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Enhancements needed to increase the e-mail security and virus protection

Recent virus attacks in the global Internet has clearly shown that there is a need to increase the e-mail security and virus protection level in all parts of the Internet. Also standardisation communities like 3GPP should become more concerned about these events. The main target of this contribution is to initiate a discussion and be a promoter to MCC and ETSI IM that necessary actions should be taken that sending of such garbage mails via 3GPP e-mail reflectors is made more difficult, preferably impossible.

Reasons for this proposal:

- the receiver can be reasonably sure that the sender intended to send the message and it was not automatically generated in the sender's workstation by some virus.

Proposal:

- TSG SA should ask MCC to encourage ETSI's IM to investigate and take in use - in addition to those already existing ones - reliable, easy to use virus protection policy to avoid 3GPP mail explorer's to be used to send virus infected e-mails
- The policy should not restrict and unnecessarily limit corporate IMs to establish internal policies to restrict the flow of possibly contaminated files through corporate firewall. Thus discussions with corporate IMs is also encouraged.

It is natural that in this kind of general virus protection methods will not totally prevent virus attacks via reflectors, but new policy would prevent distribution of generic attacks (i.e. attack not targeted specifically to community members like the recent Love Letter, very funny etc.) via the e-mail reflector.