

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro)

White Paper

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) brings the awesome Anti Virus and Content Security features of MicroWorld products to protect [CommuniGate Pro](#) mail servers.

There is no direct threat to GNU/Linux servers as such. But since GNU/Linux is becoming popular on Servers, Proxies and Gateways, there is a need for solution that works on the GNU/Linux Platform.

Also Server based products give centralized control of Policy deployment for clients requiring least or no modification of client computers. MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro). The application is an extremely powerful web-based application that is easily configurable.

Threats faced by Mail Servers

Mail servers are the workhorses and deliver mails on a 24x7 basis, until virus and other threats cripple them. This section discusses threats they face.

Spam

Spam is unsolicited junk mail sent to you or your mail server. People who indulge in such activities are called Spammers. These are sent by commercial advertisers who may offer dubious products, get rich schemes, products that do not suit your life style, promote illegal activities, etc. The intent here is to make you spend money. Almost 60% - to 70% of Spam is related to Porn. It costs the Spammer almost nothing to send mails and invariably get an eyeball count.

There is another type of Spammer who sends large number of e-mails that flood your mailbox or mail server. The intent here is to cripple your e-mail service to such an extent that you cannot receive genuine mails. This is termed as Denial-of-Service (DOS) attack.

LOSSES CAUSED BY SPAM

Some of the losses caused by Spam are listed below:

- Spam is received through e-mails and may have alluring subject line like: Free offer, Chance of a lifetime, etc. Invariably you try to open the mail and read it. That is what the Spammer wants you to do. Opening the mail, reading it and then deleting it, consumes your Internet access time and costs you money. The mail servers that have delivered the mail through a series of servers have spent money and used bandwidth

to deliver junk you did not want. Probably the junk mail was ahead in the queue for mails to be delivered and was given precedence over an urgent mail.

- Some Spam mails have attachments and the mail asks you to open it. If you do so, you risk running a virus that may be hidden in the mail. The costs involved in removing a virus from your system are massive.
- Some Spam mails after enclosing an alluring description of products or services, ask you to click on a link for further information. These links may open porn or other sites that you had no business visiting. But details of the visit are recorded in your server and you may have a lot of explaining to do.

Products advertised through Spam mails require that you provide your credit card number and other personal information. Besides getting your account billed for junk items, you also open yourself to more Spam

Key Features of MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro):

- Robust Anti Spam features that allow you to create a White List of clean domains and users.
- Online RBL and DUL Controls that allow you to verify a users authenticity
- Create a Black List of known Spamming domains and users to auto block their mails
- Set Filters to check for Spam phrases and words. Apply a Spam severity level to control how Spam is identified
- Auto download Anti Virus Signatures
- Block any attachment type
- Create and send custom alerts when virus or Spam is detected in mails, to the mail sender, receiver and admin
- Quarantine Spam and virus infected mails to a directory or mailbox
- Start Anti-Virus/Spam and mail service directly from the application without quitting or reboot

Anti Spam Features

WHITE LISTS

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) allows you to create a White List of clean domains and users. In addition there is a list of 'Spam phrases'. Mails with such phrases should be blocked. The software allows you to apply a severity level to the phrases from low to high. This allows you to control how Spam is identified.

Figure 1 shows a screen from MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro), the top selling Anti Virus and Anti Spam software with features of White Lists and Spam Phrases.

