

ESPC Email Authentication Report

Executive Summary:

Over the past months, the ESPC's Receiver Relations Committee, a group dedicated to helping facilitate better understanding and ongoing dialogue between the sender community and the established receiver community, collaborated with leading ISPs and compiled authentication information about their email programs. The result of their efforts is a report providing a list of ISPs and the types of email authentication they currently support for either IP-based (Sender ID and SPF) or cryptographic (DomainKeys and DKIM) solutions. The report is a powerful representation of the broad based endorsement of authentication by receivers today.

Results:

ISP	Status	Version	Filter	Notification	
				Pass	Fail
AOL (aol.com)	Publishing	SPF/Sender-ID	No	None	None
CompuServe (compuserve.com)	Publishing	SPF/Sender-ID	No	None	None
Netscape (netscape.com)	Publishing	SPF/Sender-ID	No	None	None
Bellsouth (bellsouth.net)	Verifying	SPF	No	None	None
Charter (charter.net)	Publishing	SPF	No	None	None
Comcast (comcast.net)	Publishing	SPF	No	None	None
Cox (cox.net)	Testing	DKIM	No	None	None
EarthLink (earthlink.net, mindspring.com, peoplepc.com)	Publishing	DK	No	None	None
Google (gmail.com)	Verifying/ Publishing/Signing	SPF/DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
Juno/NetZero (netzero.net, junos.com)	Publishing	SPF/Sender-ID	No	None	None
Microsoft (msn.com, hotmail.com)	Checking/Publishing	SPF/Sender-ID	Yes	Yes	Yes
RoadRunner (rr.com)	Publishing	SPF	No	None	None
Verizon (verizon.net, gte.net, bellatlantic.net)**	Publishing	SPF	No	None	None
Yahoo! (yahoo.com)	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
SBCGlobal (sbcglobal.net)*	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
British Telecom (btinternet.com)	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rogers Cable (rogers.com)	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rocket Mail (rocketmail.com)	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes
International domains (Yahoo UK, CA, Hong Kong, France, India, Twain, Mexico, China, Italy)	Verifying/Signing	DK	Yes	Yes	Yes

* A portion of legacy domains not verifying or signing at this time

** A small number of accounts hosted by Yahoo! are verifying and signing

Email Authentication Report

Key:

Status:

Verifying: ISP is checking for existence of authentication on incoming email

Publishing: ISP is publishing SPF/Sender ID record for outgoing mail

Signing: ISP is attaching a DK signature to outgoing email

Testing: ISP is evaluating either inbound or outbound authentication protocols

Type:

IP based: validating the source (IP address) of message

Crypto: validating the sender (signature) of message

Version:

Sender Policy Framework (SPF): Authentication standard that specifies what IP addresses can send mail for a given domain.

Requires change to DNS records to implement.

SenderID: Authentication standard based on SPF that expands the verification process to include the purported responsible address (PRA) included in the header. Requires change to DNS records to implement.

DomainKeys (DK): Authentication standard that “signs” each outgoing message with an encrypted key. Requires changes in how messages are constructed to implement.

DKIM: Enhanced encrypted standard that combines Domain Keys and Identified Internet Mail standards. Requires changes in how messages are constructed to implement.

Filter:

Indicates if ISP weighting authentication (positively or negatively) in delivering messages. This is an ongoing process in which ISPs are increasingly adopting authentication standards and determining how to treat incoming email based on the usage of those standards.

Notification:

Pass: ISP provides notification to recipient that message has passed an authentication check.

Fail: ISP provides notification to recipient that message has failed an authentication check.