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SPF for e-mail is an independent standard

The *Sender Policy Framework (SPF) Project* makes a clear statement on the independence of its SPF e-mail sender authentication protocol.

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, March 23, 2005 — The *SPF Project* wishes to make clear the independence and standing of *SPF*, its proposed standard for sender authentication of electronic mail.

During the functional period of the *Internet Engineering Task Force's MARID* working group, several mutations of the *SPF* protocol specification were published. These specifically include **draft-lyon-senderid-core** and **draft-lentczner-spf**, which constitute the *Sender-ID* protocol proposed by *Microsoft Corporation*. None of those drafts should be considered officially sanctioned by the *SPF* project.

After the collapse of *MARID* and the subsequent formation of the *SPF Council*, the *SPF* project's steering committee, a new line of specification drafts, **draft-schlitt-spf-classic**, has now been created and submitted to the *IETF* for standardization. This line of drafts exclusively defines the *SPF* protocol by authority of the *SPF* Project.

In its current *Sender-ID* specification and through its public relations practice, *Microsoft* has declared *SPF*, both technically and conceptually, to be a dependent and integral part of *Sender-ID*. The *SPF* project firmly rejects this attempt at co-opting *SPF*. Although *SPF* and *Sender-ID* are conceptually related and can be used in parallel, they are independent protocols and should not be confused.

By now, at least 750,000 domains have published sender policies complying with the *SPF* protocol, which has a tradition reaching back to mid-2003. However, though no cooperation on the authoring of the *SPF* protocol is desired, the project remains open to collaborative efforts on the development of future e-mail authentication standards.

About the *SPF Project*

The *SPF Project* was founded in 2003 by *Meng Weng Wong* to act against the increasing levels of e-mail sender address forgery by spammers, imposters, and computer viruses. He and the many dedicated internet technologists who have joined him have developed the sender authentication technology now called *Sender Policy Framework*.

SPF aims to fix various ambiguities in the standards underlying the e-mail system that have essentially remained unchanged since their inception in 1982. The *Sender Policy Framework* allows domain owners to define who may and may not send mail reputed to be from their domains.

For additional details about *Sender Policy Framework* see:

<http://www.openspf.org>

About the *SPF Council*

Established in December 2004, the *SPF Council's* mission is to steer the overall *SPF* standardization effort, promote the deployment of *SPF* on the global Internet, and to develop and improve the project's public messaging and communications.

For additional details and news about the *SPF Council* see:

<http://www.openspf.org/Council>

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