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CRS Report for Congress: Junk E-mail: An Overview of Issues Concerning Commercial Electronic Mail and Spam October 17, 2003 - RL31953

By Marcia S. Smith

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 26 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Unsolicited commercial e-mail (UCE), also called spam or junk e-mail, aggravates many computer users. Not only can spam be a nuisance, but its cost may be passed on to consumers through higher charges from Internet service providers who must upgrade their systems to handle the traffic. Also, some spam involves fraud, or includes adult-oriented material that offends recipients or that parents want to protect their children from seeing. Proponents of UCE insist it is a legitimate marketing technique that is protected by the First Amendment. While 36 states have anti-spam laws, there is no federal law specifically concerning spam. Nine antispam bills are pending in the 108th Congress: H. R. 1933 (Lofgren), H. R. 2214 (Burr-Tauzin-Sensenbrenner), H. R. 2515 (Wilson-Green), S. 563 (Dayton), S. 877 (Burns-Wyden), S. 1052 (Nelson-FL), S. 1231 (Schumer), S. 1293 (Hatch), and S. 1327 (Corzine). Two (S. 877 and S. 1293) have been reported from committee. Tables providing brief side-by-side comparisons of the bills are included at the end of this report. Publicity about the National Do Not Call registry through which consumers can indicate that they...


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