

SANS PROTECTS SERIES

SANS Protects: Enterprise Email

Author: **Matt Bromiley**

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Analyst Program 

OVERVIEW

SANS Protects is a series of papers focused on the most prevalent threats to specific, critical components of your environment as well as actions you can take to mitigate those threats and thwart threat actors. In this paper, we look at threats specific to enterprise email. While absolutely essential to corporate communications, email has also remained one of the top entry vectors for adversaries for years. This puts organizations in a conundrum: Email cannot be blocked, but it must be heavily secured.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Matt Bromiley

SANS Certified Instructor

Matt Bromiley is a principal incident response consultant at a top digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) firm. In the DFIR firm Matt assists clients with incident response, digital forensics, and litigation support. He also serves as a GIAC Advisory Board member, a subject-matter expert for the SANS Security Awareness, and a technical writer for the SANS Analyst Program. Matt brings his passion for digital forensics to the classroom as a SANS Instructor for FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting and Digital Forensics, and FOR572: Advanced Network Forensics, where he focuses on providing students with implementable tools and concepts.

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In this SANS Protects paper, we examine current, prevalent threats to enterprise email, how adversaries abuse them, and steps your organization can take to mitigate these threats. In this paper, we also look at threats to the email servers themselves and how vulnerable software presents another opportunity for adversaries.

This paper also includes an actionable checklist of essential mitigation tips and tricks that you can implement to strengthen your security posture.

Some of the threats and weaknesses we investigate include:

- The range of spearphishing, from mass campaigns to individual targets
- Business email compromise
- Malicious links and attachments delivered via email
- Risks to email servers and their integration with the rest of the environment

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