

Re: CAN-SPAM Act Rulemaking, Project No. R411008

To Whom It May Concern,

I applaud your efforts to curb the problem of unsolicited bulk email. However, I am concerned about the proposed requirement for merchants to maintain suppression lists.

There are so many problems and costs associated with this idea, and so much damage done to consumers and businesses alike, that I feel I must urge you to consider this matter most carefully.

Requirement of the use of suppression lists will seriously damage many of the legitimate publications available on the net. My specific concern is for harm to publishers who require permission from the consumer prior to adding them to any list.

They're not who CAN-SPAM was designed to put out of business, but this requirement will very likely have that effect. If you really wish to enforce CAN-SPAM and make Internet Life better, then go after all the Porn sites and other disreputable business' out there that have Unsubscribe links that go no where. Or take for ever to remove you from their mailing list when you request it to be done.

There's also the potential for significant harm to consumers, because of the problem of properly knowing their intent when they unsubscribe from a list. On top of that, these suppression lists could easily fall into the hands of spammers, leading to more Spam instead of less.

I was quite surprised at the potential problems this ruling could involve, and urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider its implementation in light of these problems.

If you really wish to enforce CAN-SPAM and make Internet Life better, then go after all the sites of disreputable businesses out there that have UNSUBSCRIBE links that go no where. Or take for ever to remove you from their mailing list when you request it to be done. Also correct the system so I stop receiving other peoples E-Mail.

Respectfully,

Steve Van Fleet
State of Illinois, U.S.A.