



# How to Prevent 81% of Phishing Attacks From Sailing Right Through DMARC, SPF, and DKIM

**Roger A. Grimes**  
Data-Driven Defense Evangelist  
[rogerg@knowbe4.com](mailto:rogerg@knowbe4.com)



## Roger A. Grimes

Data-Driven Defense Evangelist  
KnowBe4, Inc.

Twitter: @RogerAGrimes

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rogeragrimes/>

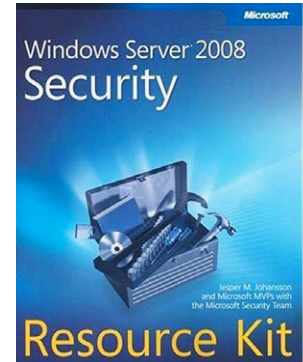
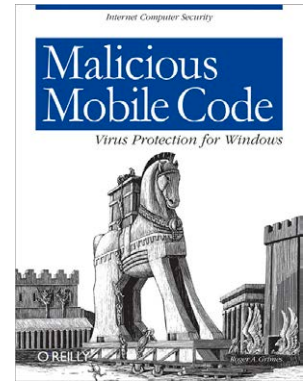
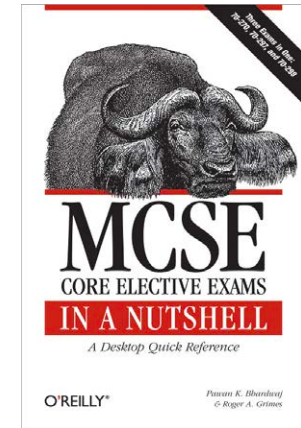
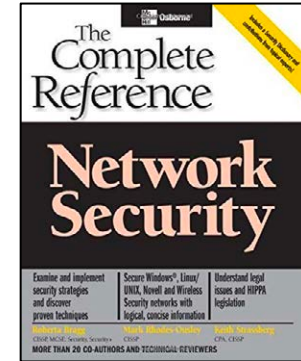
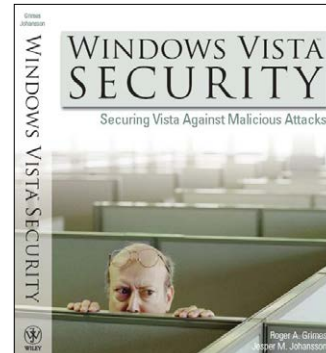
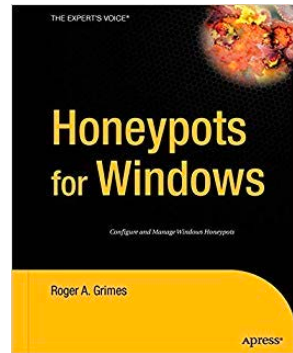
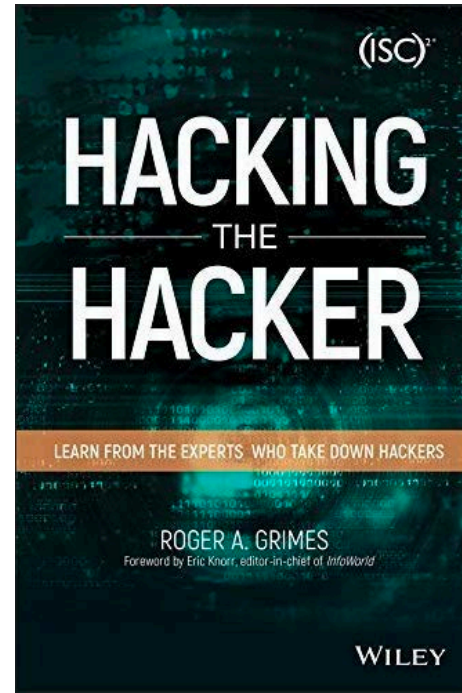
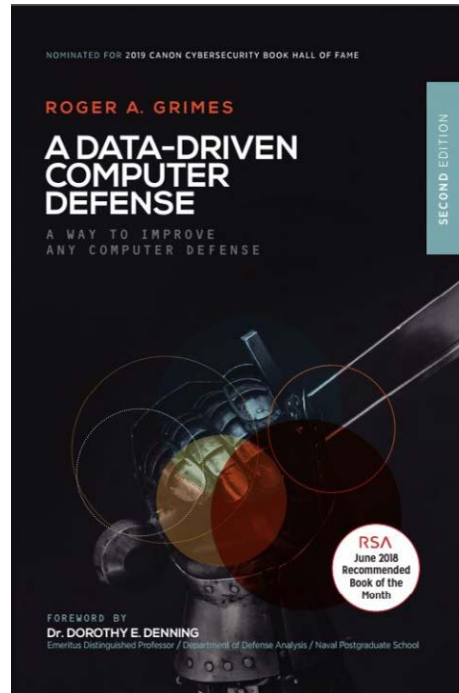
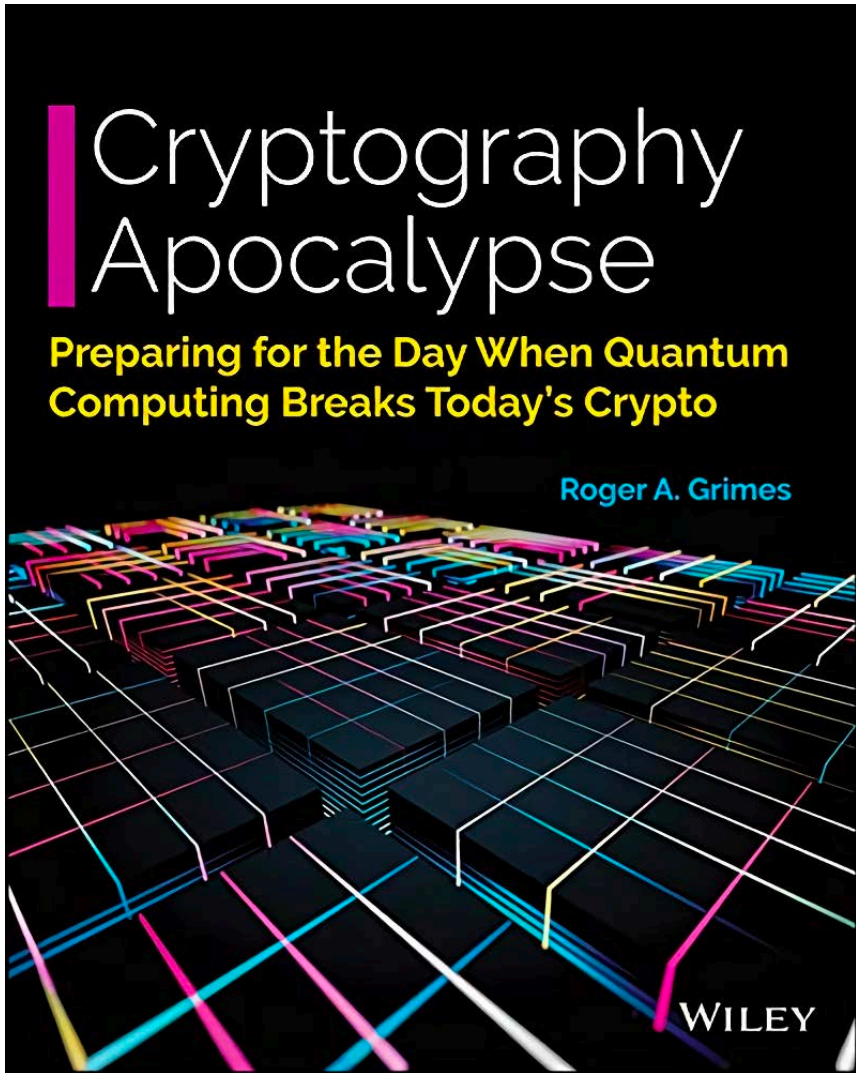
## About Roger

- 30 years plus in computer security
- Expertise in host and network security, IdM, crypto, PKI, APT, honeypot, cloud security
- Consultant to world's largest companies and militaries for decades
- Previous worked for Foundstone, McAfee, Microsoft
- Written 11 books and over 1,000 magazine articles
- *InfoWorld* and *CSO* weekly security columnist since 2005
- Frequently interviewed by magazines (e.g. Newsweek) and radio shows (e.g. NPR's All Things Considered)

### Certification exams passed include:

- CPA
- CISSP
- CISM, CISA
- MCSE: Security, MCP, MVP
- CEH, TISCA, Security+, CHFI
- yada, yada

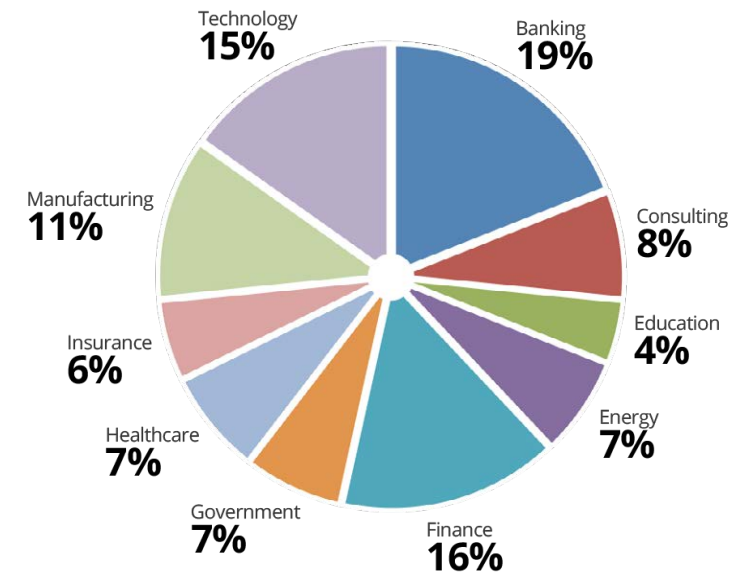
# Roger's Books





# KnowBe4, Inc.

- The world's most popular integrated Security Awareness Training and Simulated Phishing platform
- Based in Tampa Bay, Florida, founded in 2010
- CEO & employees are ex-antivirus, IT Security pros
- 200% growth year over year
- We help tens of thousands of organizations manage the problem of social engineering



# Today's Presentation

- What is DMARC, SPF, and DKIM?
- How to Configure
- Common Mistakes
- Best Practices
- How Phishes Get By

# Agenda

- **What is DMARC, SPF, and DKIM?**
  - How to Configure
- Best Practices
- How Phishes Get By

# DMARC, DKIM, SPF

## Global Phishing Protection Standards

- Sender Policy Framework (SPF)
- Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)
- Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC)
  - DMARC relies on/uses SPF and DKIM
- Important point: SPF, DKIM, and DMARC help you protect YOUR domain against spoofing by bad people to others!
- When enabled, receivers can verify whether or not an email that claims to be from your domain is from your domain

# DMARC, DKIM, SPF

## Global Phishing Protection Standards

- All rely on DNS
  - Use TXT RR (resource records)
  - DKIM requires additional work
- Once DNS setup is done, it is usually checked for and enabled by most (but not all) email servers
- Sending domain must setup
- Receiving domain checks and verifies



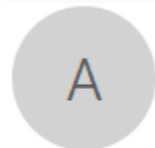
# SPF & DKIM

## Global Phishing Protection Standards

- **Sender Policy Framework (SPF)**
  - Verifies the 5321 **Mail From** domain name address
    - This is the “real” return email address that you may not see
- **Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)**
  - Verifies the 5322 **Display From** domain address
    - This is the email address you always see

DKIM  
5322 domain

SPF  
5321 domain



Sun 2/10/2019 12:10 PM

Apple@Service.com <noreply-appleidicloudsupport9834dfej3n2dhbnb33dfn39w32@entertainingworkshop.com>

RE : [ Alert ] Locked Account for security #7376 ( February 10, 2019, 06:07 PM CET )

To Roger Grimes

 This message was sent with High importance.

