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Technical Support

Readers can write in with technical queries which may be
answered in the magazine in a future issue, however Linux
Magazine is unable to directly provide technical help or support
services either written or verbal.

CURRENT ISSUES
ANGRY!
WHO ME?

I am so annoyed.
No really I am. Sat
at home reading email I suddenly found I was
looking at one from a name in my address
book list. My own name. Absent minded I
may be but not to the extent of writing junk
mail to myself. A quick look at the header
showed it was from me but the return address
was not mine. I do not have any email
accounts in China. I had been spoofed.
Someone had harvested my name and used it
in sending Spam. Like most people I do not
like spam but I can live with a little as I realise
marketing people need to live. (That is not an
invitation!). What annoyed me was that they
had used my email address. Most people
getting spam will junk it. But what about my
close friends who may really think it is from
me. They would be slightly peeved at getting
junk mail but more worrying is if there is a
malicious payload. I try to ensure those I email
all use Linux (I would wouldn't I) but some do
not. It is possible for them to receive a virus
easily from a script kiddie. What can be done?
Well I need to start using alias on mailing lists,
and change all my email addresses. Alter all
my passwords and alert anyone who may be
at risk. I cannot even block email from China
as I contact many friends and companies
there.

Then we have a US proposed law that all
operating systems need to have security
features. This is to help prevent terrorists. In
an open source world we will be forced to
comply or be illegal. I am all in favour of
stopping the bad guy but I want to be honest
and open not tied to some proprietary system
I do not trust.
I need to lie down and think of penguins.

Code Well!

John Southern, Editor