



## LINKAGES – Edition 28

### Happy 2005!

The LCC team would like to wish you all a happy new year in 2005. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with the imminent launch of the Local Government Portal and other initiatives. More announcements soon!

### Virus Emails using forged *FROM* address

Please be aware that there is currently a spate of virus emails being sent to many recipients, using a falsified *FROM* address. Unfortunately, the *FROM* address that has been used in several cases, is similar to `webmaster@[councilname].wa.gov.au`, or `Auto_Mailer@[councilname].wa.gov.au`, with the effect that the recipients of such virus emails will think the council has sent the infected email.

Rest assured that, due to the multi-layered design of the LCC Network Gateway and Central Services architecture, such virus emails can NOT be sent from any Council with an LCC Gateway.

However, it is relatively trivial for such virus emails to be sent from any computer or network without the inherent security features as offered by the LCC network gateway. In such unprotected networks, the only indication of this is increased outbound network activity (which is rarely monitored on "normal" networks); a performance slowdown on the infected PC, and inbound error emails reporting that delivery was not possible due to the presence of a virus in the email that "you" sent.

Over the last couple of weeks, we are aware of virus emails sent by infected PCs with the *FROM* address forged from the following Councils:

<a href="http://albany.wa.gov.au">albany.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://mandurah.wa.gov.au">mandurah.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://beverley.wa.gov.au">beverley.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://meekashire.wa.gov.au">meekashire.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://boddington.wa.gov.au">boddington.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://moora.wa.gov.au">moora.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://bunbury.wa.gov.au">bunbury.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://mukinbudin.wa.gov.au">mukinbudin.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://chittering.wa.gov.au">chittering.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://nannup.wa.gov.au">nannup.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://corrigin.wa.gov.au">corrigin.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://narrogin.wa.gov.au">narrogin.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://cunderdin.wa.gov.au">cunderdin.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://northampton.wa.gov.au">northampton.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://jerramungup.wa.gov.au">jerramungup.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://plantagenet.wa.gov.au">plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
<a href="http://kojonup.wa.gov.au">kojonup.wa.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au">wanneroo.wa.gov.au</a>

(Once again, we stress that these virus emails did not originate from the Councils themselves, but rather from a third-party's infected PC).

For more information on the virus typically behind these emails, see:  
[http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp?id=description&virus\\_k=130130](http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp?id=description&virus_k=130130)

### Proposed Implementation of Anti-SPAM Tool

The sending of emails with a falsified *FROM* address is quite common for both SPAM and Virus emails. To help combat the sending of emails with a falsified *FROM* address, the internet community has developed "Sender Policy Framework", or SPF. Simplistically, SPF lists the IP addresses that any emails for a particular council are expected to originate from; if an email arrives from somewhere else, with the council's domain name in the *FROM* address, then SPF-compliant systems will reject that email as invalid.

The WALGA LCC Network Management team is currently seeking comment from Councils on whether SPF records should be implemented. The main consideration is whether there are any legitimate scenarios in which the council (or councillors, or council officers) send outbound emails from any location other than within the council LAN (eg, from a laptop "on the road", or at conferences).

Unless otherwise directed, the current plan is for all Councils with LCC Gateways to have SPF records implemented by mid February 2005, stating that the only legitimate origin of emails for those Councils, are from within the LAN or via Secure Webmail. More information on SPF is available at: <http://spf.pobox.com/>

Council input on this matter is keenly sought.

Also, please contact the LCC Team if you require any additional protection against inbound Spam (noting that all LCC Gateway sites have automatic protection against virus emails, in both the inbound and outbound directions).

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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