VisNetic MailServer 8.3
What's New

Additional **VisNetic MailServer Documentation** is available at:
http://deerfield.com/support/visnetic-mailserver/

1.0 VisNetic MailServer

VisNetic MailServer is a high performance POP3, SMTP, IMAP, LDAP mail server that boasts an extensive, highly configurable feature set. This secure email server, also ideal for use as a gateway mail server, features built-in anti spam, Web mail, integrated antivirus support and remote administration capabilities.

VisNetic MailServer features support for Sender Policy Framework (SPF), DomainKeys Technology, Sender Rewriting Schema (SRS), Greylisting and Spam URI Realtime Blocklists (SURBL). Instant Anti Spam is a complete spam filtering solution built into VisNetic MailServer. Instant Anti Spam combines the most effective anti spam technologies into one powerful solution that blocks more spam than any other mail server.

Spamming techniques change at a rapid pace. By layering multiple, powerful and highly configurable spam blocking methodologies, VisNetic MailServer provides unmatched anti spam capabilities. No other mail server offers this comprehensive array of spam filtering tools natively.

2.0 VisNetic MailServer Features

VisNetic MailServer is equipped with many features besides SMTP, POP, and IMAP email processing. The following is a list of just <u>some</u> of those features.

❖ SPF (Sender Policy Framework) and SRS (Sender Rewriting Scheme)
VisNetic MailServer features support for Sender Policy Framework (SPF), an anti spam measure designed to fight email address forgery. SPF verifies the authenticity of the sender's FROM address by performing a DNS query to verify that the sending server is authorized to send email on behalf of that address. To counter issues with SMTP forwarding VisNetic MailServer has introduced SRS. SRS forces the rewriting of the MAIL FROM address by the forwarding agent.

❖ Domain Keys Technology
A significant new technology in combating spam, Domain Keys is an essential component of email security. Domain Keys are used to verify not only the message sender to the recipient, but also ensure that the message itself is not intercepted in the SMTP session, ensuring that the sender is who they say they are, and that the message is from them.

❖ SURBLs (Spam URI Realtime Blocklist)
Unlike the use of RBLs, which filter on the From email address only, SURBLs allow you to filter and block messages based on spam domains that appear in message body URIs (usually web sites), the message bodies.

❖ SpamAssassin Heuristic Analysis
SpamAssassin combines the most effective anti-spam technologies into one powerful solution that accurately determines what messages are or are not spam. It uses a comprehensive list of rules and checks to score messages based on the likelihood that they are spam. This filtering is completely automated, and spam-scoring thresholds are customizable. It also integrates directly with the Bayesian filters and offers many additional features, such as complete spam message reporting, header reporting and much more.

❖ Challenge-Response Mechanism

The optional challenge-response mechanism is the last line of defense in anti spam security. It is the most foolproof method to ensure that your organization is spam free. If the SpamAssassin and Bayesian filters cannot definitively prove that a message is or is not spam, a challenge message is sent to the message originator. The originator is presented with an imbedded link in the message. Once they click on this link and enter a password, their message and all of their future messages will be allowed. This mechanism ensures that messages are being sent from a "real" person, and provides the highest level of spam protection.

❖ Greylisting

Greylisting provides a "temporary reject" of any email not recognized by VisNetic MailServer. If the email is legitimate, the originating mail server will attempt to resend the message (per RFC) at which time VisNetic MailServer will accept it. The objective here is that most spammers or automated mailers are not configured to retry messages.

❖ HTML Message Filtering

Accurately filter 99% of all html spam messages using these sophisticated rule sets. A common spamming technique is to send messages in all HTML format, which prevents most message body scans from reading data correctly. These filters ensure that these messages are examined and spam is identified. HTML filters are updated with new VisNetic MailServer software releases to reflect new HTML spam tendencies.

❖ Bayesian Filtering

Bayesian filtering statistically calculates the probability that each inbound message is spam. The Bayesian filter updates automatically via a spam database that is uploaded to the server. Bayesian filtering is cutting-edge anti-spam technology capable of eliminating nearly 100% of spam with little to no occurrence of false-positives (legitimate email incorrectly labeled as spam). Because it is measuring probabilities, the Bayesian approach considers all the content in an email, both good and bad. Email containing a high number of bad elements with few good elements achieves a high probability and is automatically deleted, rejected or placed in the recipient's Spam folder. Email containing a high number of good elements with few bad elements is accepted. This ensures that an otherwise innocent email that happens to include the word "buy" is not going to get tagged as spam.

