

A new RR type for SPF

Stéphane Bortzmeyer

<bortzmeyer@nic.fr>

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SPF

Sender Policy Framework: Authorizing Use of
Domains in MAIL FROM

draft-lentczner-spf-00

Authenticate the email “sender”

Put the list of authorized MTA in the DNS

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In the real world

At least three different free implementations widely used (and many others more confidential)

SPF data published (as TXT records) in many domains (surveys indicate > 200 000 domains), including freebsd.org, hotmail.com, pobox.com, aol.com, gnu.org, etc. The growth rate seems to be more than 10 % per month.

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Which RR?

Currently a TXT record, which is bad (draft-iab-dns-choices-00) but there were good reasons to do so.

Remember *most* domain managers cannot edit the zone file, they just have a “user-friendly” interface.

No prefix (unlike `_ep` for Caller-ID), mostly for provisioning issues.

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Other suspects

Note: many domain-level auth. proposals
(re)use TXT records.

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Request: a new RR type**3.1.1 RR Types**

This document defines a new DNS RR type SPF, type code to be determined. The format of this type is identical to the TXT RR [RFC1035].

However, because there are a number of DNS server and resolver implementations in common use that cannot handle new RR types, a record can be published with type TXT.

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Handling of both RR types

An SPF compliant domain name SHOULD have SPF records of both RR types. A compliant domain name MUST have a record of at least one type. If a domain has records of both types, they MUST have identical content.

An SPF compliant check SHOULD lookup both types.

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Long-term co-existence

How long will the two RR types live together?
Open issue...

"That fantasy of a new RR type for SPF will not happen" Philip Hallam-Baker, Verisign, at the FTC summit

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