# SPF, DKIM, DMARC

## Setup – General

### Sender

- SPF, DKIM & DMARC – Sender creates DNS record
- DKIM – Sender installs key pair and enables DKIM on email server

### Receiver

- SPF, DKIM, & DMARC – Receiver enables verification and response

Details of how to configure next

SPF



# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Designed to prevent sender email address domain spoofing by receiver verifying the IP address of the mail server the email arrived from matches a list of allowed IP addresses designated by domain's admins
- Checks for domain spoofing in 5321 Mail From/Return To field
- Relies on SPF/TXT records in DNS
  - example.com. IN TXT "v=spf1 -all"
  - example.com. IN TXT "v=spf1 ip4:192.168.1.1 ~all"
- Sender must have it enabled
- Receiver checks and verifies

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- RFC 4408
  - <http://www.zytrax.com/books/dns/apd/rfc4408.txt>
- When enabled, receiving email server checks the domain's IP address in the HELO handshake against the sender's SPF DNS record
- If it fails, recipient's server will generate a message:
  - 550 5.7.1 Sender ID/SPF failed from IP XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX
- Email server/email inspection/client can decide to react to

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Basic Overview



# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Sender Side

- Collect all of the domain names which your organization owns or controls
  - Even those that are not used to send email, to stop hackers from spoofing those domains
- Remember to include any “parked domains” which could later on become active

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Sender Side

- Collect the IP addresses of all mail servers which are authorized to send email for your domain(s)
- Consider all email servers which could be involved, including:
  - Your email server
  - Your ISP's email server
  - Any 3<sup>rd</sup> party email server that is allowed to send email on behalf of your domain(s)



# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Sender Side

Modify your DNS by creating a new TXT record for SPF

### Format of SPF txt record

**v=spf1[ip4/6:][ipaddressesofemailservers] [include:[3rdpartydomainnames]] -all**

- v=spf1 must start it...indicates version number even though only one version was ever released
- Include statement is for any third parties that send email on your behalf
- -all means that your SPF record is inclusive and to reject (hard fail) any other IP addresses or domains that claim they are sending email for your domains (~all indicates you recommend a “soft fail”, +all means no fails)

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

**v=spf1[ipaddressesofemailservers] [include:[3rdpartydomainnames]] -all**

### Examples

v=spf1 ip4:192.168.1.1 -all

v=spf1 192.168.1.1 192.168.1.2 192.168.1.3 -all

v=spf1 192.168.1.0/24 include:example.com -all

v=spf1 192.168.1.1 include:example.com -all

v=spf1 192.168.1.1 include:subdomain.example.com -all

v=spf1 192.168.1.1 include:example.com include:example.org -all

v=spf1 mx include:\\_spf.example.com -all

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Sender Side

If you are a **0365** or **Exchange Online** customer:

Your SPF record must include Microsoft's 0365 email sending server's domain

**v=spf1 [ipaddressesofemailservers] include:spf.protection.outlook.com**

- v=spf1 include:spf.protection.outlook.com
  - No onsite email servers involved
- v=spf1 192.168.1.1 include:spf.protection.outlook.com
  - You use onsite email servers as part of your 0365 setup
- May already be done automatically for you

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Sender Side

If you are a **Gmail** customer with your MX domain hosted by Gmail:  
Your SPF record must include Google's email sending server's domain

**v=spf1 include:\_spf.google.com ~all**

- May already be done automatically for you
- SPF is automatically enabled on Receiving side

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Site which can help you create your SPF record
- <https://www.spfwizard.net/>

### *SPF Wizard*

This ajax enabled wizard will guide you through the process of creating or editing a SPF record for your DNS domain. You should add this DNS record to your domain's DNS configuration.

For complete details, please refer to the SPF record Homepage at <http://www.openspf.org/>

*The DNS entry (copy and paste this)*

Your Domain:

---

Allow servers listed as MX to send email for this domain:

---

Allow current IP address of the domain to send email for this domain:

---

Allow any hostname ending in to send email for this domain:

---

IP addresses in CIDR format that deliver or relay mail for this domain:

---

Add any other server hostname that may deliver or relay mail for this domain:

---

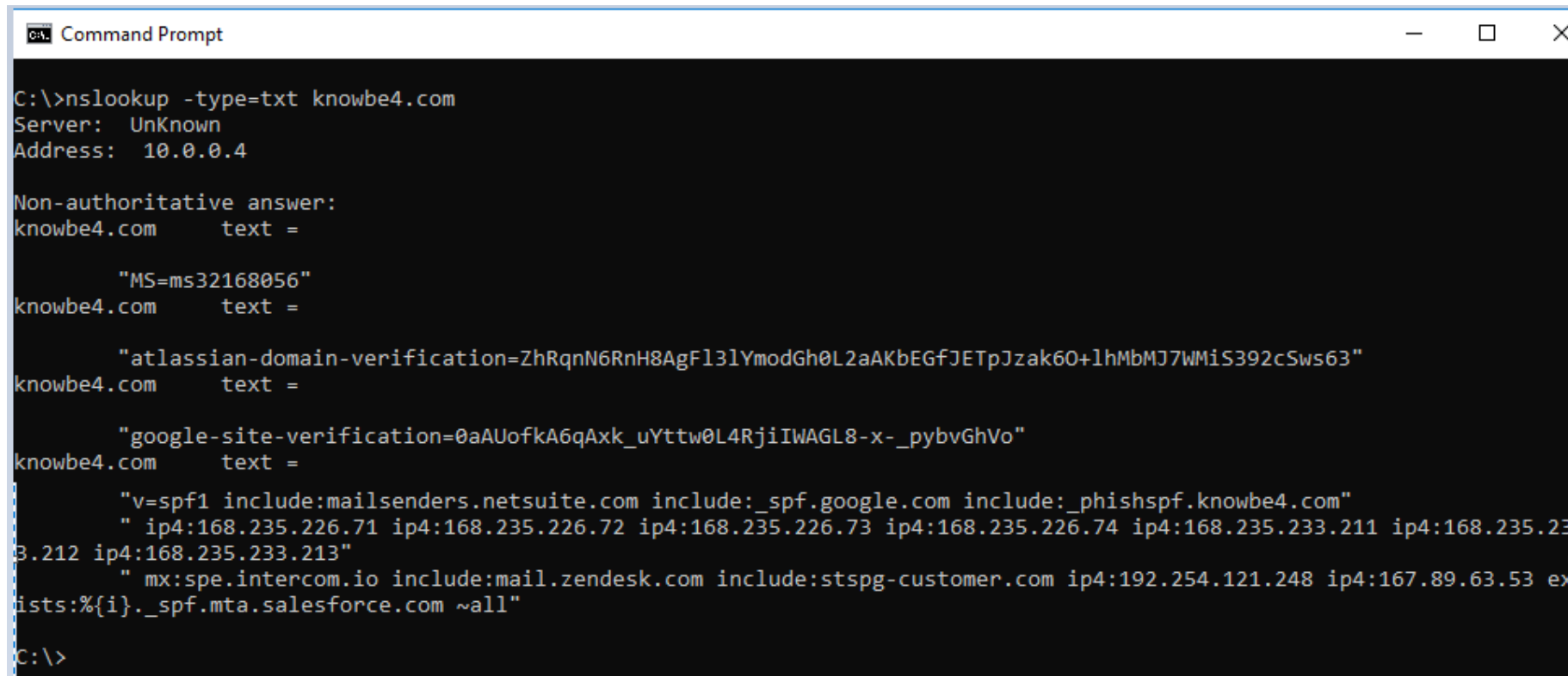
Any domains that may deliver or relay mail for this domain:

---

How strict should be the servers treating the emails?:

# SPF

- How to verify in DNS
- Use nslookup -type=txt <domainname>



```
Command Prompt
C:\>nslookup -type=txt knowbe4.com
Server: UnKnown
Address: 10.0.0.4

Non-authoritative answer:
knowbe4.com      text =

        "MS=ms32168056"
knowbe4.com      text =

        "atlassian-domain-verification=ZhRqnN6RnH8AgF13lYmodGh0L2aAKbEGfJETpJzak60+lhMbmJ7WmiS392cSws63"
knowbe4.com      text =

        "google-site-verification=0aAUofkA6qAxx_uYttw0L4RjiIWAGL8-x-_pybvGhVo"
knowbe4.com      text =

        "v=spf1 include:mailsenders.netsuite.com include:_spf.google.com include:_phishspf.knowbe4.com"
        " ip4:168.235.226.71 ip4:168.235.226.72 ip4:168.235.226.73 ip4:168.235.226.74 ip4:168.235.233.211 ip4:168.235.233.212 ip4:168.235.233.213"
        " mx:spe.intercom.io include:mail.zendesk.com include:stspg-customer.com ip4:192.254.121.248 ip4:167.89.63.53 ex
ists:%{i}._spf.mta.salesforce.com ~all"
C:\>
```

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Lots of DMARC/SPF verification sites, including <https://www.kitterman.com/spf/validate.html>, <https://mxtoolbox.com/spf.aspx>, <https://www.dmarcanalyzer.com/spf/checker/>

### SPF Record Check

In order to implement SPF you will need to have a valid SPF record. DMARC Analyzer provides a SPF Record Checker to validate your SPF record.

