

# POSTFIX - IMAGE SPAM PROBLEMS

Spammers are nothing if not adaptable. One of the new tricks is image spam, embedding text or messages into a graphic on the email. Normal text checkers will of course not find anything, so something new is needed. Well if you are using *spamassassin*, it is possible to implement an OCR based scanning mechanism. So it can "view" graphics and decide on whether it is spam or not. Lets take a look at how..

## Needed?

Well, linux first off. A recent copy of *spamassassin* (>=3.1.14), some perl modules, *netPBM* , *Giflib*, *ocrad*, *Gifsicle*, *gocr* and finally *fuzzyocr*. Looks kinda daunting don't it? It really is not that bad, lets start with the perl stuff..

```
#perl -e shell -MCPAN
>install Digest::MD5 String::Approx Time::HiRes Log::Agent MLDBM::Sync
```

then lets do *netPBM* (get [here](#))..

```
tar -xzvf ./netpbm-10.26.37.tgz
configure (answer questions)
make
make package pkgdir=/usr/lib/netpbm
./installnetpbm
```

then lets get both the *giflib* programs (get [here](#))..

```
tar -xzvf ./giflib-4.1.4.tar.gz
cd giflib-4.1.4
./configure
make
make install

tar -xzvf libungif-4.1.4.tar.gz
cd libungif-4.1.4
./configure
make
make install
```

now *ocrad* (get [here](#))..

```
tar -xjvf ./ocrad-0.16.tar.bz2
cd ocrad-0.16
./configure
make
make install
```

now *gifsicle* (get [here](#))..

```
tar -xvzf ./gifsicle-1.46.tar.gz
cd gifsicle-1.46
./configure
make
make install
```

(almost there) then *gocr* (get [here](#))..

```
./configure --with-netpbm=/usr/lib/netpbm
make
make install
```

lastly we do *fuzzyocr* (get [here](#))..

```
tar -xzvf fuzzyocr-3.5.1-devel.tar.gz
cd FuzzyOcr-3.5.1/
```

## Setup?

Well we need to get *spamassassin* to use *fuzzyocr* so..

```
cp -r ./FuzzyOcr.cf ./FuzzyOcr.scansets ./FuzzyOcr.preps ./FuzzyOcr.pm ./FuzzyOcr /  
etc/mail/spamassassin  
cp ./FuzzyOcr.words /etc/mail/spamassassin
```

This will copy the needed files to the *spamassassin* directory so when you restart *spamassassin* it will use the new checks. But before you restart lets finish configuring *fuzzyocr*, edit */etc/mail/spamassassin/FuzzyOcr.cf*..

```
- Make sure that you specify a writable file as a logfile, The log level can be  
specified with the focr_verbose option.  
- Make sure that you specify a correct file as global wordlist.  
- Set the following and put in the correct paths for your system..  
    focr_enable_image_hashing 2  
    focr_db_hash <full_path_to_file>  
    focr_db_safe <full_path_to_file>  
    focr_db_max_days <number_of_days>  
    focr_threshold 0.12  
    focr_base_score 2  
    focr_add_score 0.375  
    focr_wrongctype_score 0.7  
    focr_wrongext_score 0.7  
    focr_corrupt_score 1.5  
    focr_corrupt_unfixable_score 2.5
```

Lastly, restart *spamassassin*, and then watch the mail log file, you should start seeing the new checks happening.

### *Final Words*

Checking for image spam is a very good thing to do these days, but it is a resource intensive process, once it is running, monitor your server to see if it can handle it, if it needs to be tweaked more, or even if it needs to be removed. Remember, having the image spam checker crash your email server is no good. So as always have fun and learn.