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What is PureMessage?

PureMessage is a mail filtering program that runs on the email server. All ingoing and outgoing email messages pass through PureMessage. The PureMessage filter looks for certain message characteristics, and performs actions on the message when these characteristics are found.

This document describes PureMessage from the point of view of an end-user whose mail is being filtered by PureMessage.

How does PureMessage Identify Spam?

PureMessage contains a several hundred spam tests that analyze individual characteristics of each message. Each of these tests has a numerical score. When a message is analyzed by PureMessage, the scores from all the spam tests that matched the message are added up and converted to a percentage that expresses the message's "spam probability".

By default, PureMessage only checks for spam in messages that originate from outside the network, not for messages that originate within the local domain. If a message is found to have a spam probability of 50% or more, it is copied to the PureMessage quarantine.

PureMessage and Viruses

By default, PureMessage runs McAfee's virus scanning engine as a component, thus implementing virus scanning on the mail server. If a message is found to be contaminated with a virus, the virus scanning engine will clean the virus from the message, and then deliver the message to its intended recipient.

If the virus can't be cleaned from the message, the original recipient will receive a notification that a message was not delivered because it contained a virus.

Quarantine Digests

When the PureMessage filter detects that a message has a 50% or greater likelihood of containing spam, the message can be stored in the PureMessage quarantine instead of being delivered. Quarantine digests are email messages generated by PureMessage that list each user's quarantined messages.

Quarantine digests display the quarantine message ID number, the spam probability percentage, the message's From address, and the message's Subject. To release a single message from the quarantine, click on the ID number. This will generate an email to PureMessage; the message will be automatically released. To release all listed messages from the quarantine, reply to the message.

[How to sign up to receive the Digest](#)

[How to use PureMessage Quarantine Digest](#)