

How to set up a proper mail server SPF TXT record in Bind (named) DNS server

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I've recently figured out that some of the **SPF** records I'm using for some of the administrated by me mail servers, was found to be incorrect by Microsoft's mail servers for **hotmail.com, msn.net and live.com** .

Probably the SPF records that I used by so far were found to be incorrect by other mail account service providers also.

As a consequence of this *wrongly considered SPF's* Microsoft mail servers were either rejecting my mail server messages or putting the received messages in the Junk folder.

The SPF records which were shown as incorrect according to **Microsoft SPF checking Mechanism called SenderID SPF Record Wizard** were defined in my *bind dns domain zone file* as follows:

```
mydomainname.com. IN TXT "v=spf1 mx ip4:123.124.128.125 ~all"
```

Using this **TXT SPF record dns configuration** Microsoft's *Sender ID SPF Record Wizard* claimed I had no SPF records at all e.g., checking with the wizard I was returning the error

No SPF Record Found

Microsoft's Sender ID Framework SPF Record Wizard is available from: The URL address <http://www.microsoft.com/mscorp/safety/content/technologies/senderid/wizard/>.

Therefore if you're experiencing some kind of difficulties with sending properly email messages to Microsoft mail domain names or to some other major mail providers like Yahoo, it's very likely that you might have a misconfigured SPF record just like me.

To deal with the situation I had to check my SPF record with the simple:

```
"v=spf1 a -all"
```

The complete TXT record which needs to be placed in the zone file of your domain name looks like so:

```
mydomainname.com. IN TXT "v=spf1 a -all"
```

The **the meaning of this TXT SPF record is that the IP address in the "A" record for the name is the only IP address that's allowed to use that server's name**

After that change hopefully if you're experiencing mails entering automatically in *Junk filter / mail folder* with **msn.com**, **hotmail.com**, **live.com** or **yahoo.com** this problems should be immediately solved.

Checking again with the the Microsoft SenderID online tool I got an output that my SPF record is correct like you read below the output that popped up from Microsoft's page:

Sender ID Framework SPF Record Wizard

Step 2 of 4: Display Published DNS Records

The wizard has checked DNS for information about prize.bg including: SPF, MX and A records. This information is displayed below.

If an SPF record was found, you can verify its contents here and use the remaining steps of this wizard to modify the record if necessary. If no SPF record was found, you can use information from the domain's MX and A records to create a new SPF record.

Click Next to continue.

SPF Record Found

One or more functional SPF record(s) have been found for the domain mydomain.com

The full text of the domain's SPF record is as follows.

```
v=spf1 a -all
```

Another tool which helped me a lot in **debugging problems with my SPF records is found on the address <http://www.kitterman.com/spf/validate.html>** so it might be wise to use it as well in order to check that your SPF records are correct.