

NotesAntiSpam Manual Version 0.3.1

by

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1 Introduction

1.1 Why this Guide ?

This Guide describes NotesAntiSpam, a free SpamFilter for Lotus Notes.

1.2 New Versions

Available from <http://sourceforge.net/projects/notesantispam/>

1.3 Feedback

Any Feedback to this Guide is very welcomed. You are invited to send me a mail to tkriener@users.sourceforge.net.

1.4 Revision History

Version 0.3.0 27.10.2004
First public release of this Manual

Version 0.3.1 09.02.2005
Changes to reflect new version

1.5 Contributions

Thanks to all users who already installed NotesAntiSpam without a Manual ;-)

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2 Introduction

NotesAntiSpam uses DSPAM, a statistical anti-spam filter, and available DNS-Blacklists to find SPAM in your mail. DSPAM learns from the content of your mail what SPAM is. The DNS-Blacklist-Filter scans for known bad gateways the mail went through on its way to you. If SPAM is found it is moved into the Folder "-Spam".

2.1 Features

- Statistical filtering using DSPAM (<http://www.nuclearelephant.com/projects/dspam/>)
- Scanning for known gateways inside of DNS-Blacklists
- Ignoring mails from known senders

2.2 Planned Enhancements

- Full Support for Notes R6.x
- Better Manual ;-)

2.3 Requirements

2.3.1 Running NotesAntiSpam

To run NotesAntiSpam you need Lotus Notes R5 with Version 5.0.8 or above, including Lotus Notes R6.

For the DNS-Checks you need access to an DNS-Server.

2.3.2 Compiling NotesAntiSpam

For compilation you need

- Visual Studio .Net 2003
- "IBM Lotus C++ API 2.4 for IBM Lotus Notes/Domino", available from the IBM WebSite
- "Lotus C API Toolkit for Domino and Notes" Version 5.0.7, available from the IBM WebSite
- Microsoft Platform SDK (<http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/platformsdk/>), Version should be at least October 2002

3 Installation

Just call the Setup which is named NotesAntiSpam-Setup-<Version>.exe and select the Features you need.

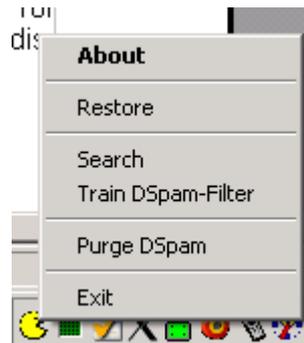
Feature	Comment
MFC 7.1 Runtime-DLLs	<p>These DLLs include the Runtime-Environment of Microsoft Visual Studio .Net 2003 and may be missing on your system.</p> <p>The following DLLs will be copied to your system32 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFC71.dll • MSVCP71.dll • MSVCR71.dll
Documentation	Some Documentation like Readme, Version, License... which will be copied to <Notes-Directory>\NotesAntiSpam
Autostart Shortcut	NotesAntiSpam will be started after login.
Desktop Shortcut	Icon on the Desktop
SSO between Lotus-Notes-Applications	<p>This will add an entry to the notes.ini so that you are only asked for the Password by the first Notes-Tool which starts. All others will use the same.</p> <p>Note: If you have a Multi-User-Installation this will fail with an error-box, but you can activate it as user through the Configuration-Menu of NotesAntiSpam.</p>
Uninstaller	This will create an uninstaller.

