

CGMS LIST SERVERS

In response to permanent CGMS Action 05

The current content of the various CGMS e-mail list servers hosted by WMO is described. The lists are presented both to inform CGMS members and also to provide the opportunity for review and update of their content. CGMS members are reminded, however, that changes may be notified to the CGMS Secretariat at any time.

The problem of the enormous increase of “spam” on these list servers is described and corrective measures are proposed.

The document informs CGMS that both the ITWG and IWWG have recently decided to move their email lists to be hosted on alternative servers as a consequence of the “spam” problem, a fact that serves to illustrate the critical need to take appropriate measures to address the problem at source.

CGMS LIST SERVERS

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to allow CGMS Members to communicate via e-mail in specific topical areas, the WMO currently maintains several CGMS e-mail list servers. CGMS members are entitled to request changes to these lists at any time by informing the CGMS Secretariat and WMO. Changes are implemented by WMO when requests are received and the lists are presented for review at the annual CGMS meetings.

The contents of the following lists as of 18 October 2007 are attached in the Annex to this document:

- CGMSPLEN – the CGMS plenary e-mail list
- CGMSFREQ – used for frequency matters
- VL – used for Virtual Laboratory matters

2. PROBLEMS OF “SPAM” ⁽¹⁾

Over the past few years the incidence of “spam” e-mails being posted to the CGMS list servers has increased to such an extent as to seriously impact their usefulness. In addition, since the contents of the lists are publicly accessible via reports and other documents posted on web pages, it is commonly the case that “spam” e-mails are sent both to the list servers and to the individual members of the lists.

This problem has recently prompted the IWWG to remove the CGMSWIND list from the WMO servers and place it under the control of the IWWG themselves (at SSEC, University of Wisconsin), following a similar decision previously taken by the ITWG.

Whereas many institutions have implemented local measures to identify and isolate “spam” e-mails, the effectiveness of these measures varies from one institute to the next and it is felt that measures that address the problem at source are worth considering.

2.1 FILTERING OUT “SPAM”

The problem of reducing “spam” has been discussed with IT experts within the WMO Secretariat and two possible (alternative) corrective actions have been identified:

- 1) Appoint a list server moderator – somebody who will receive all e-mails posted to the lists and take actions to allow only valid and relevant e-mails to reach the list servers addressees;

⁽¹⁾ “Spam” is a term commonly used to describe unsolicited and unwanted e-mail material advertising or announcing commercial opportunities with the intention of luring recipients into false or fraudulent transactions.

- 2) Apply an automatic filter to incoming e-mails posted to the list servers to allow only those originating from members of the lists to be delivered (other e-mails being ignored).

It is felt that option 1) is probably unworkable due to the burden it would place on one individual. It is proposed that option 2) is adopted and implemented as soon as possible. It is further proposed that the situation is reviewed after a trial period of one year.

2.2 EMAIL ADDRESS OBFUSCATION

The phrase “email address obfuscation” (sometimes referred to as “email address munging”) refers to the practice of slightly changing the format of real e-mail addresses as they appear in reports that are placed in the public domain. The intention is to reduce the effectiveness of automatic e-mail address harvesting by potential “spammers”. There are many examples of the technique and different views on their efficacy. Whilst it is certainly true that it will not instantly reduce the volume of “spam” already being sent to the list servers; it might, over time, alleviate the inexorable increase in the volume of such e-mails.

It is proposed that, for CGMS reports, all e-mail addresses are amended in line with the discussion above, using whatever technique is preferred by members. For the purpose of this working paper the practice adopted has been to replace addresses of the form: aaa.bbb@ccc.ddd with the form: aaa.bbb (at) ccc.ddd.

3. CONCLUSION

CGMS members are invited to review the e-mail lists in the Annex and to consider the WMO proposals to address the “spam” e-mail problem.

