

An Overview of Sender Domain Monitoring

1 Threatening Your Brand Integrity

Email systems are increasingly the target of malicious actors, potentially causing significant harm to your brand and confidence in your emails.

Actors threatening the integrity of your email channel

RUSHED/UNTRAINED EMPLOYEE
moving fast and accidentally emailing your entire mailing list

DISGRUNTLED & EX-EMPLOYEES
looking to cause trouble in protest or just out of spite

HACKERS AND MALICIOUS ACTORS
looking to use your email system to advance their attacks



ACCIDENTAL SPAM

Whether through accident or carelessness, a fat-fingered employee can cause havoc by sending the wrong emails to the wrong people

VANDALISM

Some malicious actors just want to create a public spectacle to embarrass, shame, or just to prove they can

PHISHING

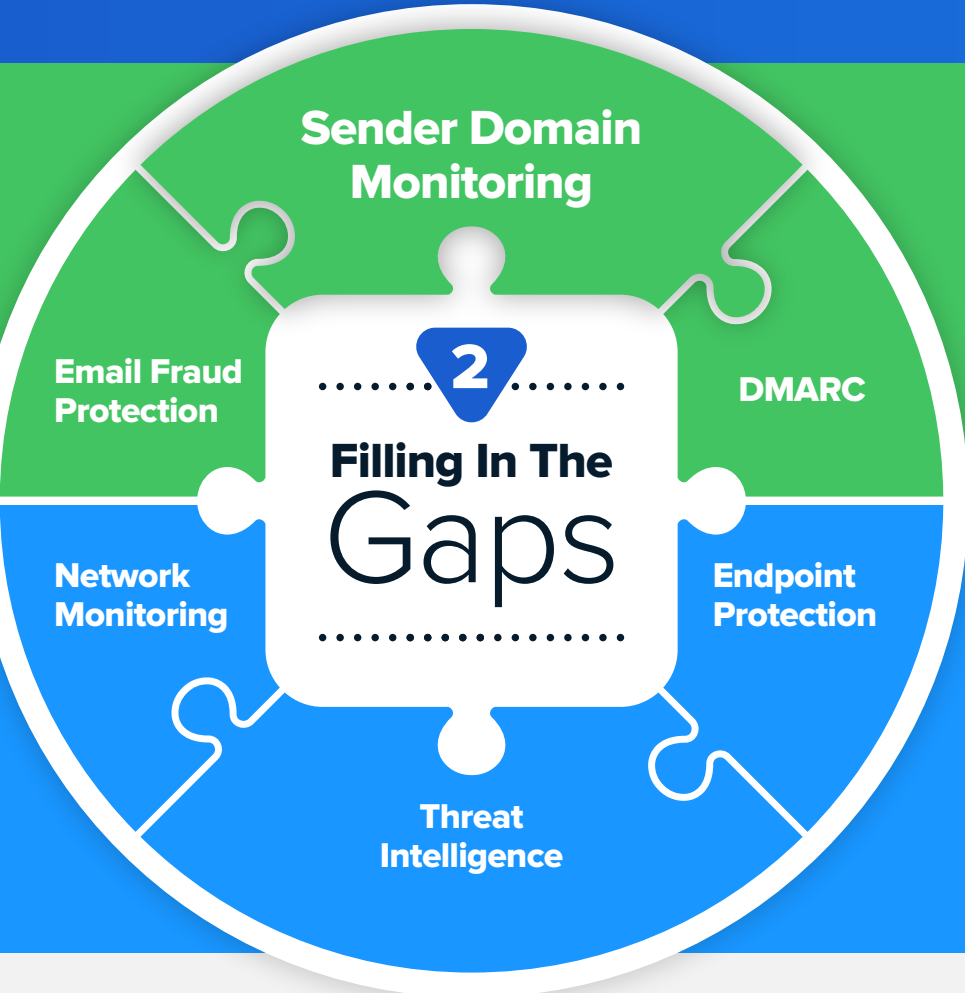
Compromised email systems can send out authenticated mail that bypass normal phishing protections due to their legitimate origin

MALICIOUS CODE

Compromised email systems can use emails to spread malicious code and infect other systems internally and externally

Types of misused emails that affect your security and your brand

When your email technology gets hacked, are you waiting for customers to complain on social media, or worse, for the news to pick it up? What else can you do about it?



Email Security falls into two buckets:

- Outbound Email Authentication (e.g. DMARC)
- Inbound Mail Protection (e.g. Mimecast)

...but neither of those tools can detect authentic mail being sent out by a compromised system.