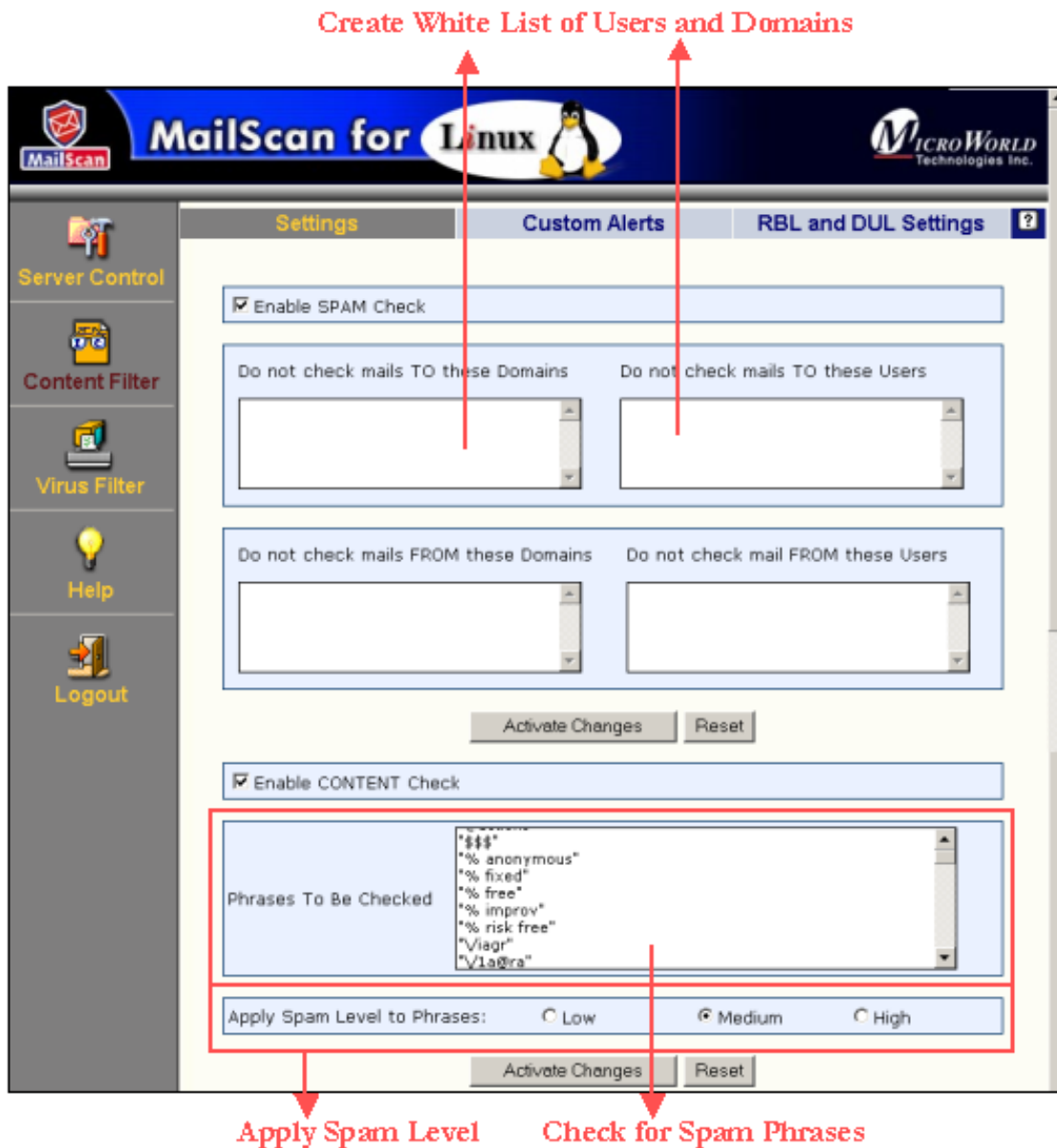


Figure 1. White Lists and Spam Phrases

RBL AND DUL CONTROLS

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) has a list of RBL and DUL to verify a users authenticity.

MAPS (Mail Abuse Prevention System) provides a list of IP addresses that are known Spammers or allow spamming. This list is called as **Black hole list**. When your server, receives a mail from a domain, not on its allow domain list, you can send a query to MAPS Server which verifies the IP.

Spammers sometimes use stealth mail tactics when their initial Spam attempts are blocked. They use a **Dial-Up-Service** (DUL) provider to connect their Spam mail service, to the server. This is trespassing on your MailServer and the MAPS DUL project helps in identifying and stopping

Spam. The project has a list of DUL users who are known Spammers. To verify if the request for connection to your Server is genuine, you can send a query to dialups.mail-abuse.org. The request is verified and returned.

Figure 2 shows a screen from MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro), the top selling Anti-Virus and Spam software for Linux mail servers with features of RBL and DUL.

