



Protecting Email Addresses on Web Pages

This factsheet aimed at webmasters, shows how to use a simple javascript function to prevent spammers from collecting email addresses from their Web sites. Posting an email address as text using “mailto:email@somedomain.edu” is an invitation to spammers looking for anything that resembles an email address. Follow the example below to keep the mailto out of your HTML pages. It is suggested that you change the function name, parameters to the function and names of variables to your own choices, making it more difficult for trolling spiders or “bots” to recognize the code.

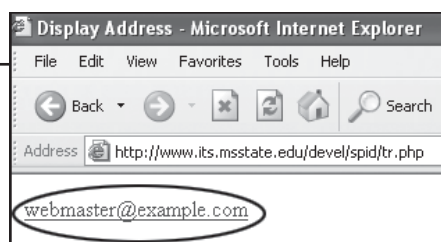
1. Place the following JavaScript function in the header of your HTML page. (The @ sign character is represented by “\u0040”).

```
<script LANGUAGE="JavaScript">
function email(name, domain, suffix, text)
{
  var address = name + "\u0040" + domain + "." + suffix;
  var url = "mailto:" + address;
  if( ! text )
  {
    text = address;
  }
  document.write("<a href=\"" + url + "\">" + text + "</a>");
}
</script>
```

In this javascript function, the function name is email. The parameters to the function are name, domain, suffix and text. The variables are address and url.

2. The following code and Web output is an example of calling the function and displaying the actual address on the Web page (e.g. webmaster@example.com). If you change the function name in the function be sure to change it

```
<p>
  <script type="text/javascript">email("webmaster", "example", "com")</script>
</p>
```



3. The following code and Web output is an example of calling the function and displaying the message “E-mail Me” on the Web page (e.g. bill@example.org). If you change the function name in the function be sure to change it when you call it.

```
<p>  
  <script type="text/javascript">email("bill", "example", "org", "E-mail Me")</script>  
</p>
```

