



# **Internet Research Task Force Anti-Spam Research Group (ASRG)**

Presentation Created By: Paul Q. Judge, Chair



# ASRG status

- Formed: March 2003
- Chairs: Paul Judge and Yakov Shafranovich
- Membership: 615 members

# ASRG's Motivation and Focus

- Motivation:
  - Scale, growth, and effect of spam
  - Was nuisance, now a significant portion of email traffic
  - Stands to affect local networks, the infrastructure, and the way that people use email
- Focus:
  - ASRG focuses on the problem of **unwanted email messages**, loosely referred to as *spam*

# Consent-based Communication

- Definition of spam is inconsistent and unclear
- Generalize the problem into one of “consent-based communication”
- An individual or organization should be able to express consent or lack of consent for certain communication and have the architecture support those desires
- With clear policies, enforcement can safely be done further upstream

# The purpose of the ASRG

- “*Understand* the problem and collectively *propose* and *evaluate* solutions”

# Phase 1: Understand the problem

- Taxonomy of solutions
- Characterization of the problem
- Requirements for solutions
- Understand the scope of spam legislation

# Phase 2: Propose Solutions

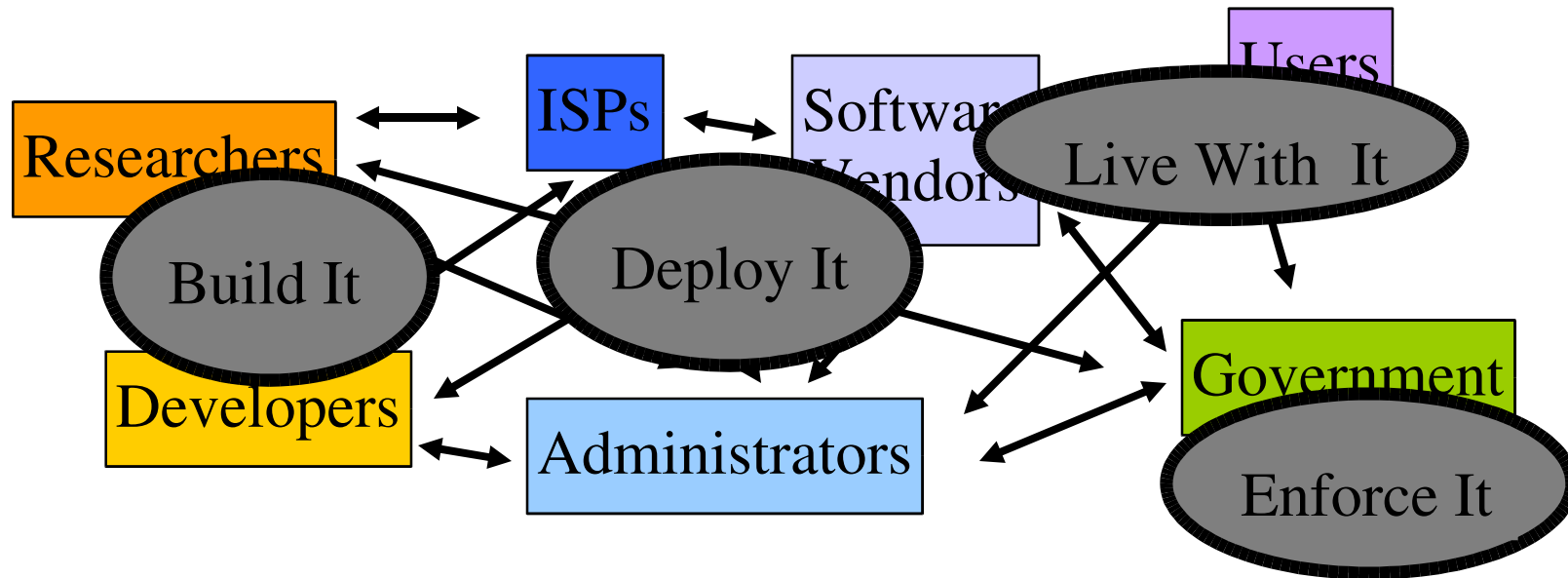
- Novel approaches
- Standards based on common techniques
- Combination of approaches
- Best Practices/Education

