Revision #1
January 12, 2026

Test Plan

for Virus Bulletin's "VBSpam Q1 2026" test

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AMTSO Standard Compliance Statement

This test and the test plan below has been designed by Virus Bulletin Ltd to comply with the Anti-Malware Testing Standards Organization, Inc. ("AMTSO") Testing Protocol Standard for the Testing of Anti-Malware Solutions, Version 1.3.

Introduction

VBSpam is a continuously running comparative test programme for email security solutions. The test seeks to measure and compare the performance metrics of the publicly tested email security solutions.

More information about VBSpam – including recent participants and reports – can be found on the Virus Bulletin website.

Test methodology

The test follows the 3.0.1 version of the VBSpam test methodology, published at:

https://www.virusbulletin.com/testing/vbspam/vbspam-methodology/vbspam-methodology-ver30-1/

Among others, the methodology document details:

- Testing process
- Test scope / functionality of the products tested
- Test environment
- Test case curation and selection
- Certification criteria and test scoring
- Acceptable product types and configurations
- Feedback (including types of test evidence provided) and dispute policy
- Opt-out and test invalidation policy

Participants

Participation in the test is available in the following models:

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- A vendor may choose to join the test programme on a commissioned and paid basis. This provides continuous testing for the product for a year, with four periods designated as official testing periods. Data collected in these periods forms the basis of the public test reports. Outside of these periods, feedback is provided privately to the vendor.

- Virus Bulletin may invite a vendor to join VBSpam for a specific public test at its own discretion, free of charge. Invited vendors are provided with the same rights and services as those tested on a commissioned basis, however the arrangement is only for the duration of the process required to set up, test and dismantle the product.

Vendors interested in participating may get in touch with Virus Bulletin as detailed at https://virusbulletin.com/about-vb/contact-us/.

Schedule

The schedule for this test is as follows:

Event	When	Notes
Vendor notification	At least 10 calendar days before the test commencement	Vendors are notified by email about their upcoming test. They are invited to send any updated product builds, configuration instructions, new contact details, etc. in a formal manner. Virus Bulletin also provides the opportunity to audit the product configuration in the test environment at this point.
Live test commencement	February 1, 2026	Live testing period begins. Products are subjected to test cases as described in the Test Methodology. Note that no feedback is provided during the live testing.
End of live testing period	February 15, 2026	Live testing period ends.
Feedback	February 16, 2026	Preliminary test results (for their product only) are shared with the vendor. The

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		release of this data marks the beginning of the vendor feedback period.
Vendor feedback (dispute) period	February 27, 2026	Vendors are invited to provide feedback on their test results and to engage in conversation with Virus Bulletin if they have any objections.
Report release and status update	No later than March 20, 2026	The final test report is released on Virus Bulletin's website.

Virus Bulletin endeavours to communicate any significant deviations from the above general schedule to the affected vendors in a timely manner.

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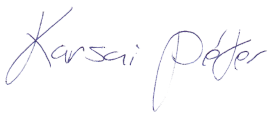
Attestation

I understand and agree that I am submitting this Test Plan, and the following Attestations, on behalf of the Virus Bulletin Ltd, and I represent and warrant that I have authority to bind such entity to these Attestations. All references to “I” or “me” or similar language refer to such entity. I represent and warrant that the following Attestations are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and each of the following commitments will be upheld to the best of my ability.

- I will provide public notification on the AMTSO website covering my obligation for notification of a Public Test, regardless of whether a potential Participant is in actual receipt of such notification prior to the Commencement Date of a Test.
- All products included in this Test will be analysed fairly and equally.
- I will disclose any anticipated or known imbalance or inequity in the Test design to all Participants in the Test.
- I will not charge any additional fees for a vendor to be a test subject under the Standards.
- I will disclose any material conflicts of interest or other information that could materially impact the reliability of the Test.
- I have disclosed how the Test is funded.

I hereby affirm, to the best of my knowledge and belief that this Test Plan complies with the AMTSO Testing Standards, as of the date hereof.

Signature 

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AMTSO Test ID: **AMTSO-LS1-TP179**

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