4 Using

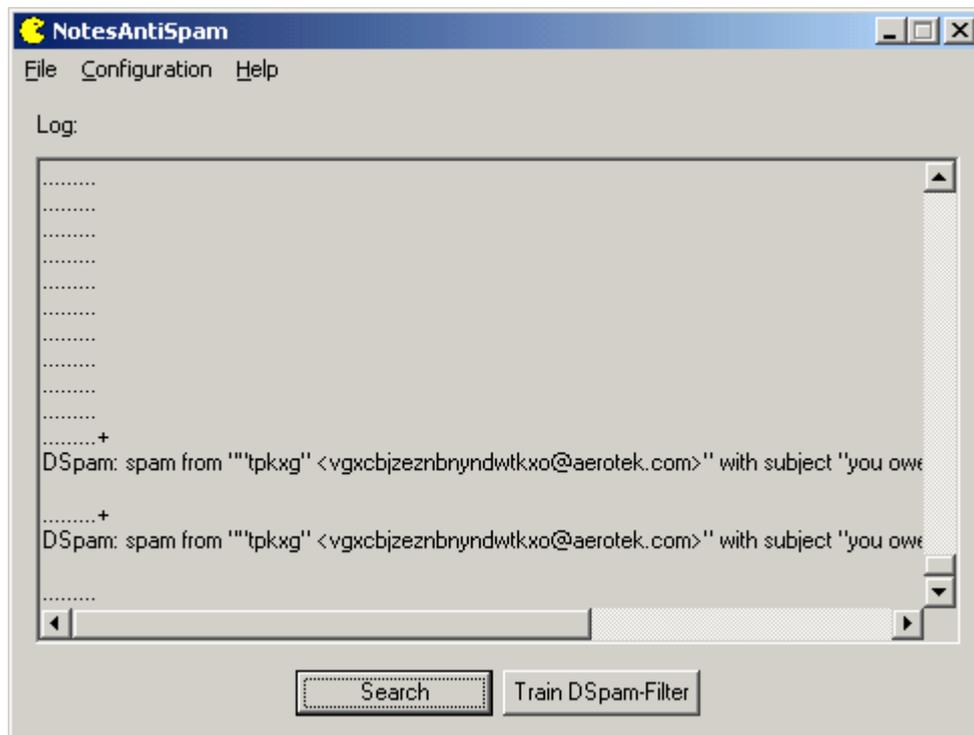
4.1 Opening the Main-Window

NotesAntiSpam starts with a hidden Main-Window-Menu.

Menu is opened by pressing the right Mouse-Button on the Tray-Icon.

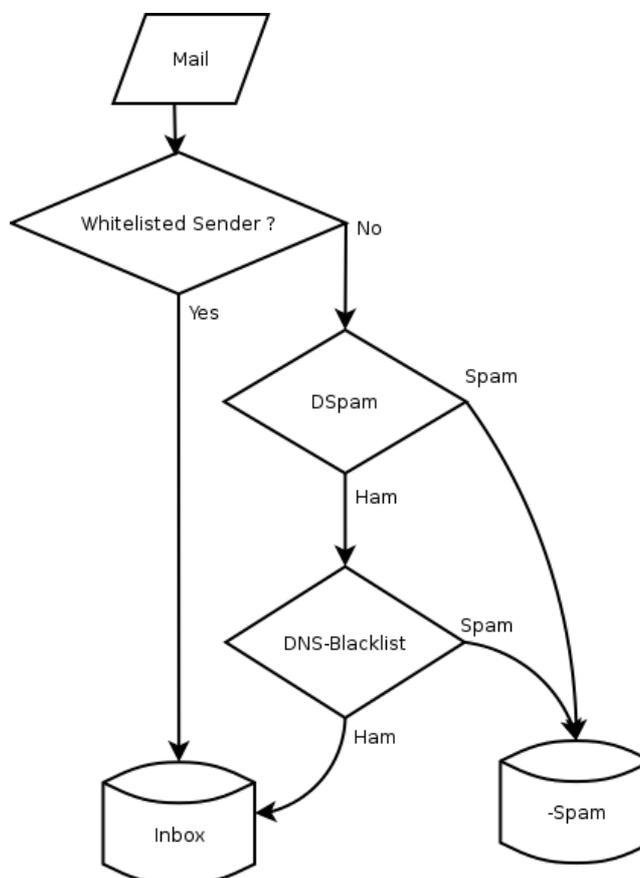


Restore will show the following Dialog. In this dialog the main content is the Log. The Log shows "+" for new mails and "." for old ones. If a Spam-Mail is detected the Filter, the sender and the subject is displayed.



4.2 Flowchart of the Filters

The Filters are processed in the following sequence:



If a filter is switched off, the mails are assumed to be Ham for that stage.

Following the Flowchart, it makes sense to train Messages which are recognized as Spam by the DNS-Blacklists for DSpam as Spam. In a long view, I would switch off the DNS-Blacklists, because the statistical filtering is made based on your personal choice. DNS-Blacklists are based only on the Gateways a Mail took and the decision of the List-Administrator of listing or delisting a gateway.