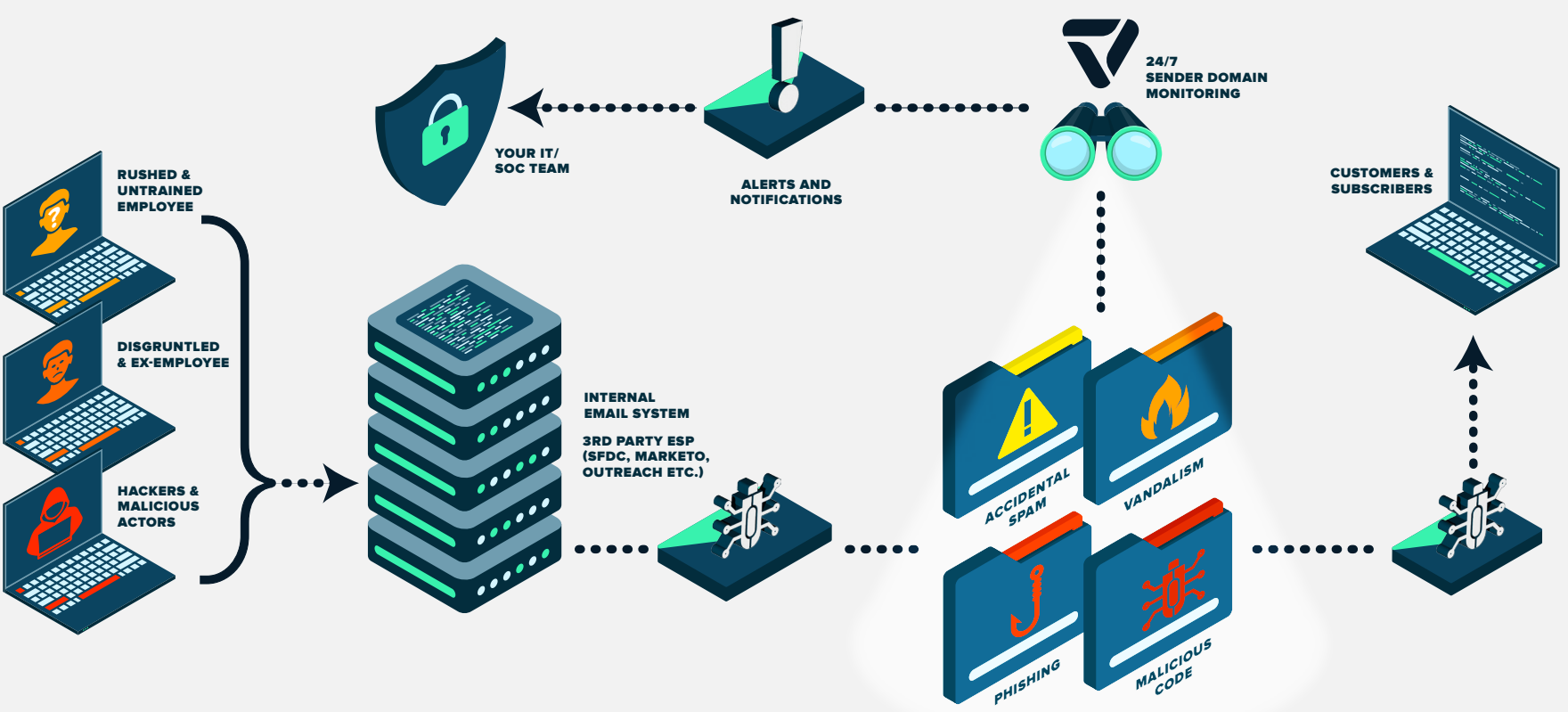
Cybersecurity relies on a layered strategy:

- Educated humans
- Internal detection and monitoring
- Perimeter and endpoint intrusion prevention
- Aggregate industry alerts of malicious actor signatures

... but today they cannot monitor external email activity for indicators of compromised systems.

3 What is Sender Domain Monitoring?

Sender Domain Monitoring is a simple to implement, non-disruptive security layer that provides real-time insight into and alerting on suspicious activity in the outbound email channel.



Key Features

- 24/7 Monitoring by Validity's Email SOC
- Alerting and notifications
- Email origination data
- Aggregate community data



Key Benefits

- Additional coverage along an emerging attack vector
- Early detection of suspicious activity
- Expediated root-cause analysis of active and previously compromised systems
- Ease of implementation, configuration, and maintenance

4 Sender Domain Monitoring Real-Life Example

Using our 24x7 monitoring methods, Validity saw indicators that a customer's email systems had been compromised and alerted them immediately. After further investigation, the company determined that an attacker had evaded their bot detection systems and created malicious fake user accounts. Once these accounts were created, the attacker sent "follow request" emails to both legitimate existing subscribers and new spam accounts. As a result, thousands of fake accounts were created and millions of unauthorized emails were sent from their IP.

After receiving the alert from Validity, the company disabled the compromised emails. Moving forward, they made key updates to their bot detection software, onboarding process, user platform, and opt-in requirements.