

# June's virus and spam statistics from SoftScan

Submitted by: Marylebone Media Relations

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Bad news for virus writers as three arrests made

London, UK (30th June 2006) – SoftScan (<http://www.softscan.co.uk>) announced today the latest virus and spam statistics (<http://www.softscan.co.uk/composite-263.htm>) for June 2006. The percentage of email classified as viruses remains low at 0.36% despite an attack launched by Bagle during June and the percentage of spam was marginally higher at 85.11%. However, SoftScan attributes this change to be due to less business related email as the holiday season begins, rather than an increase in spam overall.

On the 21st June SoftScan reported that a Bagle variant was spammed out over an eighteen hour period, particularly targeting some European countries. In this latest development, Bagle was sent as a password protected zip file, with the password sent as an image displayed in the body of the email. This makes it more difficult for some anti-virus vendors to detect the virus, but as SoftScan predicted, having to enter the password no doubt made many users think twice about opening the attachment anyway, thus preventing an epidemic.

However, it wasn't all bad news in June on the virus front. Three arrests in the UK and Finland of members believed to be a part of the M00P gang is a significant breakthrough in the fight against malware.

"The international police co-operation that has led to these recent arrests is welcomed news to everyone fighting against viruses," comments Bo Engelbrechtsen, corporate communications manager of SoftScan. "It sends a clear message that the Internet does not necessarily offer the complete anonymity that clearly some criminals think it does. Although it remains to be seen whether these arrests prevent the rest of the group from carrying on effectively, it definitely demonstrates that chinks in their armour can be found."

Top five Virus families for June are:

- 1 phishing: 48.05%
- 2 netsky: 16.69%
- 3 mytob: 15.05%
- 4 bagle: 5.94%
- 5 mydoom: 3.44%

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About SoftScan ([www.softscan.co.uk](http://www.softscan.co.uk))

Established in 2002, SoftScan provides a hosted spam and virus email filtering service that relieves organisations from the burden of using internal resources, whilst enabling full configurability to comply with company policy. Now Scandinavia's leading supplier in the hosted antivirus and spam filter market, SoftScan scans more than 10 million emails every day using five different filters including SoftScan's own intelligent scanner, Paranoid, which uses advanced analysis of email behaviour to block unwanted

emails – enabling it to stop viruses before conventional scanners have adjusted to the new threat.  
[www.softscan.co.uk](http://www.softscan.co.uk)

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