4.3 DSpam

General

DSPAM (as in De-Spam) is an open-source statistical anti-spam filter which provides a library to integrate it into other programs. This library is used inside of NotesAntiSpam to provide statistical filters with multiple Algorithms.

If you want to learn more about DSpam please visit their homepage.
<http://www.nuclearelephant.com/projects/dspam/>

The configuration of DSpam is done through the NotesAntiSpam-Configuration-Dialogs.

Training

The DSpam-Filter is a statistical filter, which need to be trained by you on what is HAM and what is SPAM. In the beginning it will classify everything as HAM. If you keep Mails in you Inbox after a scan-run which are SPAM you have to move them to -Spam\TrainSpam. Later HAM-Mail might be classified as SPAM. In this case you have to put the mail into -Spam\TrainHam. Based on your advises the filter will get better with each mail you get.

After placing the Mails in those folders you have to select "Train DSpam-Filter", either from the Tray-Menu or the Button of the Main-Dialog.

The filtering starts getting reasonable after 20-50 mails.

Purging Database

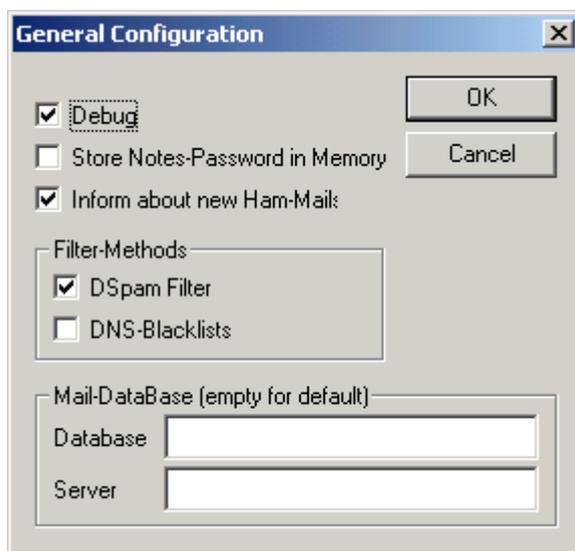
If you use DSpam in the "Train on every new message"-Mode, the database under %APPDATA%\NotesAntiSpam\data\ItsMe will grow with every mail a little bit.

You can purge old Data from this database using the menu File->Purge DSpam or the context-menu of the Trayicon. This will delete unused tokens, old signatures etc and reorganize the database.

4.4 Configuration

General

General configures Parameters which are not specific to a filter-algorithm.



Debug activates the Debug. (see also Debugging on page 10)

Store Notes-Password in Memory has the effect that only the first Notes-Process asks for a password, e.g. either Notes or NotesAntiSpam.

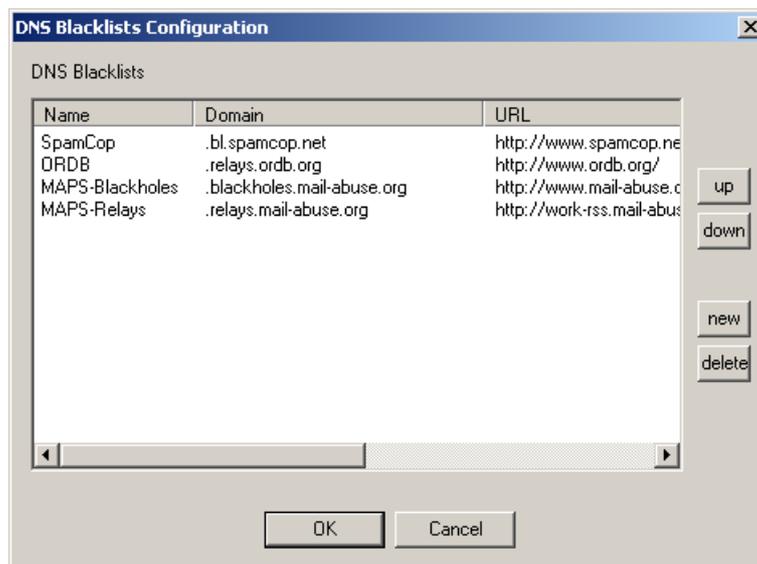
Inform about new Ham-Mails pops up a Dialog-Box if you got new Ham-Mails and starts the Notes-Client if necessary.