# Phase 3: Evaluate Solutions

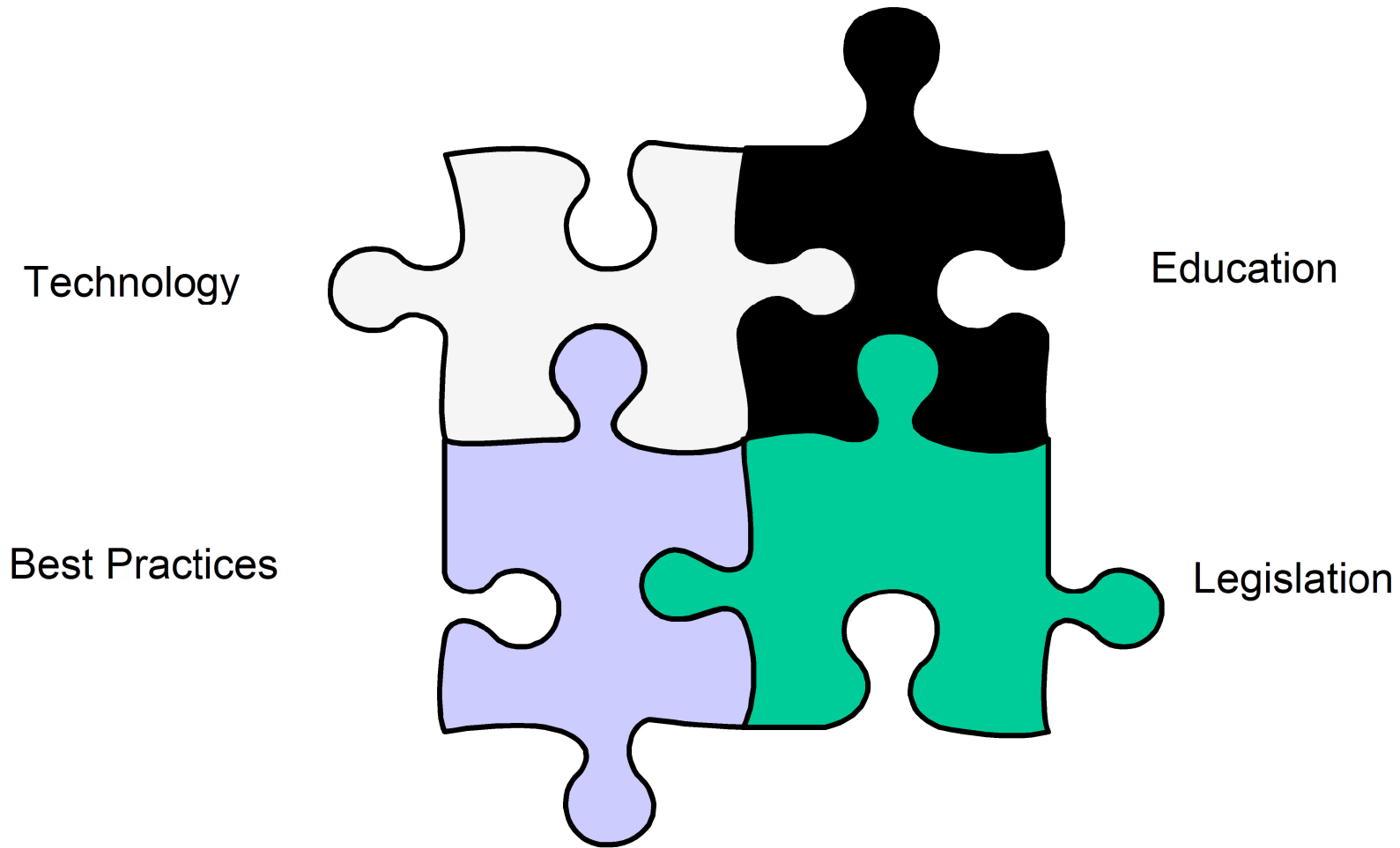
- Usefulness
  - Effectiveness
  - Accuracy
- Cost
  - Effect on normal use of the system
    - (Change in use, Difficulty of use, delay, etc )
  - Monetary costs of using the system
    - (Charge, Bandwidth, Computation, etc )



