INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR

STUDY PERIOD 2005-2008

COM 17 – LS 71 – E

English only

Original: English

Question(s):	Study on countering SPAM by technical means (proposed Q.17/17)	Geneva, 5-14 October 2005

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Ref. : TD 2159 Rev.2

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Source:	ITU-T Study Group 17 (Geneva, 5-14 October 2005)
Title:	Proposed Question on Countering SPAM by technical means

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LIAISON STATEMENT

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To:	**IETF**
Approval:	**Agreed to at the SG 17 meeting**
For:	**Action**
Deadline:	**March 2006**

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The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Florianópolis, 2004) in Resolution 52 instructs Study Group 17 to develop, as a matter of urgency, technical Recommendations, including required definitions, on countering SPAM, as appropriate, and to report regularly to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group on their progress.

Study Group 17 has prepared a proposed Question on Countering SPAM by technical means, which is attached for your information (see Attachment).

Study Group 17 would appreciate the identification of a contact point in the IETF for cooperation on countering SPAM by technical means.

Attachment: Proposed Question on Countering SPAM by technical means (ref. COM 17-TD 2151 Rev.3)

Attachment:

Text of proposed Question on Countering SPAM by technical means

Question 17/17 – Countering SPAM by technical means

1 Motivation

The World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (Florianopolis, 2004) in Resolution 52 instructed the relevant study groups, in cooperation with the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and other relevant groups, to develop technical Recommendations, including required definitions on countering spam, as appropriate, and to report regularly to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group on their progress.

Spam has become a widespread problem causing a complex range of problems to users, service providers, and network operators around the globe. While spam was originally used to send unsolicited commercial messages, increasingly spam messages are being used to spread viruses, worms, and other malicious code that negatively impact the security and stability of the global telecommunication network. Spam may include the delivery of phishing and spyware. It is a global problem that requires a multifaceted, comprehensive approach that includes:

- Effective legislation and enforcement,
- Development of technical measures,
- Establishment of industry partnerships and self-regulation,
- Education,
- International cooperation.

Technical measures to counter spam represent one of those approaches mentioned above.

Study Group 17, as the Lead Study Group on Telecommunication Security, is well-positioned to study the range of potential technical measures to counter spam as it relates to the stability and robustness of the telecommunication network.

2 Question

Study items to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- What risks does spam pose to the telecommunication network?
- What technical factors associated with the telecommunication network contribute to the difficulty of identifying the sources of spam?
- How can new technologies lead to opportunities to counter spam and enhance the security of the telecommunication network?
- Do advanced telecommunication network technologies (for example, SMS, instant messaging, VoIP) offer unique opportunities for spam that require unique solutions?
- What technical work is already being undertaken within the IETF, in other fora, and by private sector entities to address the problem of spam?
- What telecommunication network standardization work, if any, is needed to effectively counter spam as it relates to the stability and robustness of the telecommunication network?

3   Tasks

Tasks include, but are not limited to:

•   Act as the lead group in ITU-T on technical means for countering spam as spam is characterized by Study Group 2.

•   Establish effective cooperation with the IETF, the relevant ITU Study Groups, the SPU and appropriate consortia and fora, including private sector entities for this area.

•   Identify and examine the telecommunication network security risks introduced by the constantly changing nature of spam.

•   Develop a comprehensive and up-to-date resource list of the existing technical measures for countering spam in a telecommunication network that are in use or under development.

•   Determine whether new Recommendations or enhancements to existing Recommendations, including methods to combat delivery of spyware, phishing, and other malicious contents via spam, would benefit Member efforts to effectively counter spam as it relates to the stability and robustness of the telecommunication network.

•   Provide regular updates to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group and to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to include in the annual report to Council.

•   Maintain awareness of international cooperation measures on countering spam.

4   Relationships

Recommendations

Questions:	2/17, 4/17, 5/17, 6/17, 7/17, 8/17 and 9/17
Study Groups:	ITU-T SG 2, ITU-T SG 13, ITU-T SG 16, ITU-D SG 2
Standardization bodies:	IETF; ISO/IEC JTC 1, other relevant national and international standards organizations
Other bodies:	OECD, Private sector entities, MAAWG.