Filter-Methods lets you activate the Methods you want to use.

If you don't want to use the default-mailbox or NotesAntiSpam does not find it you have the possibility to define it under **Mail-DataBase**. If the Database is on the Workstation (local) just leave the Server-Field blank.

DNS-Blacklists

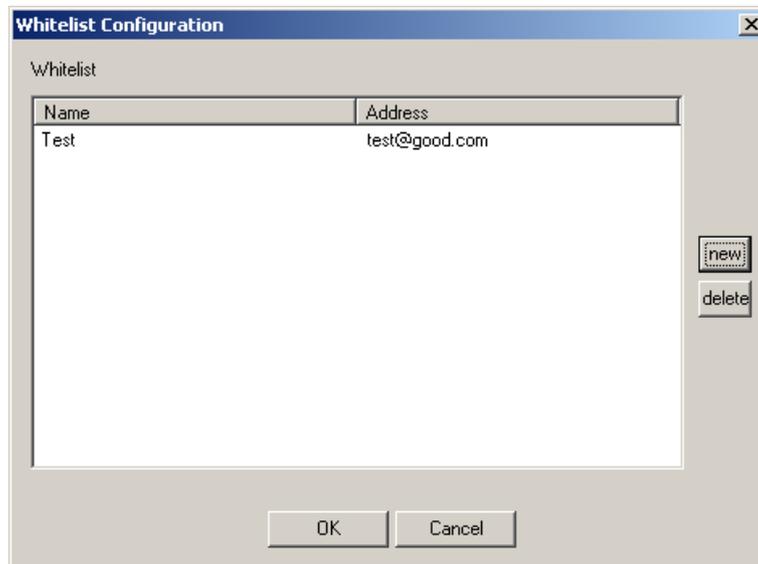
Under DNS-Backlists you have the possibility to configure the Blacklists you want to use. The lists are searched in the order they appear in this box. So you may put the List with the most hits at the top.



Whitelists

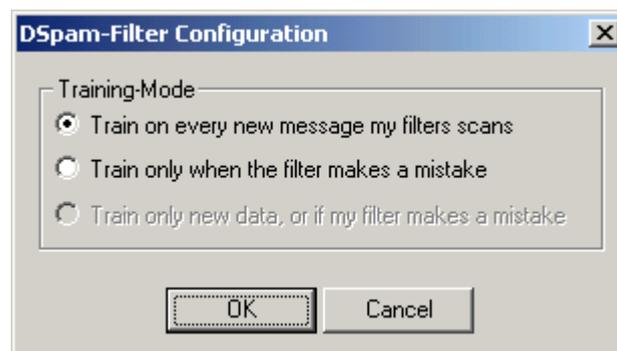
Under Whitelists you have the possibility to specify Sender-Addresses from where you want to accept mails, even if they would be blocked by some filter.

You may specify the whole address or parts of it.



DSpam Filter

In this Dialog you can configure the behaviour of the DSpam-Filter, which is integrated in Notes-AntiSpam.



The Modes have the following means:

- Train on every new message my filter scans
This mode should be used in the beginning and is the default.
- Train only when filter makes a mistake

When you use this mode the learn-data is not updated with every mail. If a mail is misclassified you may just put it to the appropriate Train-Folder to update the Filter.

4.5 Debugging

To activate the Debugging switch it on in the General Configuration-Dialog (see above). In your TEMP-Directory (accessible via %TEMP%) it will create a file named NOTESANTISPAM.LOG.

This file is needed, if you may find a bug or want to know why things are going wrong.

ATTENTION: This file contains dumps of all scanned mails ! Please check the file for confidential data, before sending it to someone.

5 Compiling

tbd.

6 Appendix

6.1 Tips and Tricks

Working offline with local replicas

If you want to work with a local replic of your mail-database, you have to take care, that the "Mail file"-Setting in your Location-Document is correctly. Some times the "Mail file" for offline-usage is just copied from the Office-Location (e.g. mail/tkriener).

You should change this to the filename relative to your Data-Directory. In my case the replic is directly in the data-directory, resulting to the mail file "tkriener" or "tkriener.nsf".

If you want to NotesAntiSpam to filter only on the replic, even if online, you can set the Mail-Database in the General Configuration.

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