

# Spam 101

## 1) Why do I get so much spam?

- Spam is a lucrative business. It cost spammers nothing to send out millions, even billions, of email messages. If even a tiny percentage of people that receive the emails buy something in response to the email, that's big money.

## 2) How do spammers get my email address?

- They buy, swap, and steal lists of valid addresses.
- Glenbrook is a known public domain. Spammers use programs that rapidly generate millions of email addresses in a single domain. Example: [asmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us](mailto:asmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us), [bsmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us](mailto:bsmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us), [csmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us](mailto:csmith@glenbrook.k12.il.us), etc... Thus, if you have a common name, you most likely will receive spam.
- Spammers use web bot programs to search web pages for emails that may be listed on whites pages, job postings, newsgroups, chat rooms and even personal web pages.

## 3) Spam is hard to block!

- Sp@mmers send Out emails with ch@r@cters th@t @re substituted for letters. Filters l00k f0r key w0rds to identify sp@m email versus re@l em@il.

## Be careful with your email address.

- Only share your address with people you trust.
- If spammers have your address, damage has already been done.
- Don't use your email address on any web pages or use your address to sign up for free offers.
- Create a gmail, yahoo, hot mail, etc... account for all your web related activities. Create complex account names like [274jqazwsx@gmail.com](mailto:274jqazwsx@gmail.com), and avoid any common names such as [WinnieethePooh@gmail.com](mailto:WinnieethePooh@gmail.com).
- Don't buy anything from a spam email.
- Don't forward jokes or chain emails to friends. This will not only put your address in jeopardy but also your friends' (or...ex-friends') address.
- Be careful about emails that allow you to be "Removed from this list". Spammers use this trick to verify a live email address and you will start to get even more spam.