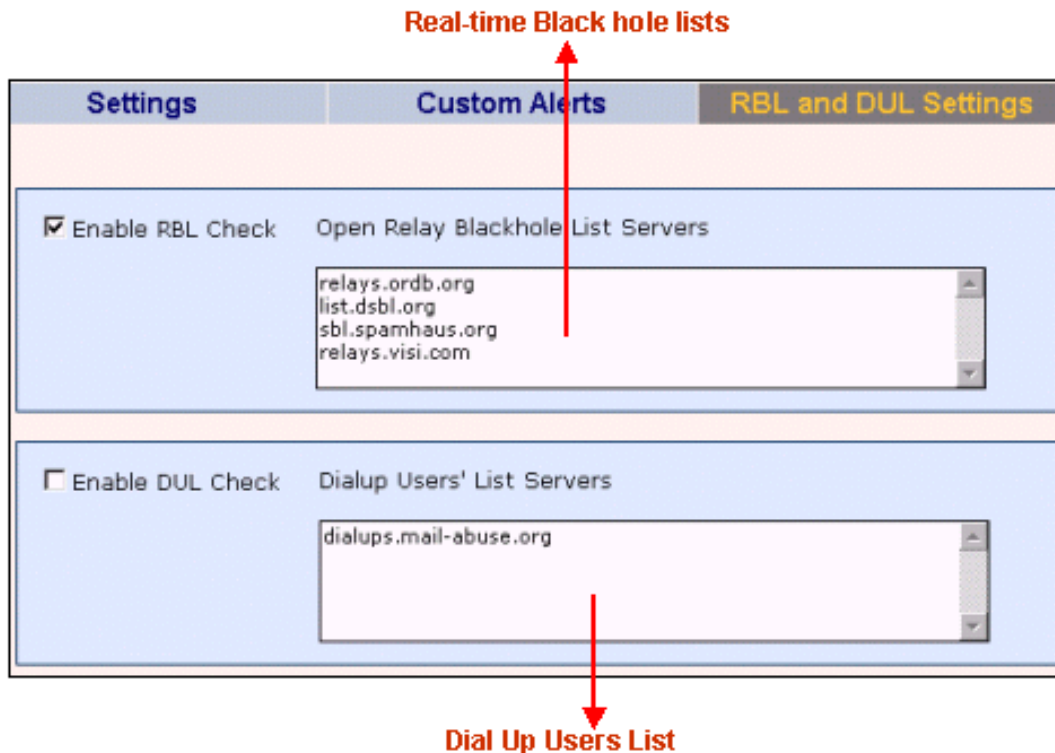


Figure 2 RBL and DUL features

Anti Virus Features

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) Linux has robust anti virus features as explained below.

VIRUS DEFINITION UPDATES

Every day sees new viruses appearing. Updates are vaccines that detect and remove new viruses. The software must have the means to identify new viruses and remove them. Updates are available as free down loads on our mirror download. MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) can be configured to connect automatically and download updates from updates download sites.

You can also set a daily schedule to automatically download updates at a set time

Figure 3 shows a screen with from MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro), the top selling Anti Virus and Anti Spam software, with features to automatically download updates

