

Using Spam Filters on Our Servers, Pt. 3

By Ronald Garduno, *Technical Analyst*

We showed you how to use our basic spam filters last month; this month we'll cover the **Advanced Mode** filters and their usage.

The first new filter available in Advanced Mode is the **'To: Address Filter'**. This filter allows all email which is addressed to you through to your mailbox. This used to be very helpful in stopping spam, which was usually addressed to other people, then copied to individuals in the 'BCC' field. Unfortunately, along with the **'Blacklist'** option, which blocks individual addresses from your mailbox, this filter has lost its usefulness over the years due to innovations in spammer technology. Therefore, the use of these filters is *not recommended*.

The **'From Exceptions'** filter allows you to ensure that email from a specific sender or mailing list will reach your inbox, despite other factors which would result in the messages being discarded as spam. Your other filters will also evaluate these messages by default, but this can be overridden by checking the box 'Always deliver to my inbox'. The **'Subject Exceptions'** filter works the same way, except that it checks for a given word in the Subject field of your email. This is useful for mailing lists that always have a specific word in the Subject line.

The last filter is called **'Filter then Forward'**, and simply enables you to forward your SWCP mail to another email address. The filters' name is intended to remind you that your email will go through the rest of your spam filters before being forwarded. If you wish to have the emails saved in your SWCP mailbox as well, you should click 'Yes' where it asks 'Save a local copy?'. Do not put your SWCP address in here or you will get a duplicate.

As with all spam filters, we must warn you that caution is advised in their use. Due to the inexact nature of spam filtering, sometimes a legitimate

Continued on back

High Speed at Home: Qwest DSL through SWCP

By Kurt Boucher, *Broadband Manager*

There's a little old lady in Sweden who can surf the Internet at the astonishing speed of **40 gigabits per second**. A new experimental technique developed by her son Peter gives Sigbritt Lothberg, 75, the fastest home Internet connection anywhere on the planet. She could download an entire movie in less than 2 seconds but she only uses it to read newspapers online.

Such incredible speeds may be available for our own particular uses someday, but not soon. A consortium of leading research institutions called **Internet2** is developing one of the fastest networks around. It putters along at "only" 10 gigabits. Like the original Internet, it's for crunching vast amounts of data by universities and research labs for fields like particle physics and imaging.

Qwest, the major local telecommunications company, is helping build Internet2's **"Abilene backbone"**, the fiber-cable network capable of such speeds. But for home users, those speeds are still a long way off due to technical problems. DSL connections rely on the distance from the nearest phone office to the user, so even the lowest speeds may not be available everywhere. It also depends on the services of an ISP such as SWCP for Internet access.

For years, Southwest Cyberport has proudly partnered with Qwest to bring residential broadband to all of New Mexico. New areas are being added all the time -- several neighborhoods in and around Santa Fe should be getting it soon, for instance.

Since we believe everybody who can should have it, **Southwest Cyberport is now waiving sign-up fees and giving the first month services away for free for new DSL customers until the end of September**. This is **in addition** to Qwest's own promotions, which currently include **free activation** (save \$99) and other savings as well on the necessary gateway modem.

How it works

SWCP/Qwest DSL uses your existing phone lines to put a DSL signal on your phone line, which does not interfere with talking on your phone or even sending or receiving faxes. This signal allows you to use the Internet at speeds starting at **256K**, and ranging up to a blazing fast **3-7Mbps**. These highest residential speeds currently being offered, though nowhere near Mrs. Lothberg's, should be fast enough for even the most demanding home user.

Continued on back

High Speed at Home, cont'd.

A DSL Router is required, and can be ordered with your service. It keeps you connected to the Internet all the time, so that when you go to use your computer, there's no waiting to connect.

DSL routers are also available with wireless, so that you can connect to your high-speed Internet without an Ethernet cable (provided you have a wireless card in your computer).

SWCP also provides 3 line filters with our DSL routers to plug into your telephone, fax or answering machine, so that the DSL signal doesn't interfere with their normal functioning.

Most home users should be able to set it up themselves. With certain services, such as an alarm system that uses the telephone line also, you may require an onsite installation by a Qwest technician, but special offers may apply for that as well.

Do you depend solely on your cellphone? You may get SWCP/Qwest DSL even if you don't use a phone line. If a Qwest line goes to the house, Standalone DSL may be available, but it will be slightly more expensive.

DSL service, because it involves both SWCP and Qwest, is billed a little differently from our other services. The DSL Line charge appears on your Qwest telephone bill, while the DSL ISP fee (the actual connection to the Internet) will be on your SWCP bill. In most cases, the SWCP charge will replace your Dial-up plan, since you won't need to dial-up anymore from the location where you get SWCP/Qwest DSL installed.

Remember: If you act now, you could save \$99 on activation, and have get your SWCP charges waived for the first month for new circuits. You can order DSL directly from Qwest, however, you must ask for SWCP to be your ISP.

Call us at **505-232-7992** for more information or to pre-qualify for this service. We track all specials and will apply them to automatically to your order. Or see our website: www.swcp.com.

Using Spam Filters, cont'd.

email is discarded as spam. Never fear, SWCP has prepared for this eventuality. Rather than simply deleting any email marked as spam, we instead move them to another folder on the server called 'spamfile'. You can access this folder by using one of our webmail interfaces.

It would be an excellent idea to check your 'spamfile' for legitimate messages every few days, especially if you are awaiting an important email which should have reached you already. You can easily move these emails out of the spamfile back to your Inbox, but you don't need to worry about clearing out the spamfile. We automatically delete any messages older than 30 days.

As you can see, we have a lot of different options in place for you to manage your email and prevent your mailbox from being overrun by spam messages. Our technical support staff are ready and able to help if there are any question on the use of these filters, but the documentation on the page may be able to help as well. We hope these filters help make your email experience a better one.

Please note that these filters are currently available for SWCP and Thuntek customers only; NMIA users do not have access to them yet — but they will soon!

Net Notes

Spam, as a term for email solicitations, comes from a famous sketch by Monty Python's Flying Circus, where the canned meat was repeated over and over again as part of every single item on a restaurant's menu.



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