
Subject: Is the learner working?

Posted by [InforMed Direct](#) on Tue, 18 May 2004 13:25:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

We're using No Spam Today! with Exchange 5.5 and SpamAssassin and our hit rate with spam is only about 50%, sometimes less. But this is better than nothing!

I think we're using the learner correctly via this process:

1. We asked users to move spam emails that sneak through into a shared mailbox
2. Periodically, we collect these messages into Outlook Express
3. When then run DBXtract (freeware) to export the inbox into EML files
4. Execute the following command on the No Spam Today server:

```
sa-learn --spam s:\Temp\Spam\*.eml -C ruleset
```

We've put thousands of spam emails through there. Couple of questions:

1. SpamAssassin says it needs ham as well as spam. Am I correct in assuming that SpamAssassin automatically passes emails that it processes through the learner thus passing ham (non-spam) and known spam?
2. Assuming this is correct, consider the case where a spam email passes through undetected. This will be processed as above when the user reads it, i.e. it'll then be passed through the learner as spam. Is this okay?
3. Is there anyway to tell if the learner is actually learning anything?

Thanks, Rob.