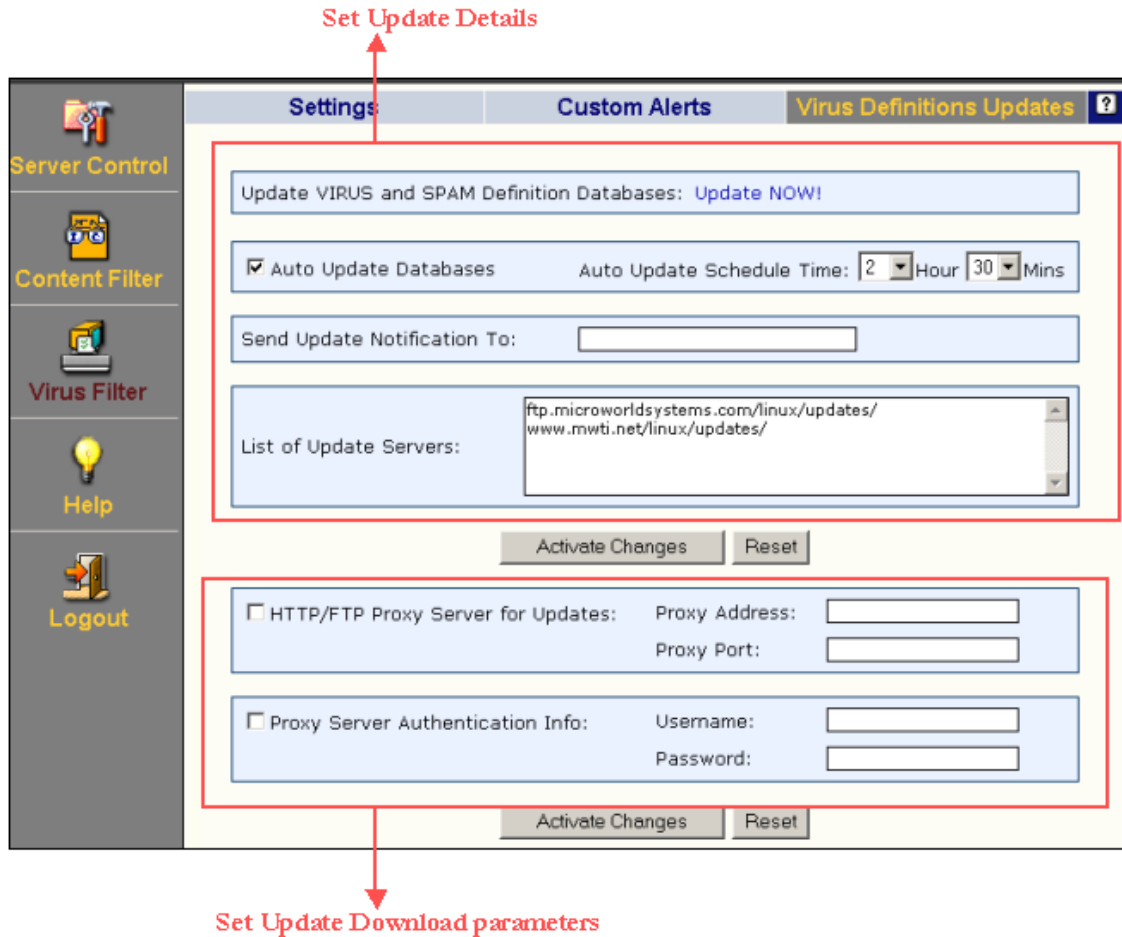


Figure 3 Download Updates

BLOCK SPECIFIC ATTACHMENT TYPES

Some types of attachments are used as virus carrier files. MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) allows you to specify such attachment types and these are automatically blocked. This feature can also be used to stop confidential data being mailed as attachments.

Another feature is a white list of users and domains to which mails can be sent without scanning. This feature removes double scanning and increases mail delivery speed.

Figure 4 shows a screen with from MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro), the top selling Anti Virus and Anti Spam software, with features to automatically download updates.

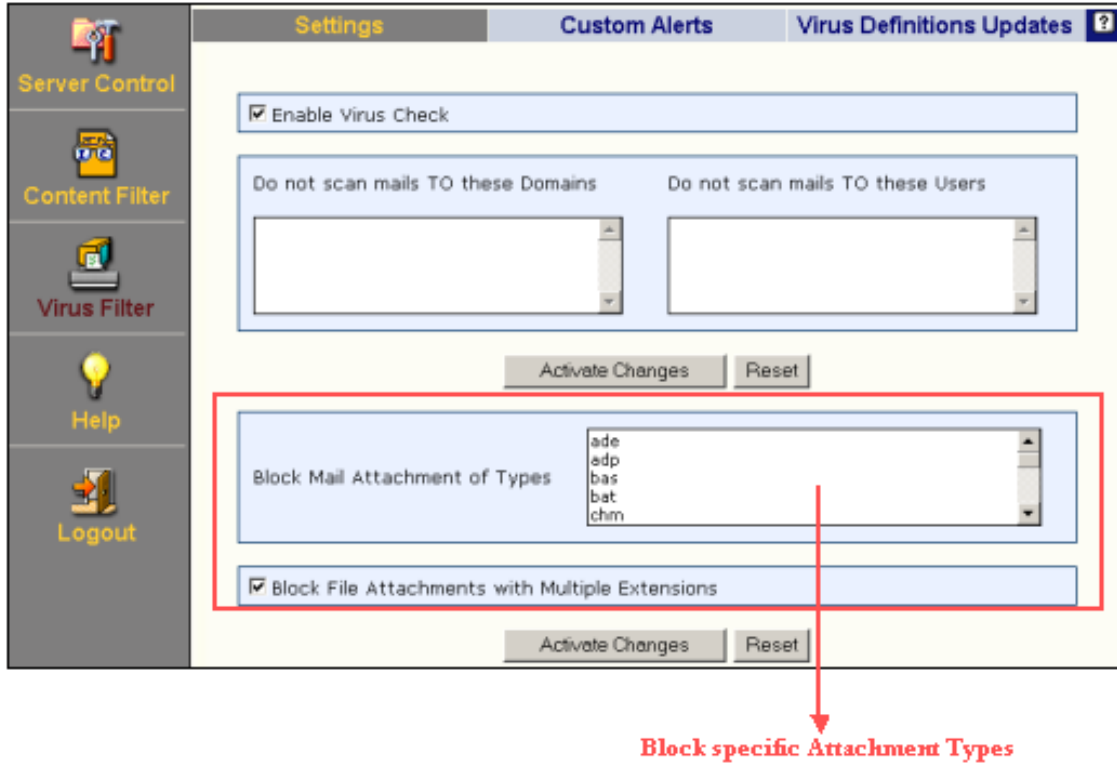


Figure 4 Block Specific Attachment Types

SEND CUSTOM ALERTS

MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro) allows you to send customized alerts to the Spam (Virus) administrator and the mail sender and recipient. You can choose to quarantine infected mails.

