

MRFilter Manual



Thank you for your interest in MRFilter, a very effective spam and virus filter for Communicate Pro. Please read this manual carefully as it contains valuable information about the workings and options of this filter.

Why MRFilter?

Although there are several other external filters for Communicate Pro, we've decided to write our own. Why did we do that? Because all other filters are lacking some features, that are important for us.

Most spam filters are trying to guess if a message is spam or not. In general they do a good job at, but they aren't 100% accurate. This means that either too much spam is passing or too much non-spam messages are rejected. MRFilter doesn't try to guess if a message is spam: it just knows for sure, based on the rules you define. (There really isn't much guessing to know a message about 'Male enlargement' is spam).

A second problem we had to overcome: more and more spam messages are not only sent TO you, they also appear to come FROM you. When your mail server is rejecting such a message, you're not receiving it. But instead you're receiving the bounce message generated by the mail server. MRFilter handles this situation too.

MRFilter doesn't have to be your only spam filter, but it's great as a first line of defense.

Installing

To install and enable MRFilter:

- Open the distribution archive, locate the directory compatible with the operation system of your mail server.
- Copy the content of the MRFilter directory (not the directory itself) to the Communicate directory of your mail server. (On Mac OS X or Linux, make sure MRFilter is executable.)
- Copy the file MRFilter.cnf to the Communicate directory.

- Load MRFilter.cnf into an editor and change it to your needs (more on the different options below).
- Point your browser to the configuration page of Communicate Pro. Under *Settings* select the option *General* and click on the tab *Helpers*.
- Add a helper and make it look like:

Helper Settings

General	Cluster	Strings	Schedule	Helpers	Spelling	Licenses	Intercept
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use Filter: <input type="text" value="MRFilter"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Program Path: <input type="text" value="MRFilter"/> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Log: <input type="text" value="All Info"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Auto-Restart: <input type="text" value="2 minutes"/> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Time-out: <input type="text" value="5 minutes"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use Filter: <input type="text"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Program Path: <input type="text"/> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Log: <input type="text" value="Problems"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Auto-Restart: <input type="text" value="disabled"/> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Time-out: <input type="text" value="disabled"/> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> </div>							
<input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Update"/>							

- Activate it by clicking on the Update button.
- Under *Settings* select the option *Rules*.
- Create a new rule named MRFilter with priority 10.
- Edit the rule and make it look like this:

Server-Wide Automated Processing Rule MRFilter (Priority=10) ?

Data	Operation	Parameter
<input type="text" value="From"/>	<input type="text" value="is not"/>	<input type="text" value="MAILER-DAEMON@*"/>
<input type="text" value="Message Size"/>	<input type="text" value="less than"/>	<input type="text" value="500k"/>
<input type="text" value="---"/>	<input type="text" value="is"/>	<input type="text"/>
Action	Parameters	
<input type="text" value="ExternalFilter"/>	<input type="text" value="MRFilter"/>	
<input type="text" value="---"/>	<input type="text"/>	

- Activate it by clicking on the Update button.
- That's All!!

Configuration

To configure MRFilter, you need to load the file MRFilter.cnf into an editor. This file contains three parts:

- The configuration options
- The Spam phrases
- The regular expressions

First thing to know is that any line that starts with a semi colon (;) is ignored by MRFilter and can be used to insert remarks.

Let's start with the configuration options. Those are listed at the first part of the configuration file. A configuration option starts with a #, the option name, a colon (:) and a value. Currently the following options are specified:

- **#MAXSIZE:** (*Default is 20480*)
This option tells MRFilter how many bytes will be read from the message. Although you can also specify this in the Communicate rule which activates MRFilter, we've included it anyway.
- **#DEBUG:** (*Default is YES*)
When the DEBUG option is set to yes, MRFilter writes extra info to the Communicate system log

With the next four options you tell MRFilter what to do when it detects a spam message. To understand the differences between these four options, you need to know the scan process of MRFilter. When MRFilter scans a message it first checks to see if any of the Spam Phrases are available in the message. If so, the message is considered spam. Next it will check to see if the FROM and TO addresses of the message are different. If they are, MRFilter will use the action specified by **#PHRASEACTION**. However, if the FROM and TO addresses are the same the action specified by **#PHRASEFROMTO** is used.