We can also pre-validate an update you intend to apply to your record to prevent issues popping up after the update was done. We recommend you to carefully test any updates to your SPF records before applying them.

#### Validate your SPF Record

Validate DNS

I'm not a robot



# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Lots of DMARC/SPF verification sites, including
- <https://www.dmarcanalyzer.com/spf/checker/> results

SPF results for domain: knowbe4.com

We did not find problems with your SPF record.

We have detected you use macro's in your SPF record. We will show examples in the results below in which we use the following example data:

Sending address

strong-bad@email.example.com

The IP address of the sender

192.0.2.3

The validated hostname for the sending IP address

mx.example.org

🌐 knowbe4.com

DNS record 7 lookups + 3 additional lookups

```
v=spf1 include:mailsenders.netsuite.com include:_spf.google.com include:_phishspf.knowbe4.com ip4:168.235.226.71 ip4:168.235.226.72 ip4:168.235.226.73 ip4:168.235.226.74 ip4:168.235.233.211 ip4:168.235.233.212 ip4:168.235.233.213 mx:spe.intercom.io include:mail.zendesk.com include:stspg-customer.com ip4:192.254.121.248 ip4:167.89.63.53 exists:%{i}._spf.mta.salesforce.com ~all
```



# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Other Best Practices

- Use ~all qualifier initially for testing to cause “soft failures”
- Avoid creating a SPF DNS record that causes more than 10 DNS lookups
  - SPF verification sites, like <https://www.dmarcanalyzer.com/spf/checker/> will tell you how many lookups it took

# SPF

## Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

### Setting Up – Receiver Side

If you are a **0365** or **Exchange Online** customer:

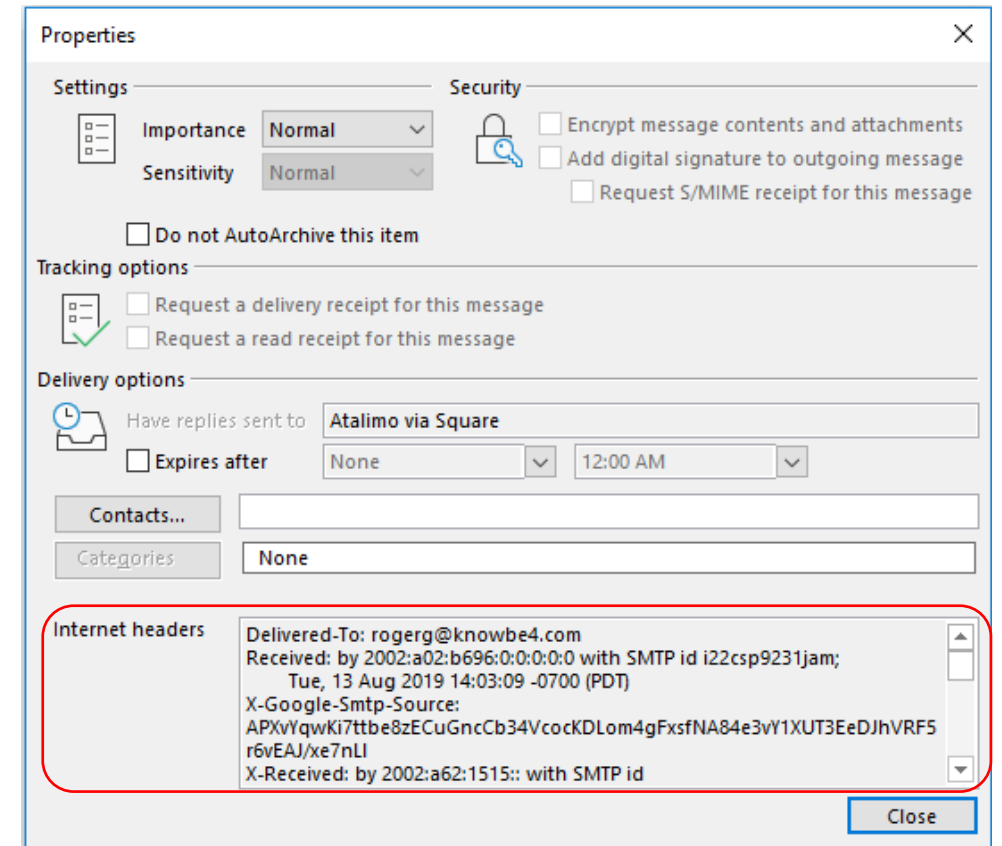
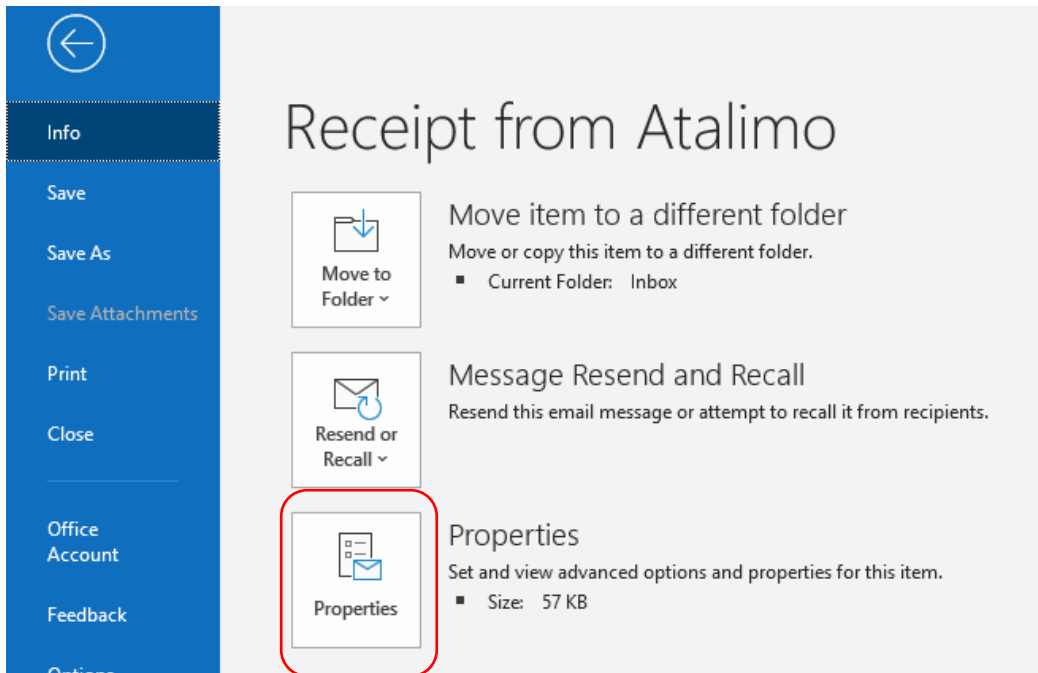
- Should automatically be enabled

### On-Premise - Microsoft Exchange (2010/2013/2016)

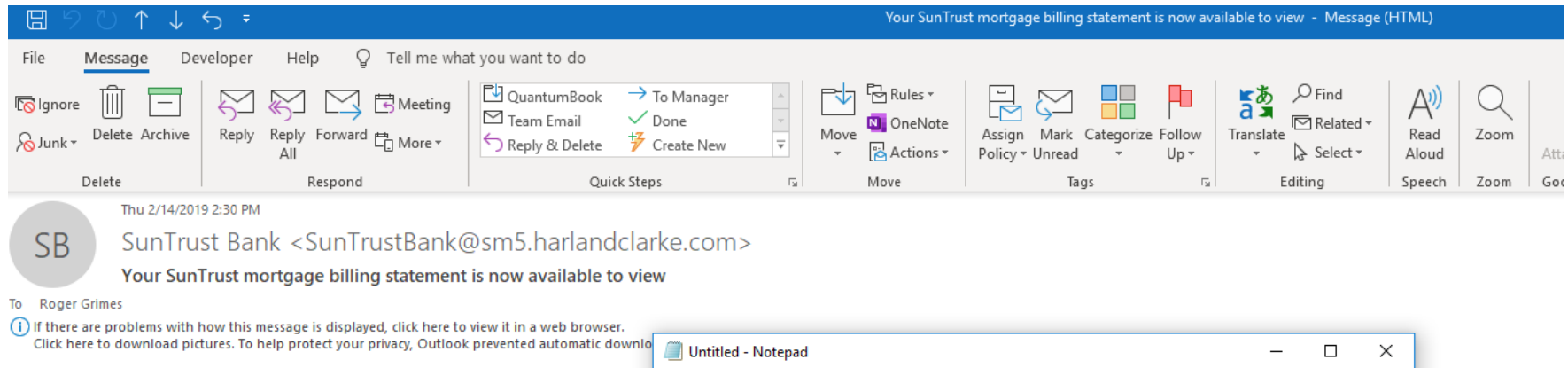
- Must be enabled on server using Powershell in Exchange Admin Console
- `& $env:ExchangeInstallPath\Scripts\Install-AntiSpamAgents.ps1`
- `Set-SenderIDConfig -ExternalMailEnabled $true` (SenderID not the same as SPF, but essentially the same)
- `Set-SenderIDConfig -SpoofedDomainAction Reject`

# SPF Email Header Review

- You can view individual SPF, DKIM, and DMARC headers in email headers, if they exist
- In Outlook, open a message, choose **File, Properties**



# SPF Passes



Pass = Verified Domain

3. Select Mortgage Loan from the My Accounts list
4. Click Statements and Documents

It is our job to stay connected with you and learn more about your financial goals. Let us know how we can help. We are just a [click](#) away or call us today at 800.634.7928, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET, on Saturday.

# SPF Fails

The screenshot shows an Outlook email interface. The message is from Microsoft (v5pz@onmicrosoft.com) with ticket # 5711310. The email content includes a greeting from Jerica Mae and a link to update a credit card or bank account. A Notepad window is open over the email, displaying the following text:

```
Authentication-Results-Original: spf=fail (sender IP is 80.255.3.116)
smtp.mailfrom=august-debouzy.com; infoworld.com; dkim=none (message not
signed) header.d=none;infoworld.com; dmarc=none action=none
header.from=onmicrosoft.com;
Received-SPF: Fail (protection.outlook.com: domain of august-debouzy.com
does
not designate 80.255.3.116 as permitted sender)
receiver=protection.outlook.com; client-ip=80.255.3.116; helo=fatafit.com;
Received: from fatafit.com (80.255.3.116) by
VE1EUR02FT030.mail.protection.outlook.com (10.152.12.127) with Microsoft
SMTP
Server (version=TLS1_0, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA) id
15.20.1900.16 via Frontend Transport; Sat, 18 May 2019 00:36:52 +0000
Received: from ( helo-abmas01.marketo.org) by abmta15.marketo.org
(envelope-from <info@heritage.org>) (ecelerity 4.2.38.62370 r(:)) with
ESMTP id B1/35-06954-6704FDC5; Fri, 17 May 2019 18:15:02 -0500
From: Microsoftnline <v5pz@onmicrosoft.com>
To: <roger_grimes@infoworld.com>
```

Red arrows point from the text "Fail = Bad or Unverified Domain" to the "spf=fail" and "Received-SPF: Fail" lines in the Notepad window.