Figure 5 shows a screen with from MailScan for Linux (CommuniGate Pro), the top selling Anti Virus and Anti Spam software, with features to send alerts.

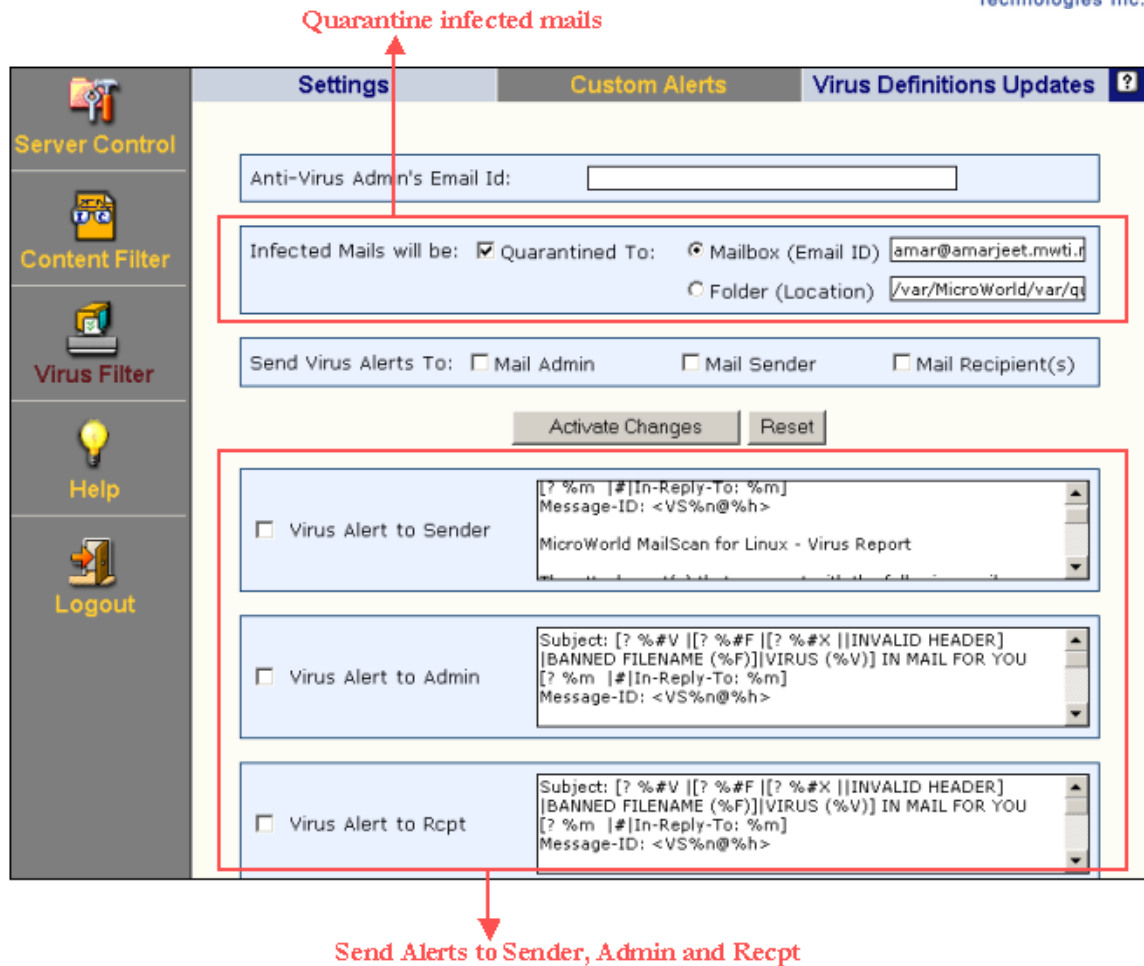


Figure 5 Send Customized Alerts

System Requirements

- Red Hat Linux 9 or higher should be installed on the system.
- CommuniGate Pro (3.0 and higher) should be installed and running.
- 40 MB of free space

To find out how MicroWorld can help you control Spam, visit <http://www.mwti.net/>