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# The Newsletter Fort Systems Ltd.

## The FSL Newsletter Returns

*Steve Swaney*

We are pleased to announce the return of the FSL Newsletter. We will be sending a newsletter quarterly and when there are important announcements.

If you are not interested in receiving this newsletter, please send an email to [unsubscribe@fsl.com](mailto:unsubscribe@fsl.com). We are the last people in the world who want to send you unwanted emails. ☺

## BarricadeMX 2.0 Released

After extensive beta testing, we're happy to announce that BarricadeMX 2.0 has been released for production use.

This new release makes BarricadeMX the most efficient and accurate spam blocking solution available at any price. For complete details of all the new features and enhancements, please visit:

[www.fsl.com/bmx/release\\_notes](http://www.fsl.com/bmx/release_notes)

### Finding your Version Number

You can find the current version number of BarricadeMX on your system by logging into the

DefenderMX system(s) as user root and running the command:

```
smtpf +verison
```

### Updating your System RH and CentOS

Updating your existing servers is quite simple. If you are using BarricadeMX with DefenderMX, just log into the DefenderMX system(s) as user root and run:

```
yum -y update smtpf
```

If you are using BarricadeMX without DefenderMX on the Red Hat 4.x or 5.x operation systems, just log into the DefenderMX system(s) as user root and run:

```
yum -y update smtpf  
and
```

```
yum -y update BarricadeMX
```

### Updating for Other Operating Systems

If you are using BarricadeMX on any of the following operating systems:

- FreeBSD 4.x
- FreeBSD 6.x
- OpenBSD
- SuSE

Please contact us if your system has not yet been updated or you would like to have us assist you with any updates. You can email us at:

[support@fsl.com](mailto:support@fsl.com)

# BarricadeMX vs. DefenderMX

For those of you who are wondering what is BarricadeMX and how does it compare to DefenderMX or MailScanner with SpamAssassin.

The simple answer is:

BarricadeMX is primarily a spam blocking application while DefenderMX is primarily a spam filtering application.

The work “primarily” is important because BarricadeMX and DefenderMX can both be configured to perform blocking and filtering. Confused yet? Some additional detail may help.

## **BarricadeMX**

BarricadeMX uses industry standard and new sophisticated proprietary

techniques to typically block over 90% of incoming spam during the initial SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) conversation to block the spam before the message is even accepted for delivery. When a message is blocked at this phase, the sender of the message can safely be given a Non-Delivery Report (NDR) telling them the message was not delivered and the reason for the rejection.

Since BarricadeMX blocks almost all of the spam and junk before it's accepted, very few messages need to be run through the CPU intensive spam scanning (SpamAssassin) or virus scanning (ClamAV). A BarricadeMX system can process many times the number of incoming messages that a traditional spam filtering application can.

If a message would be accepted, BarricadeMX can also pass the

message through SpamAssassin and ClamAV before accepting the message.

If the message is passed to SpamAssassin or ClamAV the following actions can happen.

1. If the message is High Scoring Spam, reject the message with an NDR
2. If the message is Spam, deliver the message with {Spam?} added to the header of the message
3. If the message contains a virus, reject the message with an NDR

After the message has been accepted, BarricadeMX then forwards the message to another local or remote MTA, mail hub, or additional spam filtering application.

BarricadeMX cannot:

- Block attachments by name or type
- Quarantine messages; all messages are either delivered or rejected with a notification offered to the sender of the message.
- Allow users or domain administrators to white or black list messages or manage their own settings. (Typically very little white or black listing is required.)

## **DefenderMX**

Defender uses a limited number of RBLs and relatively simple techniques to typically block 40% to 50% of incoming spam during the SMTP conversation before the message is accepted for delivery. When a message is blocked at this phase of the delivery the sender of the message can safely be given a Non-Delivery Report (NDR).

