

Study Group on Countermeasures against Unwanted Junk Mail—1st Meeting Summary of Minutes

1. Date and Time

July 24, 2007; 10:00–12:00

2. Location

Conference Room 1002, 10th floor, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

3. Attendees (honorifics omitted)

(1) Members

Hiroyasu Asami (alt.:Ruji Yanagisawa), Yoshio Igarashi, Hisashi Iguchi, Keigo Inoue, Hisamichi Okamura, Takamasa Kishihara, Hiroyuki Kuwako, Shinichiro Sakata, Osamu Sakuma, Tetsuya Takase, Toru Takahashi, Miki Nagata, Ikufumi Niimi, Takashi Noguchi, Yasuo Hasebe, Kazushi Hayashi, Naoya Bessho (alt.:Yuka Koga), Takamichi Miyosi, Masafumi Yoshimitsu

(2) Observer

Shigeyoshi Wakabayashi

(3) MIC Representatives

Terasaki (Director-General, Telecommunications Bureau), Takeuchi (Director-General, Telecommunications Business Department), Ando (Director, General Affairs Division), Sato (Director, Telecommunications Consumer Policy Division), Kawauchi (Director, IT Security Office), Yoshida (Senior Planning Officer), Naito (Deputy Director), Ogi (Deputy Director)

4. Agenda

(1) Opening

(2) Opening remarks by the Director-General of Telecommunications Bureau

(3) Introduction of the Study Group members

(4) Meeting guidelines (Draft)

(5) Election of the Chair and appointment of the Vice Chair

(6) Making the Study Group open to the public

(7) Discussion items

- The current status and the direction of the study of countermeasures against unwanted junk mail

- Others

(8) Closing

5. Meeting Proceedings

(1) Opening

(2) Opening remarks by the Director-General of Telecommunications Bureau

Terasaki, Director-General of Telecommunications Bureau, made opening remarks.

(3) Introduction of the Study Group members

(4) Meeting guidelines (Draft)

The Secretariat explained the meeting guidelines for this Study Group based on Document 1 and the guidelines were approved.

(5) Election of the Chair

Niimi was elected the Chair in accordance with the meeting guidelines set out in Document 1.

(6) Appointment of the Vice Chair

Niimi, the Chair, appointed Matsumoto as Vice Chair in accordance with the meeting guidelines set out in Document 1.

(7) Making the Study Group open to the public

The Secretariat explained how the Study Group would be made open to the public based on Document 2 and this was approved.

(8) Discussion items

○ Opt-in system

- The current opt-out system causes unwanted junk mail to be sent. Therefore, the opt-in system should be introduced.

- It will be necessary to verify the effectiveness of the opt-in system in countries where it has been introduced.

- The introduction of the opt-in system may result in burdens being imposed only on financially sound operators. It will be necessary to clarify various points, such as what is regarded as an approval and what is the scope of marketing purposes.

- As part of the study for the introduction of the opt-in system, it will be important to identify senders and ensure penalties.

○ Botnet

- It will be necessary to identify the current status of unwanted junk mails sent via botnets.

○ Phishing mails

- What particular aspects of phishing mails cause problems for communications? This should be also kept in mind.

○ Law enforcement

- The first task will be to ensure better enforcement of the existing laws.

- Those using fraudulent sender information have avoided exposure to a fair degree.

○ Current situation regarding unwanted junk mail

- To help understand the current situation regarding mail received by either mobile phones or

computer, is there not data available that can be identified by mail servers and individual terminals?

- Is there any data available that can show the decrease in unwanted junk mail as a result of legislative amendments and/or technical measures taken?

○ Others

- The unethical business practice of sending fraudulent emails billing users has already taken root and countermeasures against it should also be developed.

- If technical countermeasures against unwanted junk mails to mobile phones are working well, can such countermeasures also be taken against unwanted junk mails to computers?

- It will be necessary to study what measures can be taken against the type of mail that contains a statement along the lines of, "Thank you for registering."

- Now that Internet fraud has become an issue, to what extent could the framework for "countermeasures against unwanted junk mail" be applied to such a problem? In my opinion, discussions should be conducted from a broader perspective.

- Since chain mails are used to solicit traffic to dating sites, measures against chain mails will be necessary.

- Increasing the risk of sending mails may be an effective way to deal with unwanted junk mails received by computers.

- Broader discussions will be required to address the subject of mails sent from abroad.

- The internationally agreed term is "unsolicited email." This should be kept in mind when we refer to unwanted junk mail.

End