STANDALONE PRODUCT TEST: KASPERSKY SECURITY FOR MICROSOFT OFFICE 365

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(The updated version of this report (version 2.0) is available at https://www.virusbulletin.com/uploads/pdf/reports/KasperskyOffice365Mar2018.pdf)

The *Office 365* productivity software has become one of *Microsoft*'s flagship products, providing organizations around the world with collaboration tools, office applications and an email service.

Many security vendors offer solutions that are designed to increase the default protection provided by *Office 365*. One such product is the newly launched *Kaspersky Security for Microsoft Office 365*.
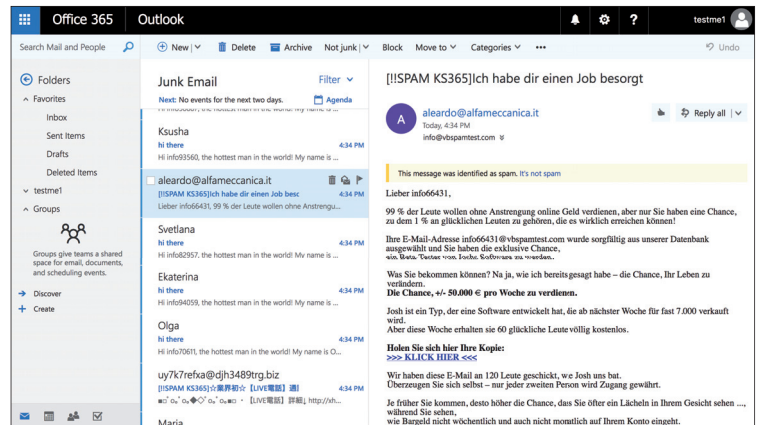
THE TEST

The aim of this test was to determine the difference between a mailbox protected by *Office 365* alone, and one with the additional protection of *Kaspersky Security for Microsoft Office 365*[1]. Two mailboxes were set up on *Office 365*, one with the standard (bundled) protection, and the other with the addition of the *Kaspersky* product.

The test was conducted using the standard VBSpam test methodology (https://www.virusbulletin.com/testing/vbspam/vbspam-methodology/), and the same email streams as those used in the VBSpam tests (provided by *Abusix* and *Project Honey Pot*) were relayed to the two accounts in real time. The only difference between the setup for this test and that for the regular VBSpam test was that, in this case, all emails were seen as coming from the same, fixed, IP address. This is a slightly unusual setup and we anticipated relatively high false positive rates for both accounts as a consequence. However, this test was designed to be comparative, and given that any difference between a basic (by design) and a more advanced product was likely to be the result of the scanning of the content of the emails, we did not consider it a problem.

The test ran between 23 December 2017 and 4 January 2018, during which period 75,635 emails were sent through both products.

Of these emails, 71,794 were spam. The inbox protected by *Office 365*'s inbuilt protection alone saw the arrival of 1,859 of the spam emails, while the inbox protected by the *Kaspersky* product received just 128 spam messages. In other

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[1] Note: no conclusions as to the efficacy of the *Office 365* product can be drawn from this test.

Office 365 inbox with additional Kaspersky protection.

words, while the basic *Office 365* settings blocked 97.4% of spam, the additional protection of *Kaspersky Security for Microsoft Office 365* brought the catch rate up to 99.8%. The number of unwanted and potentially malicious emails in the inboxes was thus reduced by a factor of more than 14.

The ham corpus, used to measure the percentage of legitimate emails that were blocked, contained 3,841 emails. As expected, the particular setup used in this test caused relatively high false positive rates in both instances. However, these rates (3.9% for regular legitimate emails, and 9.2% for opt-in bulk emails, or newsletters) were the same both with and without *Kaspersky*'s added protection, and we can thus say with confidence that, while significantly improving the spam catch rate, *Kaspersky Security for Microsoft Office 365* does not cause an increase in false positives.

	Office 365 (default)	Kaspersky Security for Microsoft Office 365
SC rate	97.41%	99.82%
FP rate	3.9%	3.9%
Newsletters FP rate	9.2%	9.2%
Final score	97.40	99.81

The test also looked at whether the *Kaspersky* product offered extra protection when it comes to emails carrying malicious attachments. However, given that such email campaigns were relatively sparse during the test period, leaving us with only a small dataset, we were not able to draw any firm conclusions about differences in performance. A follow-up test is currently being run, after which this report will be extended.