Once the message has been accepted for delivery, the listed sender of the message may NOT be sent an NDR

## *Do I need BarricadeMX or DefenderMX or Both?*

### **BarricadeMX**

- If you want a simple, easy to update system, that can process large amounts of email on lightweight hardware
- If you do not need or want users or domain administrators to login to control white / black listing or user settings
- If cost of hardware, software and maintenance is a primary consideration

***You probably want BarricadeMX***

### **DefenderMX**

- If you want users or domain administrators to login to control white / black listing or user settings
- If you want to control attachment content
- If you want to use multiple Virus scanners on incoming email

***You probably want DefenderMX***

### **BarricadeMX and DefenderMX**

- If you want the maximum in performance, flexibility and accuracy an anti-spam system can provide.
- You need to increase the capacity of your existing DefenderMX System

***You probably want BarricadeMX with DefenderMX***

because spammers typically forge the return address of the sender.

Returning the spam message to a forged address of an innocent party may result in your email gateway being blacklisted.

If a message is accepted, the DefenderMX (or MailScanner) system will process the message using SpamAssassin and ClamAV and other installed virus scanners. Message processing, modification, delivery, rejection or quarantine may be controlled by sophisticated rule sets.

DefenderMX can:

- Block attachments by name or type
- Quarantine messages
- Allow domain administrators or users to white or black list messages or manage their own settings using a web interface.

#### **BarricadeMX and DefenderMX**

The good news is that BarricadeMX and DefenderMX can be combined on the same system to provide maximum efficiency and spam detection.

Many of our existing DefenderMX customers have taken advantage of our ½ price offer for BarricadeMX to increase the capacity of their existing systems at a very reasonable cost.

Please contact [robin@fsl.com](mailto:robin@fsl.com) for the details of this special offer for new or existing DefenderMX customers.

## **DefenderMX 2.0**

Although the promised release of DefenderMX 2.0 has been delayed, we are pleased that work is almost complete. The next release of DefenderMX 2.0 has been dependent of the release of MailWatch 2.0 and BarricadeMX 2.0.

BarricadeMX 2.0 has been released and the beta release of MailWatch 2.0 is scheduled for early January 2008. This means we can soon complete the work for DefenderMX 2.0.

As some of you know, work on DefenderMX 2.0 has come a long way. Work on most of the new features and the new web interface has already been completed so we expect that there will be a beta release in quarter one of 2008.

Please keep an eye on our website ([www.fsl.com](http://www.fsl.com)) during January for feature details and screen shots of DefenderMX 2.0

## **New SSH server**

In order to provide more secure support and maintenance services, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, we will be using a new server to access your gateways.

This means that your firewall rules may need to change to allow us continued access to your systems.

There will be a transition period where we will need to access your systems from:

The existing SSH server:  
dc1.fsl.com , 71.252.120.209

and the new SSH server:

vz119.fslupdate.com,  
69.63.144.19

As soon as we have setup the access from our new SSH server, we will notify you that the access from 71.252.120.209 may be removed.

## **Improving Support**

We have been using an RT ticketing system to track support requests. Effective January 1, 2008, we will be transitioning to our new support

system which is integrated with our CRM system at SalesForce.

The new system will centralize all customer information in one place making it easier for the entire support staff to have current information on all your sales and support history in one easy to use interface.

You will still be required to initiate a support request by emailing [support@fsl.com](mailto:support@fsl.com) but you will notice that the format of the response tickets will change.

Please initiate any and all support requests by email before you place a phone call. Emails should be sent to [support@fsl.com](mailto:support@fsl.com).

Leaving a voice mail message for a support person may not be answered as quickly as the email support ticket.

#### **New Phone number**

To improve our internal and customer communications we have just installed a new Asterisk server. This required that we change our main phone number. Please note that our new number is 202.595.7760.



**Happy  
Holidays**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making 2007 the best year ever at Fort Systems Ltd. We can assure you that our plans for 2008 are to keep improving the applications and support we provide to you and your customers.

The FSL team would like to send the very best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season to you and your families.

May 2008 bring you all happiness  
and prosperity and the good health to  
enjoy it.

Your FSL team:

Steve Swaney  
Julian Field  
Robin Bains  
Steve Freegard  
Anthony Howe  
Neetika Bains  
Doc Schneider  
Ugo Bellavance  
Satyadev Sharma  
Randolph Langley