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IT: Microsoft Researchers on Stopping Spam

Posted by [timothy](#) on Monday April 11, @09:49PM from the slow-treacle dept.

[TheBackBencher](#) writes "Scientific American today has a very interesting article about "Stopping Spam" by [Joshua Goodman](#), [David Hackerman](#) and [Robert Rounthwaite](#) from [Microsoft Research](#). They talk about different types of spam -- spam with emails, spam on IMs, spamlinks on web pages and image based spam. They mention different techniques for spam filtering mainly fingerprinting matching techniques, n grams model, naive bayesian approach, optical character recognition, challenge/response systems and Human Interacted Proofs (HIP) in a very lucid style. They however do not mention fingerprinting approach of using [Nilsimsa Hash](#) to tackle addition of random words by spammers in emails or [hypertextus interruptus](#) technique used by spammers of splitting words using HTML comments, pairs of zero width tags, or bogus tags. Also, [Spam-Research](#) is reporting the [SplitFit](#) Technique that Spammers are using to fool [Yahoo! Mail SpamGuard](#)."



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Science: Remote-Controlled Flies

Posted by [timothy](#) on Monday April 11, @09:01PM from the careful-with-that-stuff dept.

[Rollie Hawk](#) writes "This could be a huge development for the ultra-lazy (and ultra-stinky, for that matter). It seems that [Yale](#) scientists have managed to engineer a remote control system for flies. According to [their study](#) (recently featured in [Cell](#)), specific neurons can be stimulated by lasers to control basic functions in fruit flies such as jumping, walking, and flying. The study, of course, was performed with wider ranging applications in mind than bringing new meaning to the saying, "Shew, fly!" The overall goal was to determine whether isolated-neuron stimulation could be used to control basic motor activities and even more complex behavior. Everyone since the days of [Mary Shelly](#) has obviously known that there are connections between electrical current and muscle movement. What makes this study unique is that it does not use traditional electrodes, which lack the single-neuron specificity of lasers. Eventually, this could lead to mappings that will give humans knowledge and possibly control over not only complex movements but less-than desirable mental functions such as aggression and overeating."



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