❖ Email Content Filtering

VisNetic MailServer has a very powerful and intuitive email content filtering tool. Filter incoming and outgoing emails based on a number of variables including, subject, sender and/or recipient, key words in the text, and more, through a user-friendly interface. Set the content filter to forward, delete, reject or allow messages. Programs and DLL's can also be executed. You can even create a filter for attachments using layman's logic.

❖ FTP Server

VisNetic MailServer introduces a feature rich File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server. The integrated FTP Server allows users to access their mail folders with FTP Client software. The FTP Server also allows you to schedule live (automatic) mail data backup, transfer files securely, and most importantly ISPs can now offer users email, a web site and remote FTP space, all within VisNetic MailServer.

❖ RBL and CF Bypass Files

VisNetic MailServer supports several bypass files. If a named file exists with certain content, or if a message contains a recipient or sender listed in the bypass file, the content filters or anti spam filters will be ignored. The file can contain email addresses and domains, IP addresses, masks each per line.

❖ Spam Email Blocker

All filter files support header, attachment, body, IP, as well as other conditions using RegEx (like 'contains'). Further enable protection by using SPAM email blocker services that incorporate a black list of known spammers, to effectively block the relaying of SPAM through VisNetic MailServer.

❖   White and Black Lists

White and Black lists allow you to define which email addresses are permitted or denied. Lists can be administered by users or administrators via VisNetic WebMail, the Jabber Instant Messaging Client, and addresses can be added via the Challenge-Response Mechanism - e.g., if a message originator verifies himself as a legitimate source he or she can automatically be added to the white list.

❖   VisNetic GroupWare Support

GroupWare is collaboration software that integrates directly with VisNetic Mail Server, Outlook 2000/2002/XP/2003, VisNetic WebMail and any other application via an open API--providing web-based access to shared calendars, appointments and address books. This is an out-of-the box solution that enables easy access to shared address books, appointments, invitations, automated reminders, and more. VisNetic GroupWare is the most comprehensive, cost-effective shared calendaring and address book solution available.

❖   Instant Messaging Server

Host your own instant messaging server in-house without additional software or installations. Included in VisNetic MailServer is an Instant Messaging Server that allows you to communicate internally and externally via an encrypted, SSL connection. This method of communication will greatly increase productivity, allowing employees and/or customers to correspond while multitasking, see who is Online/available without leaving your desk, and much more. Also use IM to access pending messages (designated by spam filters) and calendaring information.

❖   ODBC Support

VisNetic MailServer can connect to any ODBC compliant database (e.g. SQL, MySQL, Access). This simplifies setup of user accounts, mailing lists, etc., as existing lists can be imported into VisNetic Mail Server. Support for ODBC connections also allows for centralized management of user data. Instead of creating and maintaining user data in multiple applications, administrators can manage and backup the data in one place, accessing it from VisNetic MailServer with ease.

❖   Multiple Domain Support

With Multiple Domain Support, a single VisNetic MailServer can handle several unique domains (or different addresses). If a company has several identities, all mail can be handled through one server. By reducing the administration burden inherent in running multiple email servers, all email tasks can be made more efficient, and a company can apply consistent routing and filtering rules across all of its accounts.

❖   Multiple Email Protocol Support

VisNetic MailServer offers support for POP3, SMTP, IMAP, LDAP, HTTP, and WAP (available through VisNetic WebMail). Account holders can check their mail using email software on desktop computers, laptops, cell phones, and PDAs.

❖   Mailing List/ List Server

An email message can be sent to a single address and automatically distributed to several different recipients. The administrator can create multiple mailing lists, of various sizes. VisNetic Mail Server's List Server allows for the administration of a mailing list via email commands. The List Server also supports moderated lists. A company can take advantage of lists to keep several account holders in contact with one another and quickly contact large groups with critical information.

❖   Remote and Encrypted Web Administration

VisNetic MailServer supports remote administration options for mail administrators. The Remote GUI is a user-interface that interacts with MailServer over SSL sockets while providing a familiar interface to enact changes and updates to VisNetic MailServer from a computer other than the server itself. The Web Administration utility gives an administrator complete control of the mail server through a secure, browser connection.

❖   VisNetic WebMail

Included standard with any VisNetic MailServer license, VisNetic WebMail is a web based email client that can be accessed through any Internet browser on a computer with Internet access. Access email accounts, shared calendars (using VisNetic GroupWare), pending messages (designated by spam filters), and much more via your web browser. A built-in WAP engine allows VisNetic WebMail to deliver messages to PDAs and cell phones as well. VisNetic WebMail supports secure (https) connections by default, to better protect all email activity.

