

### **Step 3: Email Header Analysis**

Tool Used: Google Header Analyzer (<https://toolbox.googleapps.com/apps/messageheader/>)

#### **Sample Header Analyzed:**

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Delivered-To: youremail@example.com

Received: from mail.paypal.com (fake IP: 192.168.1.55)

by mx.google.com with ESMTPS id abc123xyz

for <youremail@example.com>;

Wed, 01 Aug 2025 12:34:56 -0700 (PDT)

From: "PayPal Security" <support@paypal.com>

Reply-To: support@paypal.com

Return-Path: scammer@malicious.com

Authentication-Results: spf=fail (google.com: domain of paypal.com does not designate 192.168.1.55 as permitted sender)  
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#### **Findings:**

- From address: support@paypal.com (Fake domain pretending to be PayPal)
- Return-Path: scammer@malicious.com (does not match the sender — spoofed)
- SPF: Failed — sender not authorized to send from this domain
- DKIM: Missing — indicates lack of authenticity
- Source IP: 192.168.1.55 — private IP, not valid for public email traffic

#### **Conclusion:**

The email fails key authentication checks (SPF, DKIM) and contains a spoofed Return-Path.

This indicates that the email is likely a phishing attempt created using a fake domain and spoofed sender.