» **On-premises antispam software is usually tightly integrated not only with Microsoft Exchange but also with Microsoft Outlook.** Spam email typically appears in the users' Junk folders, and the software often provides an Outlook add-in that makes it easy for users to mark incorrectly identified email.

» **On-premises software is relatively inexpensive.** Typically, you pay an upfront fee to purchase the license, as well as an annual maintenance fee to receive regular updates not only to the software but also to the spam filters.

Here are the main disadvantages of on-premises antispam software:

» **You're responsible for installing, patching, configuring, updating, and otherwise maintaining the software.**

» **Because the relationship between the email server and the antispam software is complicated, on-premises antispam software periodically malfunctions.** Such a malfunction usually halts mail flow throughout your organization. It then becomes your responsibility to correct the problem so that mail begins flowing again. (This usually happens just at the moment when your boss is expecting an important email, and you'll find yourself diagnosing and fixing the problem while your boss watches over your shoulder.)

» **On-premises antispam software increases the workload on your servers, requiring additional resources in the form of processor time, RAM, disk storage, and network bandwidth.**

Antispam appliances

An *antispam appliance* is essentially an on-premises server in a dedicated box that you install at your location. The appliance is usually a self-contained Linux-based computer running antispam software that is pre-installed on the appliance. This makes the appliance essentially plug-and-play — you just set it up, connect it to your network, turn it on, and configure it using a simple web-based interface. When the appliance is up and running, it can provide many, if not all, of the features of on-premises antispam software.

Here are some of the main advantages of using an antispam appliance:

» Because the appliance includes its own hardware and pre-installed operating system, you don't have to worry about purchasing hardware separately, installing an operating system, installing software, or any of the other tasks associated with setting up a server.

» After it's set up, an appliance will pretty much take care of itself. You'll need to check on it once in a while, but appliances are designed to be self-sufficient.