# The email ecosystem



# The pieces of the solution



# Interaction between Technology & Law

## Casual Spammer

- Forwards Chain Letters

## Hobbyist Spammer

- Mass BCC mailings with normal clients

## Small-Scale Spammer

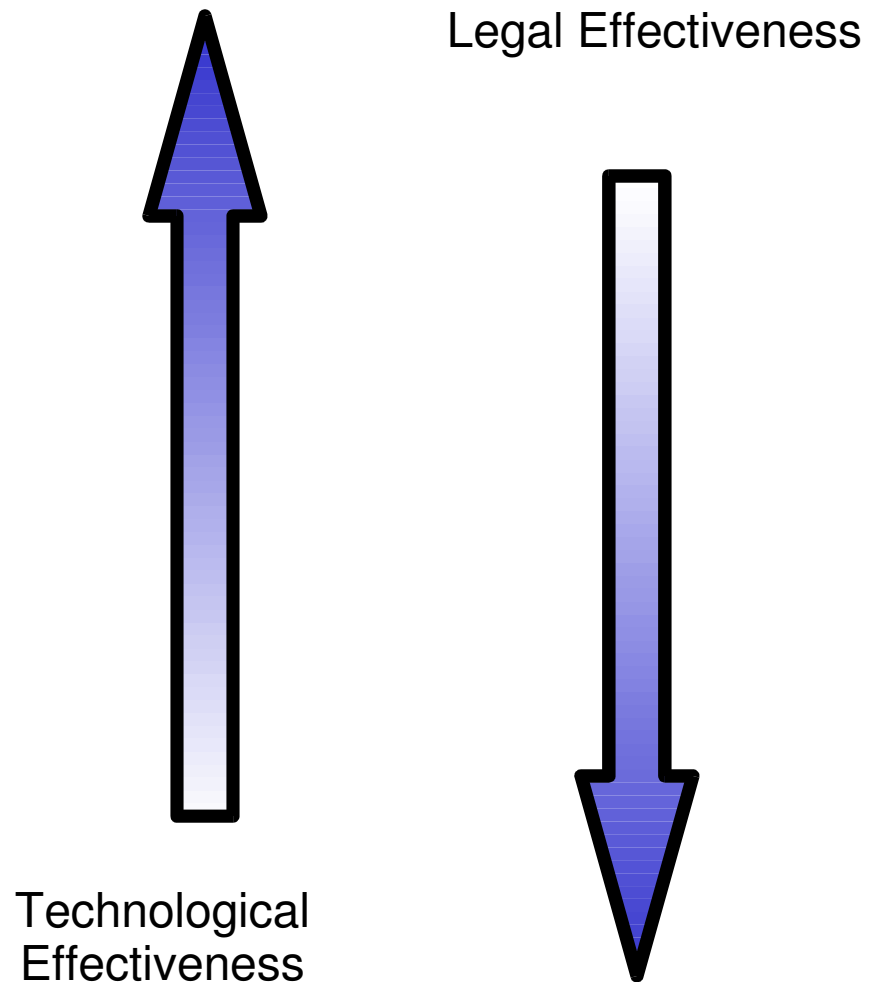
- Uses spamming toolkit and address CDs

## Hacker Spammer

- Develops tools to bypass filters

## Large-Scale Spammer

- Well-funded and knowledgeable



# For more information

- ASRG Website: <http://www.irtf.org/asrg>



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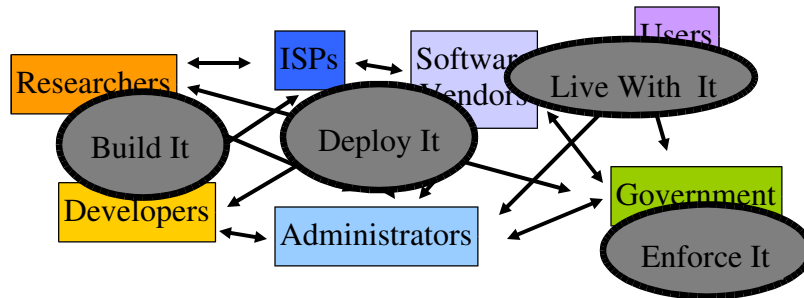
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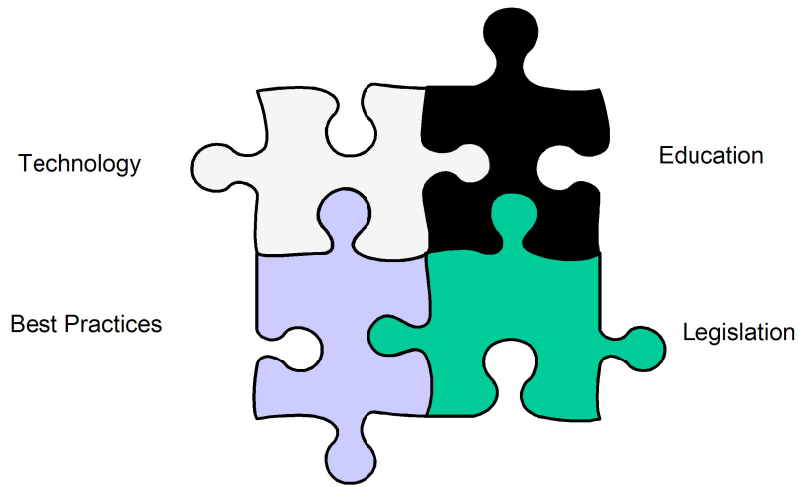
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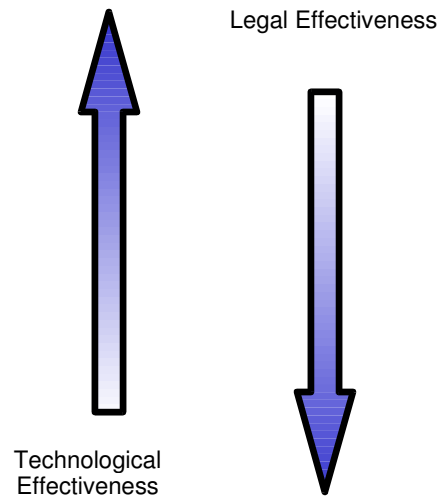
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