ANNEX

CGMS PLENARY E-MAIL LIST [cgmsplen (at) wmo.int]

ALVERSON Keith	k.alverson (at) unesco.org
ASMUS Vasily	asmus (at) planet.iitp.ru
BAEK, Myung-Jin	mjbaek (at) kari.re.kr
BAKUMOV Vadim	umc (at) mecom.ru
BHATIA R.C.	rc_bhatia (at) hotmail.com
BRAUER Douglas	Douglas.Brauer (at) noaa.gov
BRIDGE Gordon	Gordon.bridge (at) eumetsat.int
BRIGGS Stephen	Stephen.Briggs (at) esa.int
CLEAVE Mary	Mary.Cleave (at) nasa.gov
CNSA (group e-mail) (Mr Lai Yan Sun)	cnsa (at) cnsa.gov.cn
COUNET Paul	paul.counet (at) eumetsat.int
ISHIDA Chu	ishida.chu (at) jaxa.jp
CISEWSKI Michel	m.s.cisewski (at) Larc.nasa.gov
DAVIS Gary	gary.davis (at) noaa.gov
D'ESCATHA Yannick	yannick.d-escatha (at) cnes.fr
DYADUCHENKO Valery	dvn (at) mecom.ru
ERMAKOV Valery	perova (at) roscosmos.ru
FISCHER Albert	a.fischer (at) unesco.org
FLEMING Devon	devon.c.fleming (at) nasa.gov
FRANCIS Richard	RFrancis (at) wmo.int
GAERTNER Volker	Volker.gaertner (at) eumetsat.int
GOLDBERG Mitch	Mitch.Goldberg (at) noaa.gov
GONZALEZ Joaquin	Joaquin.gonzalez (at) eumetsat.int
HABIB Shahid	shahid.habib-1 (at) nasa.gov
HINSMAN Donald	DHinsman (at) wmo.int
HORIKAWA Yasushi	Horikawa.yasushi (at) jaxa.jp
JAYARAMAN	vjay (at) isro.gov.in
JIANMIN Xu	xujm (at) cma.gov.cn
JMA international exchange of CGMS plenary matters	kokusai (at) dpc.kishou.go.jp
JUN Gao	gaojun (at) cnsa.gov.cn
KAJII, Makoto	kajii.makoto(at)jaxa.jp
KAWAMURA Hiroshi	kamu (at) ocean.caos.tohoku.ac.jp
KIM Kum-Lan	kk1 (at) kma.go.kr
KOENEMANN Ernst	ernst.koenemann (at) eumetsat.int
KOZLOV Victor	sanko (at) rssi.ru
KUMAR Virenda	vkumar (at) indiagov.org
KURINO Toshiyuki	cgmsplen (at) dpc.kishou.go.jp
LAFEUILLE Jerome	JLafeuille (at) wmo.int
LUO Dongfeng	dfluo (at) nsmc.cma.gov.cn
MANDT Gregory	greg.mandt (at) noaa.gov
MARING Hal	hal.maring (at) nasa.gov
MEHARI Nazaret	Nazaret.mehari (at) eumetsat.int
MENG Qing-yan	mgy (at) irsa.ac.cn
MENZEL Paul	paulm (at) ssec.wisc.edu
MIZUSHIMA Hirofumi	iao-jma (at) met.kishou.go.jp
MOLLITOR Tanja	Tanja.Mollitor (at) eumetsat.int
MULLER Daniel	Daniel.Muller (at) noaa.gov
OU Mi-Lim	milim (at) kma.go.kr

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CGMS Frequency matters [cgmsfreq (at) wmo.int]

ASMUS Vasily	asmus (at) planet.iitp.ru
BHATIA R.C	rc_bhatia (at) hotmail.com
DREIS Markus	markus.dreis (at) eumetsat.int
GONZALEZ Joaquin	Joaquin.gonzalez (at) eumetsat.int
HINSMAN Donald	DHinsman (at) wmo.int
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JMA (group e-mail)	cgmsfreq (at) dpc.kishou.go.jp
LEE B-J	bjlee (at) kma.go.kr
MARELLI Edoardo	edoardo.marelli (at) esa.int
McGINNIS Dave	dave.mcginnis (at) noaa.gov
MENTZER James	james.mentzer (at) noaa.gov
PERKINS Marlin	marlin.o.perkins (at) noaa.gov
SRC Planeta	prot (at) planet.iitp.ru
UMEZAWA Kazuo	omezawa.kazoo (at) jaxa.jp
ZHANG Zhiqing	zqzhang (at) nmesc.cma.gov.cn

CGMS Virtual Laboratory matters [vl (at) wmo.int]

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