

Why Do I Seem to be Getting More Advertising Emails than I Used To?

The reason that you may get an uncomfortable number of advertising emails (whether your personal discomfort level is 3 a day or 30 a day) is that some of the advertising email which IronPort allows through is stuff that you may not have *knowingly* requested. It may be that you submitted your email address on some vendor’s website long ago because you wanted information on a particular product, or to enter a contest, and now that vendor has not only added your name to his send-email-forever list, but has also sold your contact information to other advertisers in related product lines who have done the same.

What Can I Do to Cut Down on the Amount of “Junk” Emails I Receive?

The good news is that most bulk emails of this type—especially if they’re from reputable vendors or organizations—have an “opt out” or “unsubscribe” link on them. You can bet that it will almost always be at the very bottom of the page, in fine print, and in half-tone gray rather than bold black or a bright color, but if you search for it you should be able to locate it. When you find it, click on the link, submit your email address, and after a respectable period of time emails from *that particular company* should stop coming to you at *that particular address*. You may of course have to do the same thing for all related vendors and/or any other email addresses you use, but eventually you will stem the flow.

How Can I Avoid Getting Spam/Bulk Email in the First Place?

The simple way to avoid getting unwanted advertising email in your office Inbox is to never (or as seldom as humanly possible) give out your email address except for necessary business purposes and/or to trusted correspondents. If you have a habit of requesting information from websites you visit or entering online sweepstakes, then create a “personal” email account for yourself that you can use for such non-business purposes. There are many organizations that are happy to give you a free email account, such as Microsoft (hotmail.com), Yahoo (yahoo.com), Google (gmail.com), etc. Of course with any of this type of email accounts you are opening yourself up to occasional “junk” emails that come through the sponsoring organization, but that’s just the price you pay for this particular type of free lunch.

Questions?

For questions on **IronPort**, call the Assistance and Service Center (ASC) Help Desk at 410-706-HELP (4357) (weekdays, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) or send an e-mail to: help@umaryland.edu