**Fail = Bad or Unverified Domain**

# DKIM

<http://www>

# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

- Designed to prevent sender email address domain spoofing by receiver verifying the digital signature of the mail server domain sent with each email
- Checks for domain spoofing in 5322 Display Name field
- RFC 5585 (<http://www.dkim.org/specs/rfc5585.pdf>)
- Relies on DKIM/TXT records in DNS
- Sender must have public/private key pair
- Server signs each outgoing email
- Receiver side: All validation is done before email gets to end-user

# DKIM

## Setting up – General Process – Sender Side

- Plan, decide, and document DKIM settings
- Get Private/Public (Asymmetric Key) for sending email server(s)

### **For onsite sending email servers\*:**

- Install key pair on sending email server
- Enable DKIM DNS record on DNS servers (one for each key pair used)
- Enable DKIM on email server
- Verify and test

\*for offsite email services, contact your provider



# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

### DKIM DNS Record Format

- **selector.\_domainkey.[domainname] IN TXT “v=DKIM1;p=xxxxx”**
- Where p is the public key of email server in Base64 format

### Example:

- selector.\_domainkey.example.com IN TXT “v=DKIM1;p=RAG...123”

# DKIM

## Setting up – Sender Side - 0365/Microsoft Exchange Online

1. You do not need to create or get a private/public key pair, Microsoft does this part for you
2. Create **CNAME** DNS records (you'll need at least two per domain)

Host name: selector1.\_domainkey

Points to address or value: selector1-<domainGUID>.\_domainkey.<initialDomain>

TTL: 3600

Host name: selector2.\_domainkey

Points to address or value: selector2-<domainGUID>.\_domainkey.<initialDomain>

TTL: 3600

# DKIM

## Setting up – 0365/Microsoft Exchange Online

1. You do not need to create or get a private/public key pair, Microsoft does this part for you
2. Create DNS CNAME records (you'll need at least two per domain)

### Examples:

selector1.\_domainkey =

selector1-example-com.\_domainkey.example.onmicrosoft.com

selector2.\_domainkey =

selector2-example-com.\_domainkey.example.onmicrosoft.com

# DKIM

## Setting up – 0365/Microsoft Exchange Online

To Enable DKIM signing for your domain through the 0365 admin center:

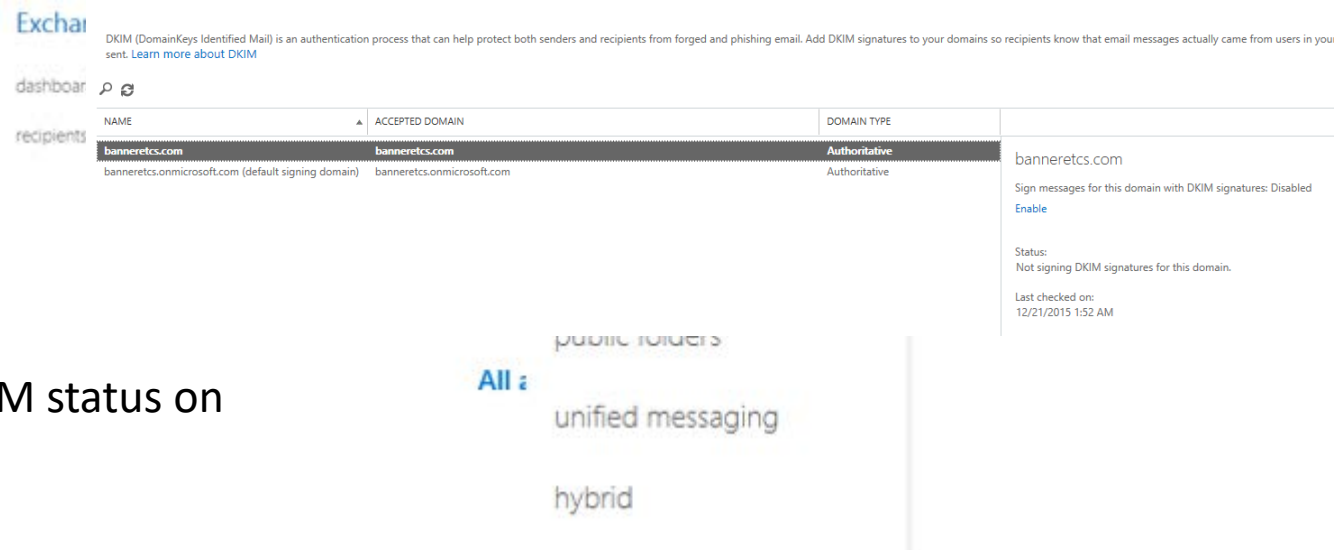
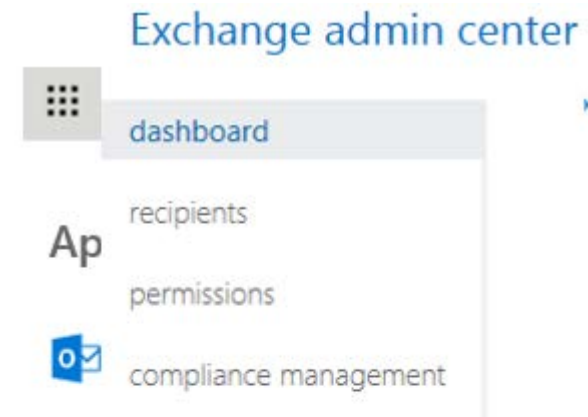
3. Sign into Office 365 with your work or school account
4. Select the app launcher icon in the upper-left and choose Admin
5. In Microsoft 365 admin center, click on Expand or Show all
6. Click on Exchange icon
7. Takes you to Exchange admin center
8. Choose **protection**
9. Choose **dkim**
10. Choose domain you want to enable or view DKIM status on
11. Choose **Enable**

# DKIM

## Setting up – 0365/Microsoft Exchange Online

To Enable DKIM signing for your domain through the 0365 admin center:

3. Sign into Office 365 with your work or school account
4. Select the app launcher icon in the upper-left and choose Admin
5. In Microsoft 365 admin center, click on Expand or Show all
6. Click on Exchange icon
7. Takes you to Exchange admin center
8. Choose **protection**
9. Choose **dkim**
10. Choose domain you want to enable or view DKIM status on
11. Choose **Enable**



# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

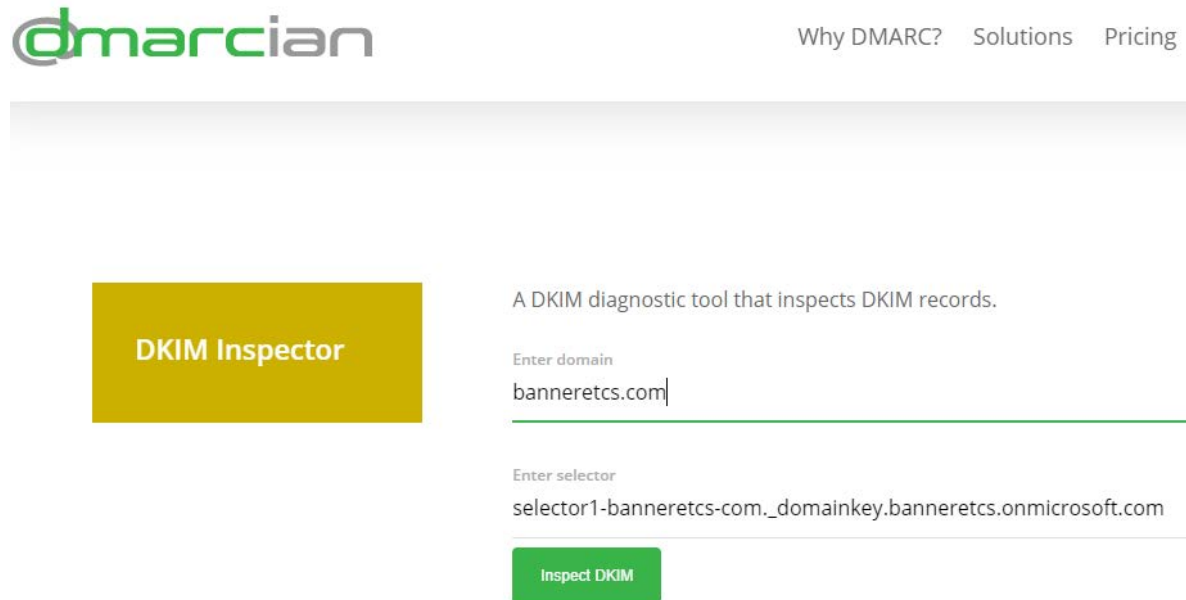
### Setting up – On-Premise Microsoft Exchange

- Exchange does not natively support DKIM
- Must use an SMTP gateway inline with Exchange that does
- Manually install your key pair on gateway and enable DKIM/SPF/DMARC

# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

Verify DKIM is Setup Correctly – Lots of verification sites



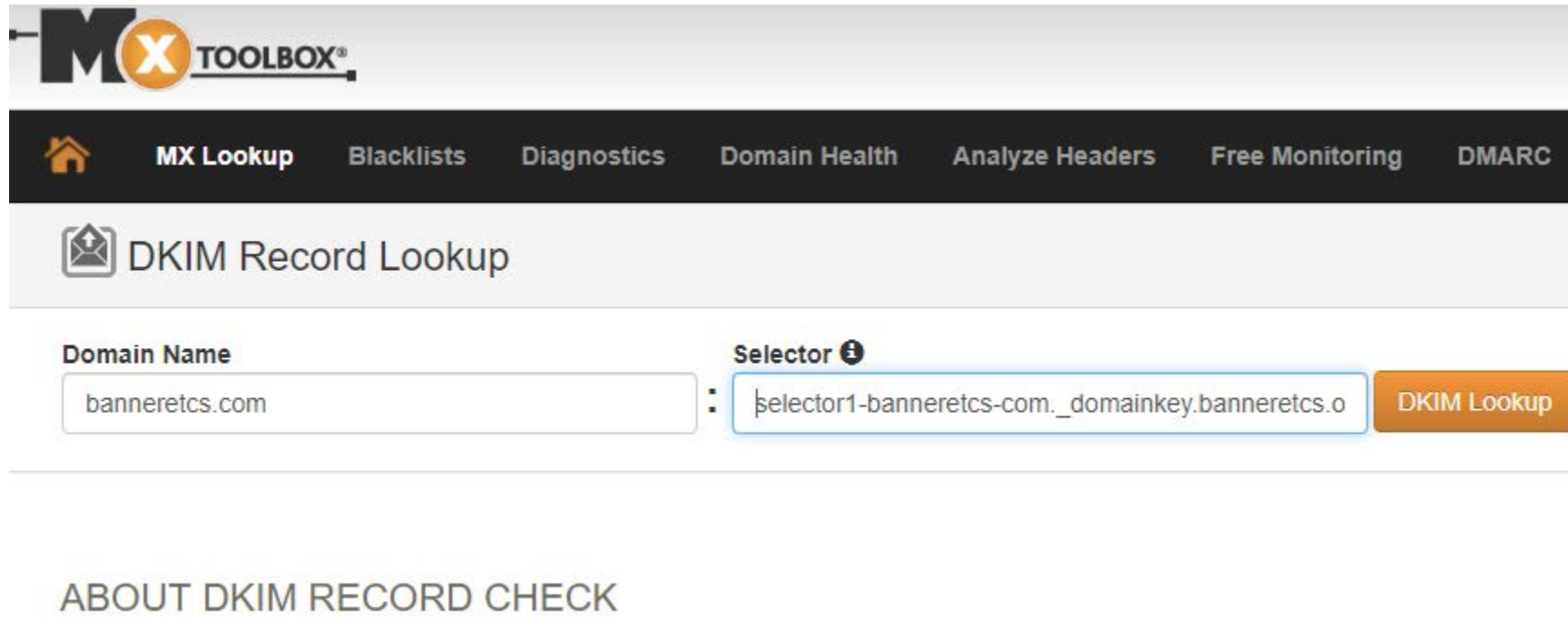
The screenshot shows the DMARCian website's DKIM Inspector tool. The DMARCian logo is in the top left, and navigation links for 'Why DMARC?', 'Solutions', and 'Pricing' are in the top right. A yellow box on the left contains the text 'DKIM Inspector'. To the right, there is a description: 'A DKIM diagnostic tool that inspects DKIM records.' Below this, there are two input fields. The first is labeled 'Enter domain' and contains the text 'banneretcs.com'. The second is labeled 'Enter selector' and contains the text 'selector1-banneretcs-com\_domainkey.banneretcs.onmicrosoft.com'. A green button labeled 'Inspect DKIM' is positioned below the second input field.

<https://dmarcian.com/dkim-inspector/>

# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

Verify DKIM is Setup Correctly – Lots of verification sites



The screenshot shows the MX Toolbox website interface for a DKIM Record Lookup. The page has a dark navigation bar with a home icon and links for MX Lookup, Blacklists, Diagnostics, Domain Health, Analyze Headers, Free Monitoring, and DMARC. Below the navigation bar is a light gray header with an envelope icon and the text "DKIM Record Lookup". The main content area contains two input fields: "Domain Name" with the value "banneretcs.com" and "Selector" with the value "selector1-banneretcs-com.\_domainkey.banneretcs.o". A blue border highlights the Selector field. To the right of the Selector field is an orange button labeled "DKIM Lookup". Below the input fields is a horizontal line, followed by the text "ABOUT DKIM RECORD CHECK" which is underlined.

<https://mxtoolbox.com/dkim.aspx>



# DKIM

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

### Example DKIM Signature in Email Header

```
DomainKey-Signature: q=dns; a=rsa-sha1; c=noaws;  
s=dkim2014q3; d=sm5.harlandclarke.com;  
h=DKIM-Signature:MIME-Version:Message-ID:X-SM-Email-Key:Content-Type:X-  
mid:X-ppid:Subject:Reply-To:To:From:X-appid:List-Unsubscribe:Date:X-dit;  
b=FmR71Faj+TueNTwhVx5uHkANPkWiT1tfr/iJ1nmHI407FxL0riqPsrTCC6Vg2Uxf  
soFpU1p023VDnzRhhvsB6vbt7TNU1D6vynx3+zRmXOnzw/T3u5dfo00ctwm/0fxq  
ksQqXuGHIn6bZ3V67IRJcbDUrD9FtgaTED/WLaTYNFQ=  
DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha1; d=sm5.harlandclarke.com; s=dkim2014q3;  
c=relaxed/simple;  
q=dns/txt; i=@sm5.harlandclarke.com; t=1550172717;|  
h=From:Subject:Date;  
bh=xcDeDjuUmtqYwVNu1H/MIi6s53k=;  
b=XSbvB3TppRpjoEkKt0vCEWqpcDFyNg1KjTA1D1pJm9RfpJtD7NjY4zoqczwxyMw  
H4r+LdAJFNfvufjm+mbbzU8RHo7pM7C32MPRBt8BSKfEi/00KxR78U5aUBJU1aTf  
2Ww0mvZTbsEEvKC3khL6b2or7LXVqYs03qkfWvxbkok=;
```

# DKIM Passes

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

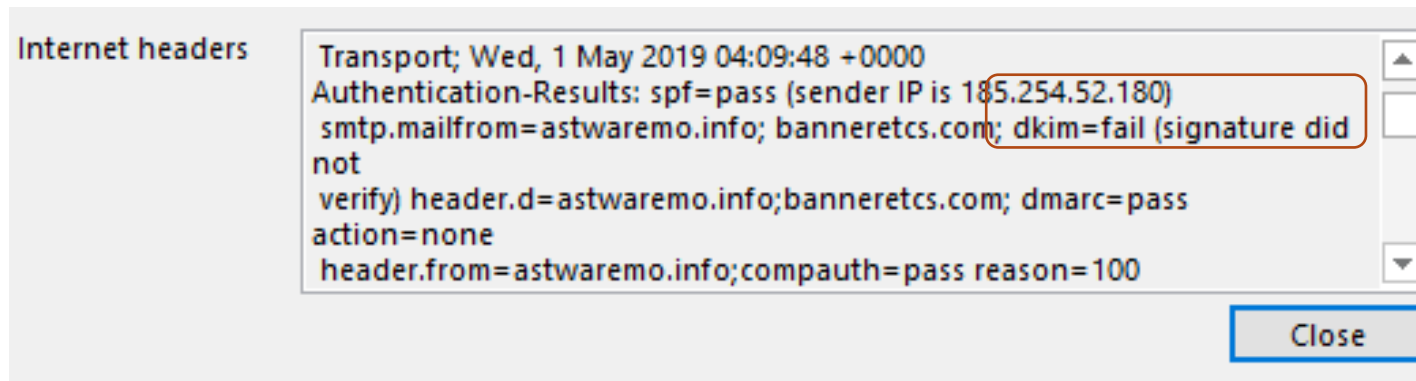
### Example DKIM Email Header Verification Results

```
Received: from C01NAM05FT032.eop-nam05.prod.protection.outlook.com  
(2a01:111:f400:7e50::207) by C02PR04CA0151.outlook.office365.com  
(2603:10b6:104::29) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,  
cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384) id 15.20.1622.16 via Frontend  
Transport; Thu, 14 Feb 2019 19:31:58 +0000  
Authentication-Results: spf=pass (sender IP is 63.240.155.138)  
smtp.mailfrom=sm5.harlandclarke.com; banneretcs.com; dkim=pass (signature was  
verified) header.d=sm5.harlandclarke.com;banneretcs.com; dmarc=bestguesspass  
action=none header.from=sm5.harlandclarke.com;compauth=pass reason=109
```

# DKIM Fails

## Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM)

### Example DKIM Email Header Verification Results



# DMARC



# DMARC

## DMARC

- Sender can indicate whether they use SPF and/or DKIM, which the receiver can verify and rely on, and how a receiver should treat failed messages

**TXT IN "v=DMARC1;p=quarantine;pct=100;rua=mailto:dmarc@example.com;"**

P =

- None – Take no special treatment for failed emails
- Quarantine – Treat as suspicious
- Reject – Reject email at server before it gets to client

PCT=percentage of emails to apply DMARC policy to

# DMARC

## DMARC – Other DNS options

- adkim: Indicates strict or relaxed DKIM identifier alignment. The default is relaxed.
- aspf: Indicates strict or relaxed [SPF identifier alignment](#). The default is relaxed.
- rf: Format for message failure reports. The default is Authentication Failure Reporting Format, or “AFRF.”
- ri: The number of seconds elapsed between sending aggregate reports to the sender. The default value is 86,400 seconds or a day.
- fo: Dictates what type of authentication and/or alignment vulnerabilities are reported back

There are four values to the latter fo: tag:

- 0: Generate a DMARC failure report if all underlying authentication mechanisms fail to produce an aligned “pass” result. (Default)
- 1: Generate a DMARC failure report if any underlying authentication mechanism produced something other than an aligned “pass” result.
- d: Generate a DKIM failure report if the message had a signature that failed evaluation, regardless of its alignment.
- s: Generate an SPF failure report if the message failed SPF evaluation, regardless of its alignment.
- The default is “fo=0”. Use fo:1 to generate the most comprehensive failure reports, providing that much more detail, especially during initial testing and troubleshooting

# DMARC

## DMARC

- Sender can indicate whether they use SPF and/or DKIM, which the receiver can verify and rely on, and how a receiver should treat failed messages

**TXT IN "v=DMARC1;p=quarantine;pct=100;rua=mailto:dmarc@example.com;"**

- rua: Indicates where aggregate DMARC reports emailed to
- ruf: Indicates where forensic DMARC reports should be emailed to

# DMARC

## Other Resources

- <https://dmarc.org/overview/>
- <https://blog.returnpath.com/demystifying-the-dmarc-record/>
- <https://blog.returnpath.com/build-your-dmarc-record-in-15-minutes-v2/>
- <http://www.gettingemaildelivered.com/how-to-set-up-dmarc-email-authentication>



# DMARC

## DMARC Reports

- DMARC reports - Aggregate and Forensic
- When enabled will be sent to you at least daily from big ISPs and emailers
- Some are sent in XML-format and some text-based formats
- May be in a zip file
- Many services and tools around the Internet to help you parse and more easily read them, including:
  - DMARC Analyzer (<https://www.dmarcanalyzer.com>)
  - RdDMARC (<https://www.taugh.com/rddmarc/>)
  - DMARC Reports Parser (<https://github.com/techsneeze/dmarcts-report-parser>)