❖ Remote Account (MultiPOP)
VisNetic MailServer's MultiPOP account feature makes it possible to collect email messages from any number of POP accounts on multiple servers and deposit them directly into the VisNetic MailServer user's mailbox.

❖ Windows NT User Import
VisNetic MailServer eases administration efforts by supporting the import of a pre-existing Windows NT user database. VisNetic MailServer will use the NT database to create user accounts.

❖ API DLL Support
API DLL support allows programmers to develop programs and DLL's that can interface with the VisNetic MailServer directly. This gives programmers the freedom to create programs that allow for direct access to the mail server to manipulate and create domains, users, mailing lists, and more.

❖ Auto Reply Support
VisNetic MailServer can be set up to automatically mail a user-defined message anytime an email is received to the specified users account. Particularly useful for employees who spend a great deal of time out of the office, or during vacations.

❖ APOP Support
Passwords are secure, even when logging in across the Internet, because VisNetic Mail Server is able to encrypt this data.

❖ IMAP - Shared Folders
VMS supports public IMAP Folders. Public folders are folders available to IMAP users, in addition to their private IMAP folders. When an IMAP user accesses their folder list, they will see both their private and shared folders; mail directories may be shared, while limiting each user to the mail server associated with their individual logon credentials.

❖ IMAP - Rules
Route an IMAP message via SMTP to any folder (even shared folders), based on specified criteria. This feature allows administrators to maintain rules settings on the server, as users check email from various clients.

❖ Content Filter SML Export/Import
Export content filter configurations from Mail Server to Mail Server to eliminate redundancy in recreating complex configurations - great for organizations running multiple mail servers.

❖ Atomic Clock
In business, it is critical to be able to determine when events happen. VisNetic MailServer performs time synchronization using NTP (network time protocol), the most widely accepted method for maintaining time across a network. NTP is not based on the principle of synchronizing machines with each other, but with having all machines as close as possible to UTC (universal correct time).

❖ Catalog Support
This feature allows users to retrieve contents of specified directories. For example, you can specify the path to the VMS log directory, send an email to the catalog, and have VMS send the log to you.

❖ ACL (Access Control List)

Control access to public and shared folders using Access Control Lists; specify rights for each mailbox and identifier (user).

❖ TLS/SSL Support

TLS (Transport Layer Security)/SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Support allows VisNetic Mail Server to pass email messages in an encrypted format between servers, and from secure clients (i.e.; any TLS/SSL enabled client; POP3, IMAP, LDAP, etc., like Outlook) to servers. By using these security protocols, a company with multiple offices can create a secure email pipeline with VisNetic Mail Servers at both ends of the connection and with secure clients for employees. Encrypted messages are safe from hackers or information thieves.

For email sent to unknown mail servers on the Internet, VisNetic MailServer will always attempt a secure connection before sending. VisNetic MailServer is set up to use TLS as its primary encryption method when communicating with another TLS enabled mail server. If TLS is unavailable, VisNetic MailServer will automatically use SSL.

❖ Antivirus Protection Support

VisNetic AntiVirus Protection Plug-in for VisNetic MailServer places comprehensive email antivirus protection directly on the mail server. By placing antivirus protection on the email gateway, an entire network is protected from inbound email born viruses. Powered by Kaspersky Labs, VisNetic AntiVirus Protection Plug-in is powered by leading edge technology and uses the latest antivirus protection information available.

❖ Tarpitting

Administrators can configure VisNetic MailServer to check for unsuccessful attempts to deliver emails to unknown users by external or local non-existing users. If the number of attempts in a session exceeds the number specified by the Admin, the IP address of the sender will be remembered for that period and no access from that IP address will be allowed within the period.

❖ Authentication Support

VisNetic MailServer allows email clients to authenticate before sending and receiving email. By using authentication methods, VisNetic MailServer can further protect itself from being used as a relay point. Users must identify themselves to the server and be approved to use the mail server.

❖ Email Content Filtering

VisNetic MailServer has a very powerful and intuitive email content filtering tool. Filter incoming and outgoing emails based on a number of variables including, subject, sender and/or recipient, key words in the text, and more, through a user-friendly interface. Set the content filter to forward, delete, reject or allow messages. Programs and DLL's can also be executed. You can even create a filter for attachments using layman's logic.

