Ex. No 4: Analyze email headers and detect email spoofing using Mail Header Analyzer

AIM:

To analyze email headers and detect possible spoofing or malicious activity using Mail Header Analyzer.

Requirements:

- Mail Header Analyzer tool
- Any email client (Gmail/Outlook/Yahoo) with suspicious email samples

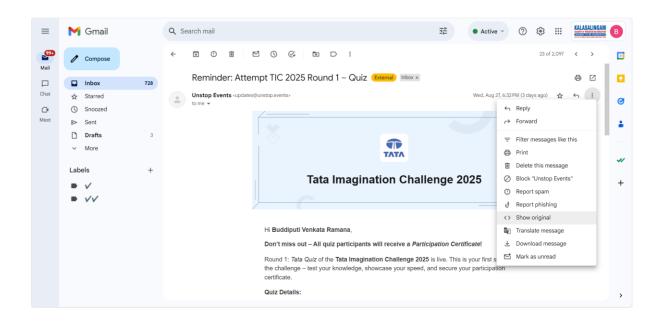
Description:

An email header contains routing information, including sender, recipient, subject, and most importantly, the path the email took across servers. Attackers often forge headers to trick recipients called email spoofing.

By analyzing headers, we can identify:

- Real sender IP address
- Authentication results (SPF, DKIM, DMARC)
- Time delays between servers
- Signs of spoofing/phishing

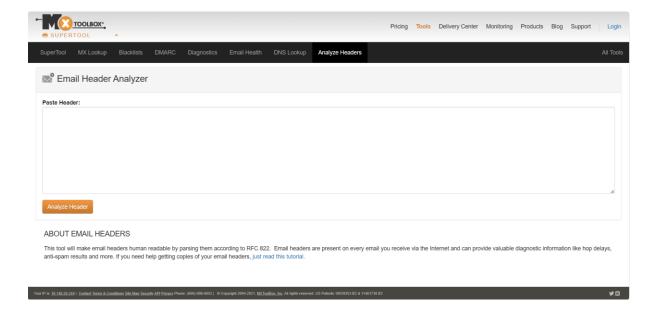
Step-1: First get the email header for that open the gmail, select the mail and click the three dots, choose the show original



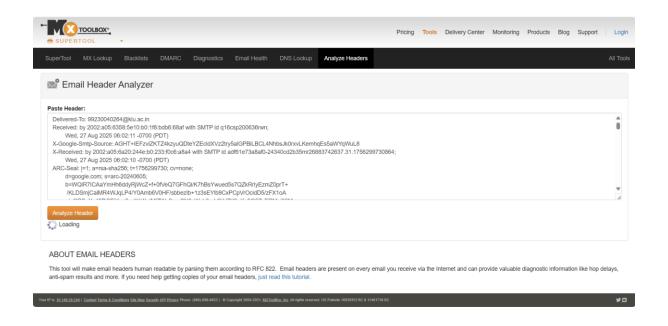
Step-2: Click the show original then you will see the original message with sender and receiver details

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Delivered-To: 992300402546klu.ac.in
Received: by 2002;a05:c38:5540:bb:1f8:bbb6:68af with SMTP id q16csp200636rwn;
Wed, 27 Aug 2025 60:02:11 -0700 (PDT)
X-Google-Smtp-Source: AGHT-LETA/LTZ/AKZYUQUEYZECLDX/22trySalGPBILBCLMHbb3\ROTXVLXemhgES5aWYqWuL8
X-Received: by 2002;a05:6202:Ade:bb:233:fecc:sada with SMTP id adf61e73a8af6-24340cd2b35mr26883742637.31.1756299730864;
Wed, 27 Aug 2025 60:22:14-0756299730; cv=none;
degoogle.com; saar-200240869; cv=none;
degoogle.com; saar-200240869; cv=none;
degoogle.com; saar-200240869; cv=none;
degoogle.com; saar-200240869; dv=none;
d
```

Step-3: Use Mail Header Analyzer tool for easy reading and analysis



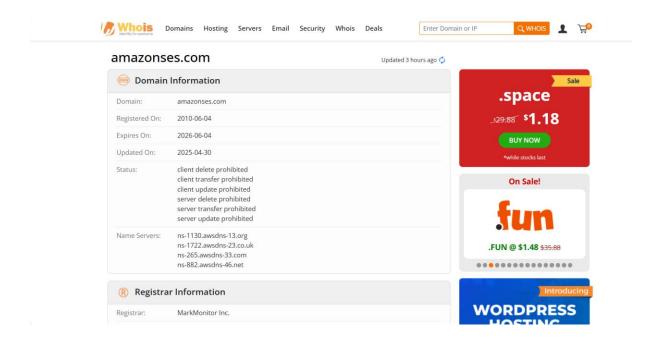
Step-4: Copy and paste the entire header text and click Analyze header



Step-5: Identify Key Header Fields (From, To, Subject, Date, Return-Path, Received, Message-ID, SPF/DKIM/DMARC)



Step-6: Check for IP Addresses and Hostnames, use tools like WHOIS or online IP lookup services to identify the geographical location and ownership of the IP addresses found in the Received lines. Check if any IP addresses are suspicious or if the hostname does not match the expected sending server.



Step-7: Examine the SPF, DKIM, and DMARC Results



- SPF Sender Policy Framework → Checks if the sender's server/IP is allowed for that domain
- DKIM DomainKeys Identified Mail → Ensures email content wasn't changed.

SPF and DKIM Information