# DMARC

## DMARC Reports

### DMARC Aggregate Reports

- Sent daily about daily cumulative results relating to your DMARC'd domains from participating DMARC receivers who get emails claiming to be from your domains

Includes:

- How many emails they received claiming to be from your domain
- How many failed DMARC checking
- How many passed DMARC checking

# DMARC

## DMARC Aggregate Report - Example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<feedback>
  <report_metadata>
    <org_name>google.com</org_name>
    <email>noreply-dmarc-support@google.com</email>
    <extra_contact_info>[removed]</extra_contact_info>
    <report_id>7241837801886321635</report_id>
    <date_range>
      <begin>1431388880</begin>
      <end>1431475203</end>
    </date_range>
  </report_metadata>
  <policy_published>
    <domain>example.com</domain>
    <adkim>r</adkim>
    <aspf>r</aspf>
    <p>none</p>
    <sp>none</sp>
    <pct>100</pct>
  </policy_published>
```

```
<record>
  <row>
    <source_ip>example.com</source_ip>
    <count>2</count>
    <policy_evaluated>
      <disposition>none</disposition>
      <dkim>pass</dkim>
      <spf>pass</spf>
    </policy_evaluated>
  </row>
  <identifiers>
    <header_from>example.com</header_from>
  </identifiers>
  <auth_results>
    <dkim>
      <domain>example.com</domain>
      <result>pass</result>
    </dkim>
    <spf>
      <domain>example.com</domain>
      <result>pass</result>
    </spf>
  </auth_results>
</record>
'feedback'
```

# DMARC

## DMARC Reports

### DMARC Forensic Reports

- Diagnostic info sent for each failed email, text-based in an email

#### **Includes (among many fields):**

- Reason(s) for failure (SPF, DKIM, DMARC)
- DKIM Signature if included
- IP address message was sent from
- Time message was received
- Domain HELO info/MAIL FROM
- Subject Line

# DMARC

## DMARC Forensic Report Example

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"  
MIME-Version 1.0  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

This is a spf/dkim authentication-failure report for an email message received from IP  
192.168.1.1 on Wed, 14 Aug 2019 10:24:11 -0500

Below is some detail information about this message:

1. SPF-authenticated Identifiers: none;
2. DKIM-authenticated Identifiers:none;
3. DMARC Mechanism Check Result: Identifier non-aligned, DMARC mechanism check failures;

For more information please check Aggregate Reports or mail to [dmarc@exampleparticipatingISP.com](mailto:dmarc@exampleparticipatingISP.com)

-----4311241154254624524254325=====

Content-Type: message/feedback-report  
MIME-Version 1.0  
Feedback-Type: auth-failure  
User-Agent: ExampleISP/1.0  
Version: 1

Original-Mail-From: <DMARCUingDomain.com>  
Arrival-Date: Wed, 14 Aug 2019 10:24:11 -0500  
Source-IP: 192.168.1.1  
Reported-Domain: example.com  
Original-Envelope-Id: badguy.domain  
Authentication-Results: exampleparticipatingISP.com; dkim=non; spf=fail smtp.mail-  
from=user@example.com  
Delivery-Result: reject

-----4311241154254624524254325=====

Content-Type: text/rfc822-headers; charset="us-ascii"

MIME-Version 1.0

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Received: from badguydomain.com ([10.1.1.0])  
by exampledomain.com with SMTP id 23m41mqtq322Fv.1  
for <receivingusername@goodguydomain.com>; Wed, 14 Aug 2019 10:24:11 -0500

Date: Wed, 14 Aug 2019 10:24:02 -0500

From: "FakeName@Example.com" <fakename@example.com>

To: receivingusername@goodguydomain.com

Subject: Need to change wiring instructions ASAP!

X-Priority: 3

Mime-Version: 1.0

Message-ID: fakename@example.com

Content-Type: multipart/mixed;

# DMARC

## Example DMARC Reports from Tools and Services

### DMARC Reports

Start Date	End Date	Domain	Reporting Organization	Report ID	Messages
Mon, 11 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	Tue, 12 Dec 2017 06:59:59 +0700	ui.ac.id	Yahoo! Inc.	<a href="#">1513043116.781040</a>	11,769
Mon, 11 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	Tue, 12 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	ui.ac.id	emailsrvr.com	<a href="#">a25965a5-dc32-4611-b4d1-da07f074265e</a>	9
Mon, 11 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	Tue, 12 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	ui.ac.id	linkedin.com	<a href="#">linkedin.com!ui.ac.id!1512950400!1513036800!coffee</a>	7
Tue, 12 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	Wed, 13 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	ui.ac.id	linkedin.com	<a href="#">linkedin.com!ui.ac.id!1513036800!1513123200!star</a>	7
Tue, 12 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	Wed, 13 Dec 2017 07:00:00 +0700	ui.ac.id	linkedin.com	<a href="#">linkedin.com!ui.ac.id!1513036800!1513123200!chips</a>	16
Sum:					11,808

Brought to you by [TechSneeze.com](#) - [dave@techsneeze.com](mailto:dave@techsneeze.com)

# DMARC

## Example DMARC Reports from Tools and Services

### DMARC Reports

Start Date	End Date	Domain	Reporting Organization	Report ID	Messages
Wed, 20 May 2015 16:46:46 +0000	Fri, 23 Oct 2015 09:00:18 +0000	tachtler.net	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	16
Thu, 22 Oct 2015 02:00:00 +0000	Fri, 23 Oct 2015 01:59:59 +0000	tachtler.net	google.com	[REDACTED]	22
Thu, 22 Oct 2015 09:00:00 +0000	Fri, 23 Oct 2015 09:00:00 +0000	tachtler.net	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1
Fri, 23 Oct 2015 08:57:41 +0000	Fri, 23 Oct 2015 09:00:07 +0000	tachtler.net	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2

Thu, 22 Oct 2015 02:00:00 +0000

IP Address	Host Name	Message Count	Disposition	Reason	DKIM Domain	DKIM Result	SPF Domain	SPF Result
0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	1	none		tachtler.net	pass	googlemail.com	pass
0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	1	none		tachtler.net	pass	listen.jpberlin.de	neutral
0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	1	none		tachtler.net	pass	srs.smtpin.rzone.de	none
94.186.131.102	mx12.globalways.net	1	none		tachtler.net	pass	listen.jpberlin.de	neutral
148.251.78.214	mail.ambiente.one	2	none		tachtler.net	pass	tachtler.net	neutral
162.209.70.180	593490-www8.www8.vividracing.com	1	none				tachtler.net	neutral
162.209.70.219	674731-www5.vividracing.com	3	none				tachtler.net	neutral