❖ Mailbox Restrictions

Restrictions can be placed on mailboxes according to overall size, maximum number of megabytes sent per day, even maximum number of messages sent per day. These restrictions help administrators control bandwidth across all accounts.

❖ RBL and CF Bypass Files

VisNetic MailServer supports several bypass files. If a named file exists with certain content, or if a message contains a recipient or sender listed in the bypass file, the content filters or anti spam filters will be ignored. The file can contain email addresses and domains, IP addresses, masks each per line.

❖ Multiple CPU Support

VisNetic MailServer will recognize and utilize multiple processors installed on the server computer. This results in optimum performance when the server experiences heavy traffic. By taking advantage of all the available processing power, VisNetic MailServer is able to handle more email faster than its competitors.

❖ Scheduled Backup

Administrators can configure VisNetic Mail Server to automatically backup critical system information, such as user account data, server configurations, and license data, and will store the backup file separate from the mail server. Should anything happen to VisNetic Mail Server or the computer it is running on, restoration is made easier with the backup file safely stored elsewhere. It is also possible to run a manual backup at any time.

❖ Real Time Monitoring

VisNetic MailServer's Real Time Monitoring provides SMTP/POP3/IMAP Statistics on Uptime, Total Connections, Messages Sent/Received, and Message Failures due to Viruses, Static Filters and Content Filter Configurations.

This information is displayed graphically to administrators, for "at-a-glance" stats on the performance.

Active SMTP and POP3 sessions are also displayed, along with session histories.

❖ Watchdog

VisNetic MailServer's watchdog feature ensures that SMTP, POP3, IMAP services (or an ODBC source - Pro version only) are always running. If a service stops for any reason, watchdog will automatically restart it, based on the set time interval indicated by the Administrator. Administrators can also request to be notified when a service is down for more than "x" minutes, and when the server is back online. By automatically monitoring these delivery protocols, VisNetic Mail Server is better equipped to keep itself running smoothly, and delivering email.

❖ Disk Space Monitor

The Disk Space monitor will track the available hard disk space on the server computer. When the free space reaches a user specified level, the Disk Space Monitor will trigger VisNetic MailServer to send notification to the server administrator. By actively tracking the disk space, VisNetic MailServer protects against failure caused by a lack of memory.

❖ On-Demand Mail Relay (ATRN)

ATRN allows a user to reliably run a mail server when using a dynamic IP address. When using ATRN, messages are immediately downloaded to the requesting host.

❖ Dial-Up Networking (DUN) Support

DUN support allows VisNetic MailServer to run even when it is not connected to a permanent Internet connection. Administrators can set connection times and the mail server can automatically trigger the Internet connection, complete its mail tasks, and shut the connection down again.

❖ Extensive Logging

Separate logs can be produced for each individual service in VisNetic MailServer (including POP3, SMTP, IMAP, and Control and HTTP services). As well, VisNetic Mail Server can produce logs showing activity by users, including the size and number of messages sent and received by each account.

3.0 What's New in VisNetic MailServer 8.3

VisNetic MailServer 8.3 features a powerful FTP server and updated license module. VMS 8.3 includes 400+ new features, enhancements, and bug fixes.

- FTP Server
- New License Module

- Enhanced AntiSpam Processing
- Mailbox Path Alphabetical Sorting
- Log Rotation
- Maximum Bandwidth Limit
- IP Address Tarpitting Option
- Login Policy / IP Restrictions
- Refined GUI Statistics
- Service Monitor Email Alerts
- Domain Keys
- Sender Policy Framework (SPF) and Sender Rewriting Scheme (SRS)
- Greylisting
- AntiSpam Logging
- Challenge Queue
- Improved Outlook Connector
- Web Administration

