

# IEE LETTERS



SpamBayes, which can be found at [spambayes.sourceforge.net](http://spambayes.sourceforge.net). It is the only one I have found that works with multiple Outlook profiles without corrupting Outlook (some are so bad that you have to reboot Windows in order to switch to a new profile) and has an excellent filter system that I'm finding is about 99% accurate.

**Rob Kimberley**  
*By email*

## HELPING BEAT SPAM

I liked the article in September's IEE Review about the problem of unsolicited junk email ('Wham, Bam, You've Got Spam', p38), which was well balanced and up to date. I would draw your attention to some even more proactive proposals for reducing the scope of the problem such as the TCP Puzzles approach, where a recipient of email from non 'white-listed' addresses returns a small cryptographic problem to the sender.

This checks that their address is real and causes them to have to do some (e.g. 10 seconds) of CPU work to compute a one-time use value, which can then be included in the subsequent resend of the message. This is a nice trick, since it reduces unsolicited mail to a small percentage of normal mail load, and incurs a cost without it being legal or monetary. A nice paper about the idea is at [www.cse.ogi.edu/sysl/projects/puzzles/](http://www.cse.ogi.edu/sysl/projects/puzzles/)

**Jon Crowcroft**  
*By email*

Having been plagued with unsolicited email for some time now, I have spent the last six months evaluating spam filters for MS Outlook. By far, the best – and it's free – is