Spam is an extremely complex and, so far, remarkably intractable problem, increasingly affecting not just email but virtually every kind of interpersonal electronic communication. This talk will summarize the state of the art, survey the remarkably wide set of antispam activities currently under way at IBM, and present the outlines of a comprehensive IBM strategy to fight spam. Unfortunately, the bottom line remains that we are still working very hard just to keep the spam problem from getting worse, and no one should expect a quick or painless solution to this problem. However, the fight against spam has the potential to advance technology in several ways that might be broadly useful in enabling new kinds of Internet infrastructure.

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