209.85.213.177	mail-ig0-f177.google.com	1	none				gmail.com	pass
209.85.223.173	mail-io0-f173.google.com	1	none				gmail.com	pass
209.85.223.180	mail-io0-f180.google.com	1	none				gmail.com	pass
209.85.223.182	mail-io0-f182.google.com	1	none				gmail.com	pass
212.227.17.12	mout.web.de	1	none		tachtler.net	fail	listen.jpberlin.de	neutral
213.203.238.6	ilpostino.jpberlin.de	7	none		tachtler.net	pass	listen.jpberlin.de	pass

Brought to you by [TechSneeze.com](http://TechSneeze.com) - [dave@techsneeze.com](mailto:dave@techsneeze.com)

# DMARC

## Example DMARC Reports from Tools and Services

### DMARC Reports

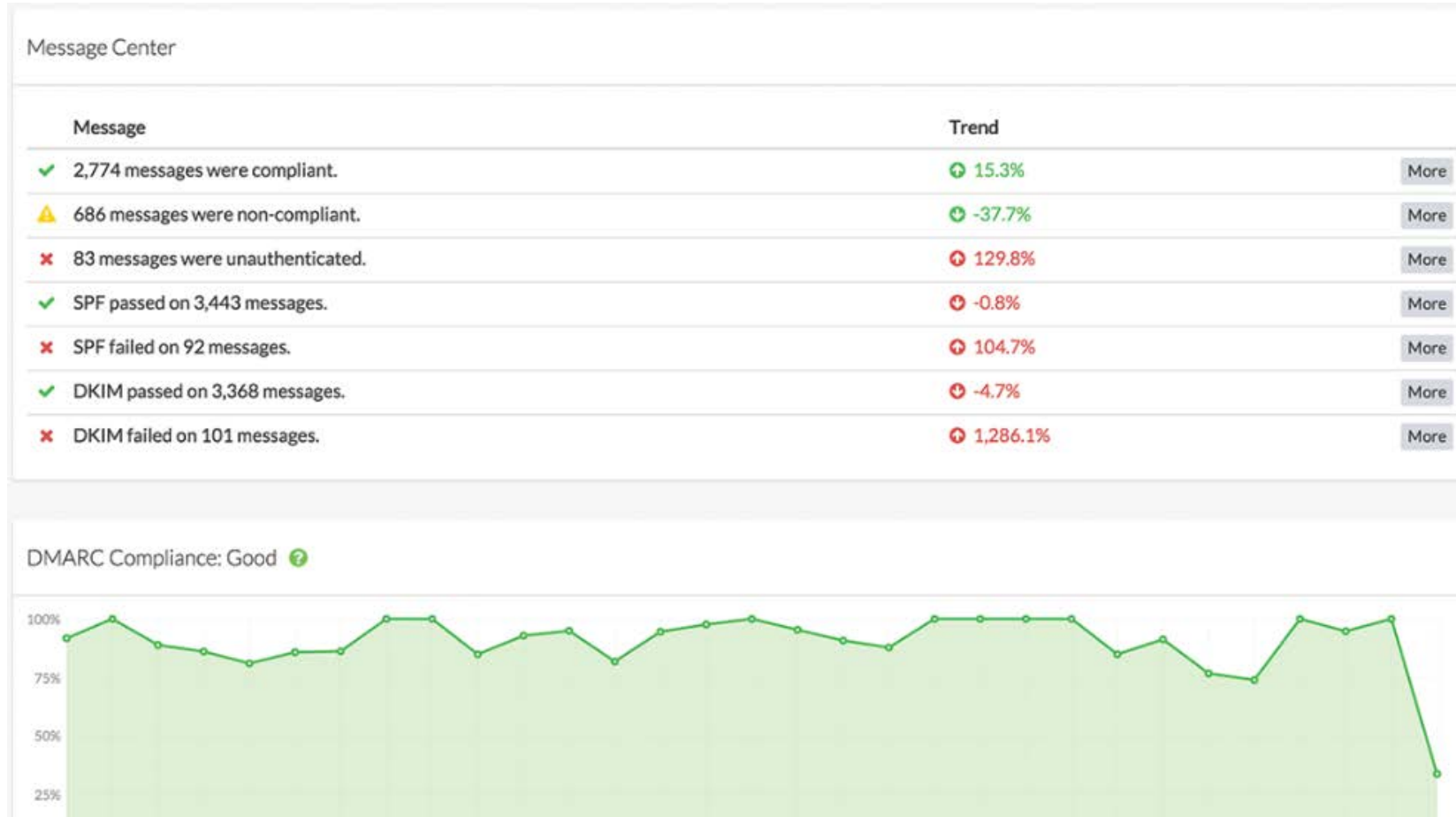
Hostname(s):  on  off  
Sort order:  ascending  descending  
Domain(s): [all]   
Organization(s): [all]   
Time: 2018-05

Start Date	End Date	Domain	Reporting Organization	Report ID	Messages
● Tue, 01 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	techsneeze.com	FastMail Pty Ltd	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Tue, 01 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	example.com	google.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Tue, 01 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	techsneeze.com	google.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	11
● Tue, 01 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	techsneeze.com	AMAZON-SES	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Tue, 01 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	techsneeze.com	AMAZON-SES	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	2
● Tue, 01 May 2018 22:00:04 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	techsneeze.com	IPD2IPIPORT03P-mgmt.target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Tue, 01 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	techsneeze.com	Ip2iport01.Target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	techsneeze.com	FastMail Pty Ltd	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	techsneeze.com	google.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	13
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	example.com	Yahoo! Inc.	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	2
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	techsneeze.com	AMAZON-SES	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	3
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	techsneeze.com	AMAZON-SES	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	6
● Wed, 02 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	techsneeze.com	AMAZON-SES	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	2
● Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 22:00:06 -0700	techsneeze.com	Ip2iport01.Target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 22:00:06 -0700	techsneeze.com	Tezpiport02p.target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:05 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 22:00:07 -0700	techsneeze.com	Tezpiport01p.target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Wed, 02 May 2018 22:00:06 -0700	Thu, 03 May 2018 22:00:07 -0700	techsneeze.com	Ip2iport02.target.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1
● Thu, 03 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Fri, 04 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	techsneeze.com	google.com	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	30
● Thu, 03 May 2018 17:00:00 -0700	Fri, 04 May 2018 16:59:59 -0700	example.com	Yahoo! Inc.	<a href="#">[redacted]</a>	1



# DMARC

## Example DMARC Reports from Tools and Services



# DMARC

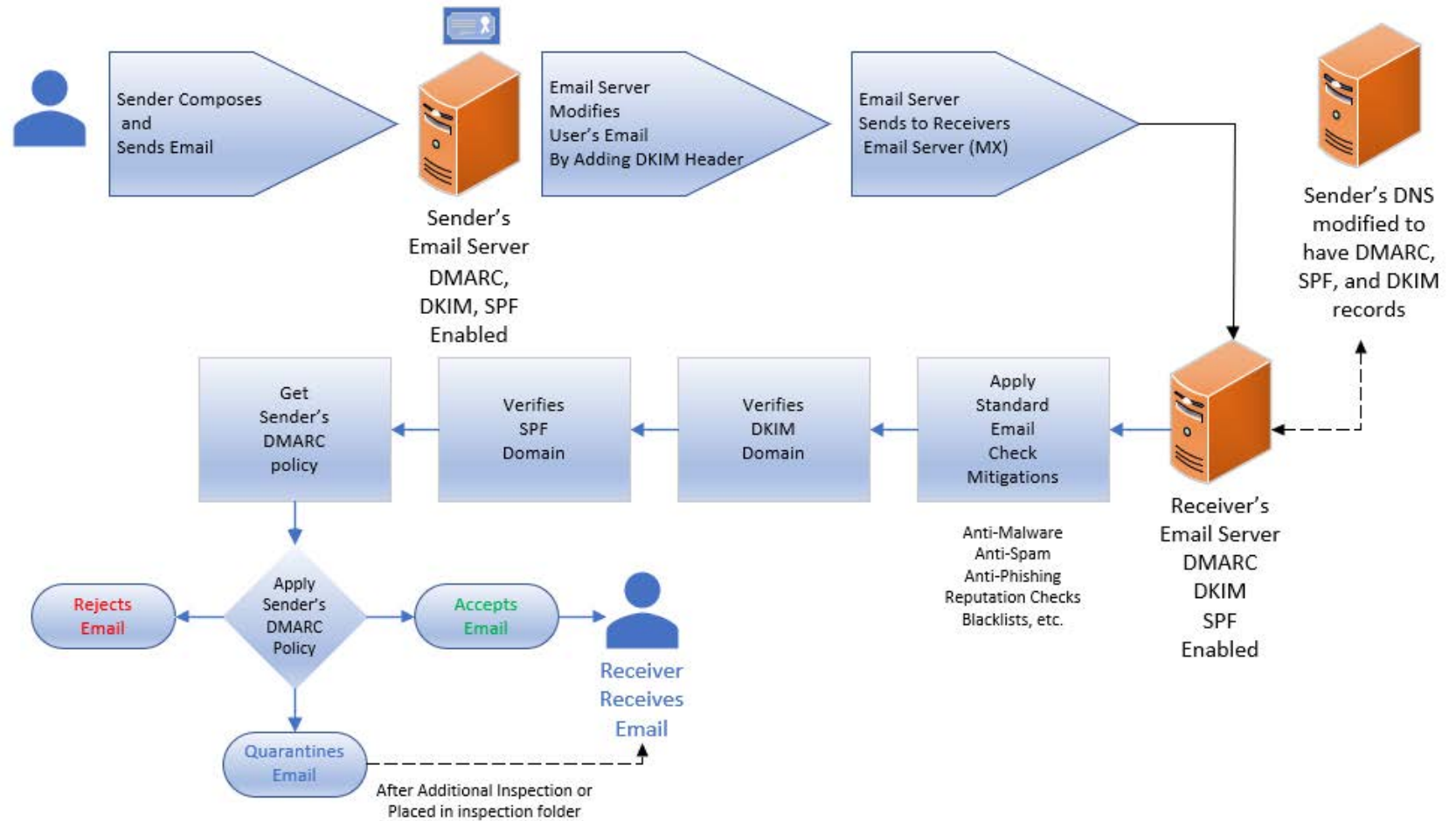
## DMARC Reports

### DMARC Reports – Caveats

- Some ISPs and big email providers, like Microsoft, do not send reports
- Be aware that if you use email proxies that per the DMARC RFC, the proxies will get your reports

# SPF, DKIM, and DMARC

Putting it all together



# Agenda

- What is DMARC, SPF, and DKIM?
  - How to Configure
- **Best Practices**
- How Phishes Get By

# DMARC

## Best Practices

- Set DMARC to None that will get you reports to see if you've got anything messaged up
- Then set to Quarantine and see how you manage that
- Maybe move to Reject as your infrastructure matures

# DMARC

## Best Practices

- Set DMARC p=None
- Receiving domains will handle all email saying it's from your domain normally
- But participating ISPs will send you daily reports, including:
  - How many emails they received claiming to be from your domain
  - How many failed DMARC checking
  - How many passed DMARC checking

# DMARC

## Best Practices

- Set DMARC p=quarantine
- Receiving domains will send failed email to further inspection folder (e.g. spam/junk, etc.)

# DMARC

## Best Practices

- Set DMARC p=reject
- Receiving domains will reject failed email
- Caution enabling this setting
  
- Check reports periodically to make sure you aren't generating false positives (legitimate email from your domain that is being rejected)



# Agenda

- What is DMARC, SPF, and DKIM?
  - How to Configure
- Best Practices
- **How Phishes Get By**

# How Phishes Get By

## Summary

- Phishers use DMARC
- Misconfiguration
- Quarantine Doesn't Quarantine
- Email Service May Ignore Settings
- It's Domain Verification (not email address verification)
- Phish Can Be Sent by Compromised Computer/Domain
- Sound-alike, Look-a-Like Domains

# How Phishes Get By

## Phishers Use SPF, DKIM, and DMARC

- Examples

Bank of America Alert: Unlock Your Account Important Message From Bank Of America®

The screenshot displays an email interface. The email header shows the sender as 'Bank of America <BankofAmerica@customerloyalty.accounts.com>' and the recipient as 'Roger Grimes'. A warning icon indicates that the sender's identity could not be verified. An attachment named 'ATT00001' (216 bytes) is visible. The main body of the email is titled 'Online Banking Alert' and contains a message about unusual activity on the account on 07/27/2019, requesting immediate verification. A 'Verify Now' button is located at the bottom of the email content.

The 'Properties' window is open, showing the following details:


- Settings:** Importance: Normal, Sensitivity: Normal.
- Security:**  Encrypt message contents and attachments,  Add digital signature to outgoing message,  Request S/MIME receipt for this message.
