



# Letter from the Editor

Web Site Hosting - Design - Marketing - Management

## News and helpful information from your friends at AmeriWeb Hosting October 2024



### WEB NEWS

#### Email Hack Attempts Continued - Part 2

[Read Part 1 from August HERE](#)  
<https://ameriwebhosting.com/subscribe.html>

Last month we discussed how hackers try to gain access to your computer, credit card numbers, and checking account. One Chinese company sends out over 100,000 messages per day, warning us of missed delivery attempts made by USPS, FedEx and other carriers. And they require a small fee to re-try the delivery.

OK, we know who's behind these texts, but that doesn't mean they're going to stop anytime soon. With banks behind the curve on this one, it's up to you to stay alert.

- **Stop and think:** Don't click links included in bogus messages, or answer phone calls from numbers you don't recognize. Just don't.
- **Shhh:** Don't respond to random texts, even if the message requests you "text STOP" to end future messages. This can alert a scammer you're a real human, resulting in even more messages. Delete the text, and report it as spam.
- **Update everything:** Keep your phone's operating system and any security software you use (this is my pick) updated to the latest version.
- **2FA is your friend:** Enable it on any app you can that contains personal information (bank accounts, health records, social media accounts).

Remember, if they weren't stealing money from us, they would move on to other activities. We are all in this together. Don't make it easy on them!



### HOW TO

#### Having Email Authentication Issues?

Several months ago, we warned of pending changes to gmail, hotmail, outlook and a host of other services. That time is now. They are now requiring a SPF record, DKIM record, and are recommending a DMARC record. These are TXT entries made into your DNS server. If you have incorrect or missing entries, sending an email for delivery is either intermittent, or stops entirely.

Here are the 3 records, and what they do.

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## SPF

SPF is used to authenticate the sender, and ensure that only specific, authorized servers can send emails for your domain. This makes it much harder for someone else to pretend to be you and send out emails in your name.

## DKIM

DKIM is used to verify that messages haven't been tampered with in transit. Because email is generally sent as a plain text, someone could intercept your email, change it, and release the modified version to an unsuspecting recipient. Think like a criminal. If you send out an invoice or bill, they could change the "send a check to" address. They'd get the payment due to you, you would not be paid, and your customer would still owe the bill amount. DKIM makes this much harder to accomplish.

## DMARC

DMARC suggests what to do with mail that isn't legitimate. It tells a sending server what is wrong with an email. You can set it to pass suspect emails, or delete them automatically. You can also set it up to alert you about suspect emails on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

For our customers, we automatically set SPF and DKIM, and upon request will set up DMARC.

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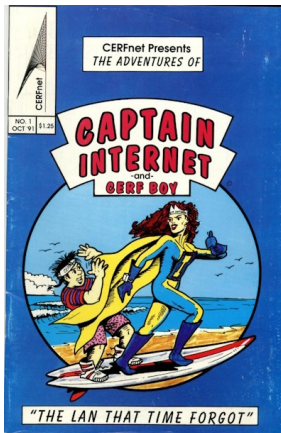


## MARKETING

### Some Interesting (aka GEEKY) Information

I wonder how to work these geeky facts into polite conversation.

When you access the internet, you open a browser (which first appeared as the acronym BROWSER for BRowsing On-Line With SElective Retrieval) and begin to navigate around, otherwise known as surfing the internet.



A 1991 comic book "The Adventures of Captain Internet and CERF Boy" published by CERFnet, depicted a superhero who literally surfed around on a surfboard answering internet cries for help.

The word spam comes from an iconic 1970 Monty Python's Flying Circus sketch, wherein a horde of Viking cafe-goers repeatedly sing the menu item Spam, drowning out all other conversation.

Cache has been around since the turn of the 18th century as a hiding place for goods and treasures, from the French *cache* meaning "to hide." The word was first applied to computing in 1967 by IBM Systems Journal editor, Lyle R. Johnson. Apparently no one had any suggestions for a substitute for the clunky phrase "High Speed Buffer" so Johnson sat down with a thesaurus and came up with cache.

We're humans after all, and the internet and World Wide Web are tools for expanding our human experience. While we stare at our phones and computer screens, it's a nice reminder that the intention behind these technologies was to connect us together. After all, Tim

Berners-Lee said the thing he's most proud of about the World Wide Web is "the wonderful global collaborative spirit of all the people who turned up to help build it, and build things on it."

Now go ahead, armed with all this "useless" yet geeky information, try to work it into your next conversation.

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#### **ASK A TECH**

**Q:** How do I enable 2FA for security on my bank account, credit card accounts and medical records?

**A:** To enable 2FA is relatively easy. Look in the security area of your control panel. You will need an email, phone or cell phone to receive a code each time you try to log in. If someone else is trying to log in without your permission, YOU will receive the code, not them, and they won't be granted access (unless you give them the code).

The code can arrive by text message, email or a voice phone call. You get to select your preference. Then if you are legitimately trying to log in, simply enter the code (usually 6 digits) and you are verified, and granted access.

The code changes with each access, so it is random and secure.

AmeriNews is published approximately 10 times a year by AmeriWeb Hosting for our customers, friends and those curious about our business. If you have a question for our ASK A TECH section, email it to [support@ameriwebhosting.com](mailto:support@ameriwebhosting.com)

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