Integrating Foreign Spam Filters into Exchange 2003/2007/2010

Integration Problems
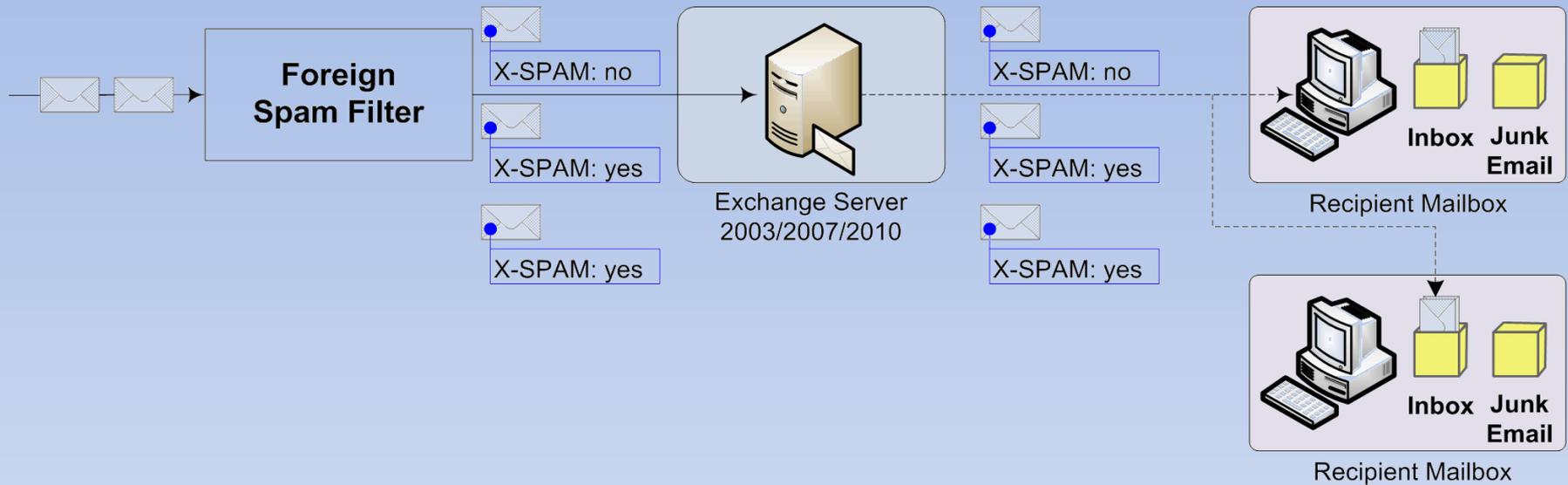
If Exchange does not understand the custom headers inserted by a Spam Filter, spam ends up deposited to the Recipient Inbox

Solution
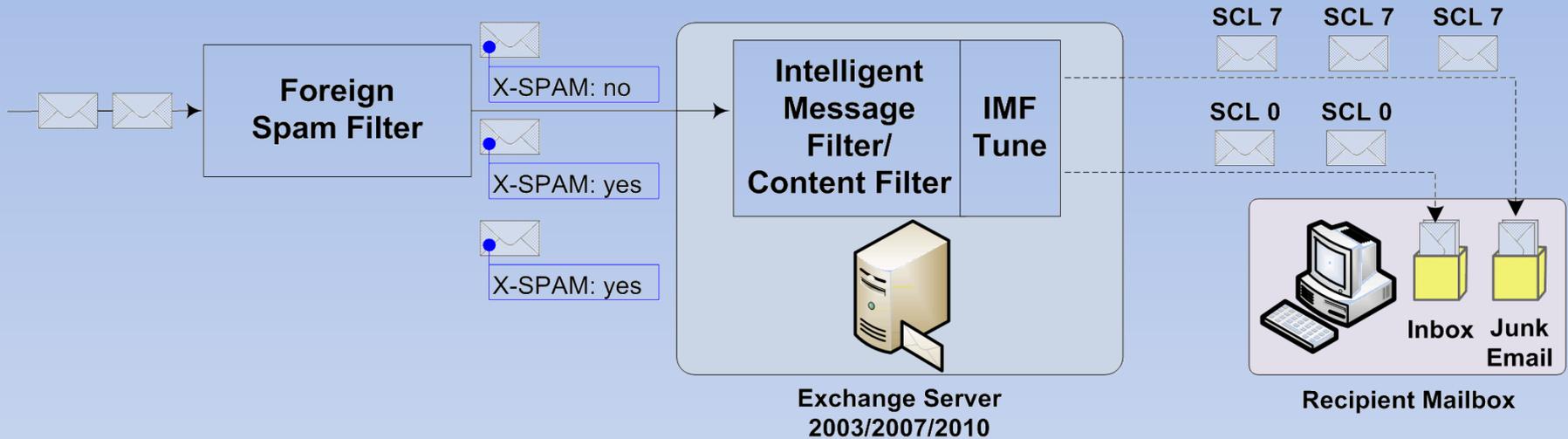
IMF Tune converts Foreign Filter spam ratings to the native Exchange spam rating system:

SCL - Spam Confidence Level

Exchange Setup

Solution applicable to Exchange 2003/2007/2010

- Enable the Exchange anti-spam:
  - Exchange 2003 IMF
  - Exchange 2007/2010 Content Filter
- Disable other Exchange built-in filters (sender block list, recipient block list etc.)
- Disable any Gateway Blocking Actions
- Set the Junk Folder Threshold

Exchange 2003

- Minimum Requirement Exchange 2003 SP2

- From the Exchange System Manager, Global Settings | Message Delivery:

  - Gateway Action → No Action

  - Junk Threshold → 6

- Enable IMF from Exchange System Manager, <Organization> | Servers | <Exchange Server> | Protocols | SMTP | <SMTP Virtual Server> | Advanced | Edit | Apply Intelligent Message Filter

Exchange 2007/2010

- Run the Content Filter on the first Hub/Edge transport handling internet email

- On Edge Server 2007/2010 and SBS2008 Content Filter is readily installed.

- On Hub Transport install manually from the Exchange Management Shell using:

Install-AntiSpamAgents.ps1

Exchange 2007/2010 (contd.)

- Configure Anti-Spam filters from the Management Console under:

  - Edge → Edge Transport | Anti-Spam

  - Hub → Organization | Hub Transport | Anti-Spam

- Disable all anti-spam EXCEPT for the Content Filter

- Disable Reject/Delete/Quarantine actions at the Content Filter

- Set the Junk Threshold to 6 from the Exchange Management Shell using:

  Set-OrganizationConfig -SCLJunkThreshold 6

IMF Tune Configuration

- Install IMF Tune on the same server where the Exchange anti-spam is running

- Create Simple SCL Rules to match Foreign Filter custom headers or Subject tags

- Create Advanced SCL Rule to match legitimate emails in case of Subject tagging

- Deliver spam to the Junk Folder

  - Configure rules matching spam to set SCL to:

    1 + Junk Folder Threshold

Links

IMF Tune Homepage/Download:

http://www.windeveloper.com/imftune/

WinDeveloper Video Tutorials:

http://www.windeveloper.com/imftune/tutor/

WinDeveloper YouTube Channel:

http://www.youtube.com/user/windeveloper/

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