- Tracking options:**  Request a delivery receipt for this message,  Request a read receipt for this message.
- Delivery options:** Have replies sent to: [empty], Expires after: None, 12:00 AM.
- Internet headers:** Authentication-Results: spf=none (sender IP is 162.144.198.96) smtp.mailfrom=server.feqhweb.com; banneretcs.com; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=shakawaaye.com;banneretcs.com; dmarc=none action=none header.from=customerloyalty.accounts.com;compauth=fail reason=001 Received-SPF: None (protection.outlook.com: server.feqhweb.com does not


# How Phishes Get By

## Phishers Use SPF, DKIM, and DMARC

- Examples

Identity verification: further details required

 Blockchain <ms-oxprotp@mssimple.apcprd01.prdexchangpe11.net>(Blockchain via idg.onmicrosoft.com)  
To roger\_grimes@infoworld.com

 We could not verify the identity of the sender. Click here to learn more.  
The actual sender of this message is different than the normal sender. Click here to learn more.

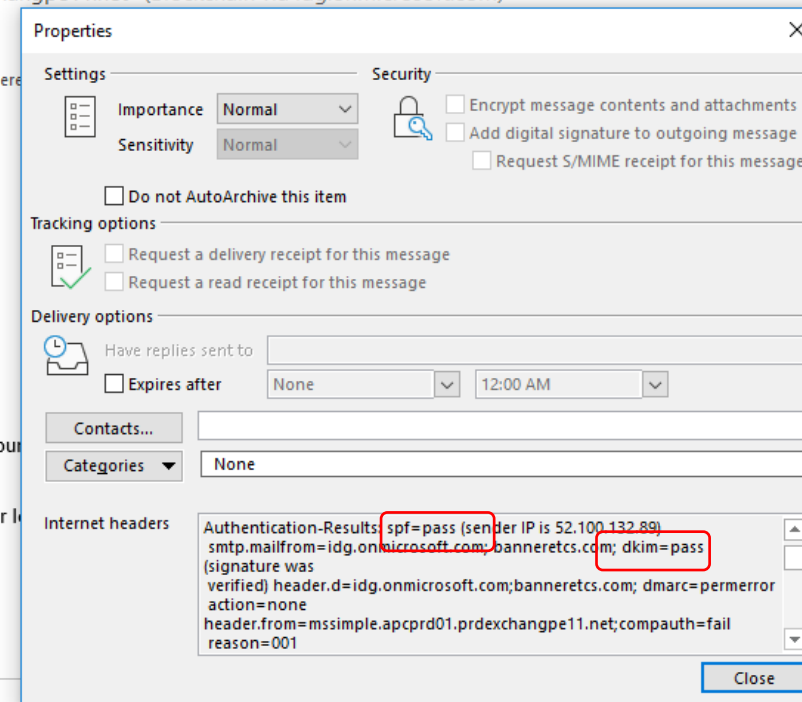
Hi Roger\_grimes

You have an account verification issue with your Blockchain. Your account is currently locked.

Please [CLICK HERE TO VERIFY>>](#) your ACCOUNT and Confirm your identity.

Wish to hear from you soon.

Thanks,  
The Blockchain Team



Properties

Settings

Importance Normal

Sensitivity Normal

Do not AutoArchive this item

Security

Encrypt message contents and attachments

Add digital signature to outgoing message

Request S/MIME receipt for this message

Tracking options

Request a delivery receipt for this message

Request a read receipt for this message

Delivery options

Have replies sent to

Expires after None 12:00 AM

Contacts...

Categories None

Internet headers

Authentication-Results: spf=pass (sender IP is 52.100.132.88); smtp.mailfrom=idg.onmicrosoft.com; banneretcs.com; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=idg.onmicrosoft.com; banneretcs.com; dmarc=pererror action=none header.from=mssimple.apcprd01.prdexchangpe11.net; compauth=fail reason=001

Close

# How Phishes Get By

## Phishers Use DMARC and Many Senders Don't

- 80% of legitimate companies don't

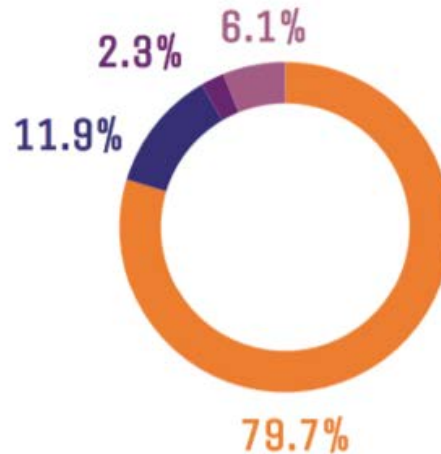
FIGURE 1.1

Global DMARC Adoption 2019

LEGEND

n=21,075 domains

- domains w/ no policy
- none policy
- quarantine policy
- reject policy



<https://250ok.com/email-deliverability/how-has-dmarc-adoption-evolved-since-2018-its-complicated/>

# How Phishes Get By

## Misconfiguration

- SPF, DKIM, and DMARC is widely misconfigured
- Missing records
- Old, not updated key pairs
- Bad IP addresses
- Missed domains
- Email proxies invalidate use

# How Phishes Get By

## Quarantine Doesn't Quarantine

- DMARC is set to Quarantine, but receiving server doesn't check or ignores instruction

# How Phishes Get By

## Email Service May Ignore Settings

- Many public email services don't participate in DMARC or do, but essentially set DMARC's p=none



# How Phishes Get By

## It's Domain Verification

- It's Domain Verification (not email address verification)
- Email could have fake sender from within valid domain
  - Domain could be gmail.com, Hotmail.com, etc.

# How Phishes Get By

## Compromised Domain

- Phish Can Be Sent by Compromised Computer/Domain
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party compromised phishing is on the rise
- Doesn't prevent emails coming from real domain from being sent

# How Phishes Get By

## Fake Domains

- Sound-alike, Look-a-Like Domains

Who would catch?:

- llnkedin.com, llinkedln.com
- gmail.com.emaildomain.biz

# How Phishes Get By

## They Will Get By Your Technical Controls

- So you must do security awareness training!

# The KnowBe4 Security Awareness Program WORKS



## Baseline Testing

Use simulated phishing to baseline assess the Phish-prone™ percentage of your users.



## Train Your Users

The world's largest library of security awareness training content; including interactive modules, videos, games, posters and newsletters. Automated training campaigns with scheduled reminder emails.



## Phish Your Users

Best-in-class, fully automated simulated phishing attacks, hundreds of templates with unlimited usage, and community phishing templates.



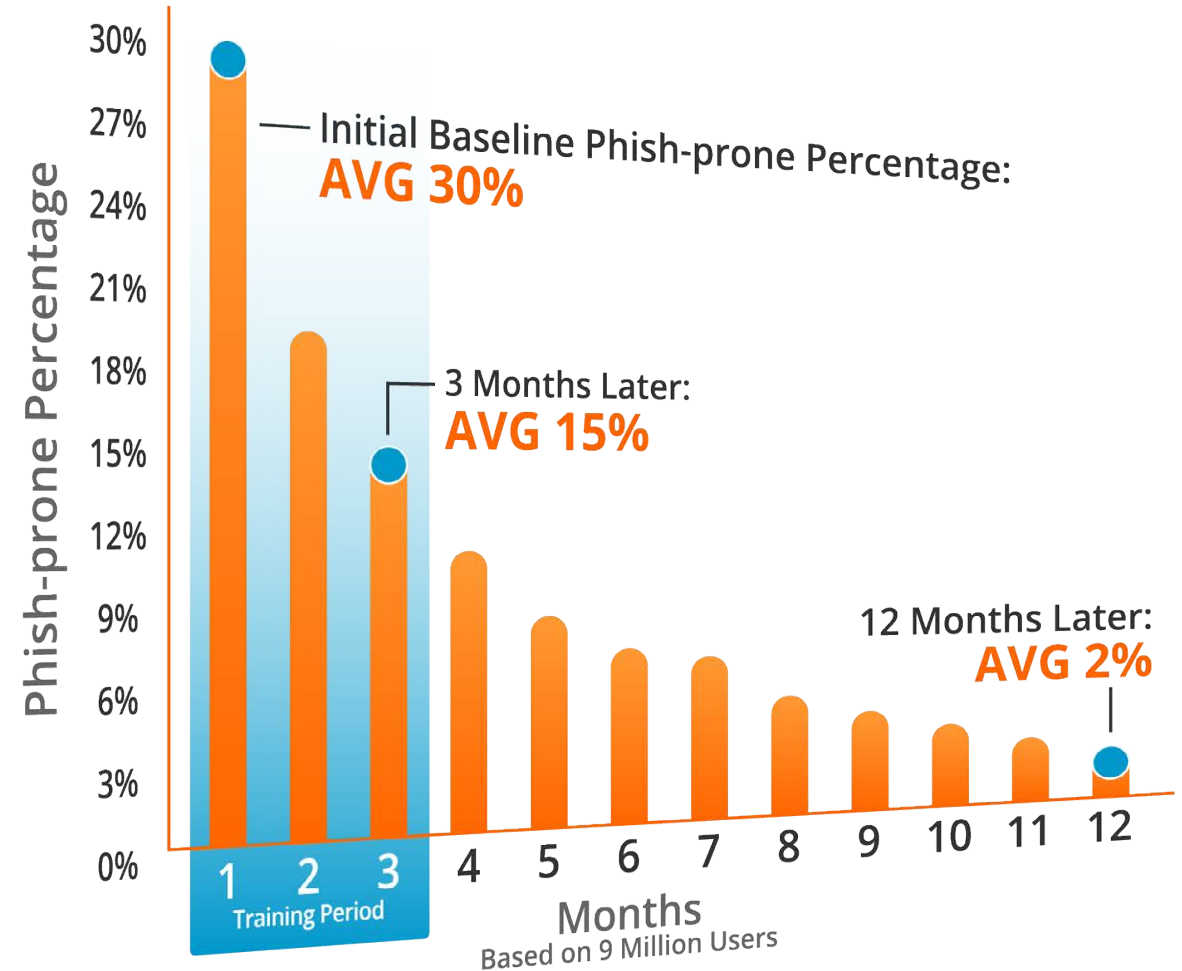
## See the Results

Enterprise-strength reporting, showing stats and graphs for both training and phishing, ready for management. Show the great ROI!



# Security Awareness Training Program That Works

- Drawn from a data set of **over six million users**
- Across **nearly 11K organizations**
- Segmented by **industry type** and **organization size**
- **241,762** Phishing Security Tests (PSTs)



# Resources

## Free IT Security Tools



Domain Doppelgänger



Awareness Program Builder



Domain Spoof Tool



Mailserver Security Assessment



Phish Alert



Ransomware Simulator



Weak Password Test



Phishing Security Test



Second Chance



Email Exposure Check Pro

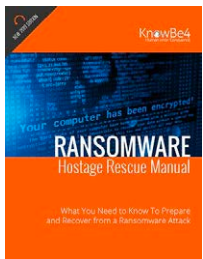


Training Preview



Breached Password Test

## Whitepapers



### Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual

Get the most complete Ransomware Manual packed with actionable info that you need to have to prevent infections, and what to do when you are hit with ransomware.



### CEO Fraud Prevention Manual

CEO fraud is responsible for over \$3 billion in losses. Don't be next. The CEO Fraud Prevention Manual provides a thorough overview of how executives are compromised, how to prevent such an attack and what to do if you become a victim.



### 12+ Ways to Hack Two-Factor Authentication

All multi-factor authentication (MFA) mechanisms can be compromised, and in some cases, it's as simple as sending a traditional phishing email. Want to know how to defend against MFA hacks? This whitepaper covers over a dozen different ways to hack various types of MFA and how to defend against those attacks.

» Learn More at [www.KnowBe4.com/Resources](http://www.KnowBe4.com/Resources) «

# Questions?

**Roger A. Grimes**

**Data-Driven Defense Evangelist, KnowBe4**

[rogerg@knowbe4.com](mailto:rogerg@knowbe4.com)

Twitter: [@RogerAGrimes](https://twitter.com/RogerAGrimes)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rogeragrimes/>