When the message doesn't contain any of the Spam Phrases, MRFilter will check if the message matches any of the regular expressions. If so, the message is considered spam. Next it will check to see if the FROM and TO addresses of the message are different. If they are, MRFilter will use the action specified by **#REGEXACTION**. However, if the FROM and TO addresses are the same the action specified by **#REGEXFROMTO** is used.

#PHRASEACTION, **#PHRASEFROMTO**, **#REGEXACTION**, and **#REGEXFROMTO** can all have three different values:

1. **ADDHEADER:** Let the message pass but adds an extra header to the message. You can use the rules of Communicate to act on that header.
2. **REJECT:** Reject the message with a notification. This causes the mail server of the sending party to generate a bounce message so the sender knows the message is rejected.
3. **DISCARD:** Silently discard (Delete) the message. Nobody will be notified.

Virus detection

MRFilter is able to scan messages for viruses. In order to use that option you need to install the free virus scanner ClamAV first. You can download it from www.clamav.net. Make sure ClamAV is configured and working correctly. If you need help with that, please check <http://www.clamav.net/lang/en/support/>. ClamAV can be used as a daemon and as an application. Using the daemon is much faster because the virus scan engine doesn't have to load into memory every time. If you're using the daemon, make sure you know the location of the program 'clamscan'. Otherwise, find the location of the program 'clamscan'. Also, make sure it works.

If you've done the above, MRFilter is ready to use the virus scanner. You need to change some options in MRFilter.cnf for that:

- **#VIRUSSCAN:** (default NO) Set it to YES to enable the virus scan routines.
- **#CLAMPATH:** (default /usr/local/bin/clamscan) Here you should type the location of the program 'clamscan' or the program 'clamscan'.

When the message contains a virus, MRFilter will check to see if the FROM and TO addresses of the message are different. If they are, MRFilter will use the action specified by **#VIRUSACTION**. However, if the FROM and TO addresses are the same the action specified by **#VIRUSFROMTO** is used. These options can have three different values:

1. **ADDHEADER:** Let the message pass but adds an extra header to the message. You can use the rules of Communicate to act on that header.
2. **REJECT:** Reject the message with a notification. This causes the mail server of the sending party to generate a bounce message so the sender knows the message is rejected.
3. **DISCARD:** Silently discard (Delete) the message. Nobody will be notified.

SpamPhrases

The second part of the configuration file contains the Spam Phrases. This section starts with the keyword #PHRASES. Each following line is considered a Spam Phrase. They are easy to understand. A Spam Phrase is a word or sentence (a line of characters). If a message contains any of the Spam Phrases (CaSE DOesN'T matTter), it's considered spam. That's all to understand.

Regular Expressions

The third part of the configuration file contains the Regular Expressions. This section starts with the keyword #REGEX. Each following line is considered a Regular Expression. They are harder to understand than the Spam Phrases. MRFilter uses Perl Compatible Regular Expressions (PCRE). If a message matches any of the Regular Expressions (CaSE DOesN'T matTter), it's considered spam. If you want to know more about Regular Expressions, you might want to check:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PCRE

and

perldoc.perl.org/perlre.html

Miscellaneous

Although the Spam Phrases can also be specified with the Regular Expressions there are two reasons we've used both:

1. Spam Phrases are much faster than Regular Expressions
2. Spam Phrases are easy to understand.

Demo & Registering

You can try the demo version of MRFilter for as many days as you want. However, the trial version will stop scanning messages after eight hours. Your mail server will still process messages when this limit is reached. Just disable and re-enable MRFilter in Communicate to start another eight hours of trial.

If you find MRFilter useful, you can get your own registered version for just \$ 39.

The registered version works without limitation for all your domain names. Just browse to www.mrose.nl/MRFilter if you're ready to register.

Support

MRFilter is written to fulfill our own needs. We hope you'll find it useful too.

However, if you need extra options (which will benefit other customers too), just let us know. If you have any question we would like to hear from you too. However, to prevent answering the same question more than once we politely ask you to use our support forum at www.mrose.nl.

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