3.1 What's New – FTP Server

VisNetic MailServer 8.3 introduces a feature rich **File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server**. The integrated FTP Server allows users to access their mail folders via FTP. The FTP Server also allows you to schedule live (automatic) mail data backup, transfer files securely, and most importantly ISPs can now offer users **email**, **a web site** and remote **FTP** space, all within VisNetic MailServer.
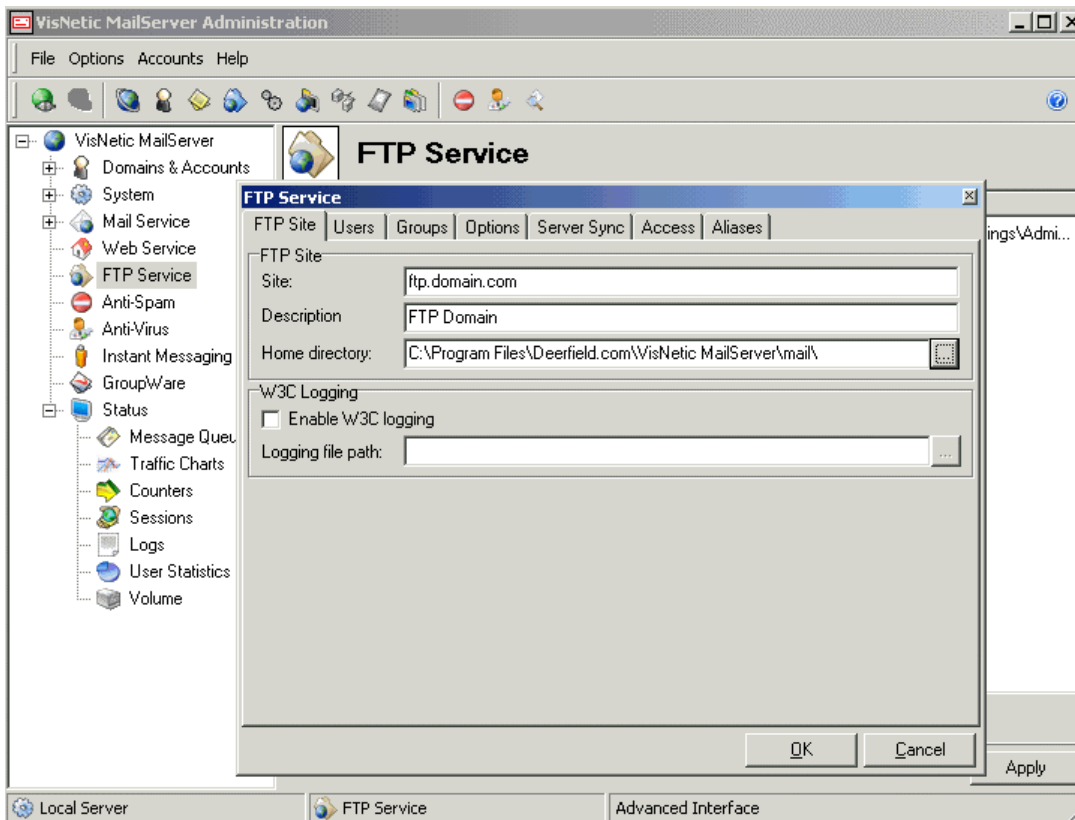
3.2 What's New – License Module

A new licensing system is introduced in VisNetic MailServer 8.3. VisNetic MailServer licenses issued prior to v8.3 will require replacement and are no longer supported.

- VMS licenses will be provided in XML format
- The license file contains all licenses and their attributes, requiring only a single license block for all modules.
- The Server Reference Key format has changed and is now segmented into four sections derived from hardware and software details local to the server.
- The license file is now encrypted with an asymmetric RSA cipher.

3.3 What's New – Enhanced AntiSpam Processing

Instant AntiSpam "scoring" process has been improved. If enabled, the Instant AntiSpam module processes all messages received by VisNetic MailServer. **SpamAssassin** technology is utilized to heuristically examine each message against hundreds of rules and checks. **Each message receives a score** based on the likelihood that it is spam. Based on this score, the message may be marked as **[Spam]**, **Quarantined** (held for review), or **Deleted** automatically.

3.4 What's New – Mailbox Path Alphabetical Sorting

Mailbox path **alphabetical sorting** is particularly beneficial for VisNetic MailServer installations with a large number of domains with **hundreds of accounts**. If enabled, every new account will be sorted and have a mailbox path similar to:

Domain\a\adam
Domain\a\aidan

The middle path is taken from the alias. If two characters had been specified as the path prefix, the domain folder would look like:

Domain\ad\adam
Domain\ai\aidan

Storage

Accounts | Directories | Load Balancing | Local Settings

Directories

Mail path: `C:\Program Files\Deerfield.com\VisNetic MailServer\mail\`   ...

Temp path: `C:\Program Files\Deerfield.com\VisNetic MailServer\temp\`   ...

Log path: `C:\Program Files\Deerfield.com\VisNetic MailServer\logs\`   ...

Mailbox Path

☑ Use mailbox path alphabetical sorting

Number of characters from alias to path prefix   `0`
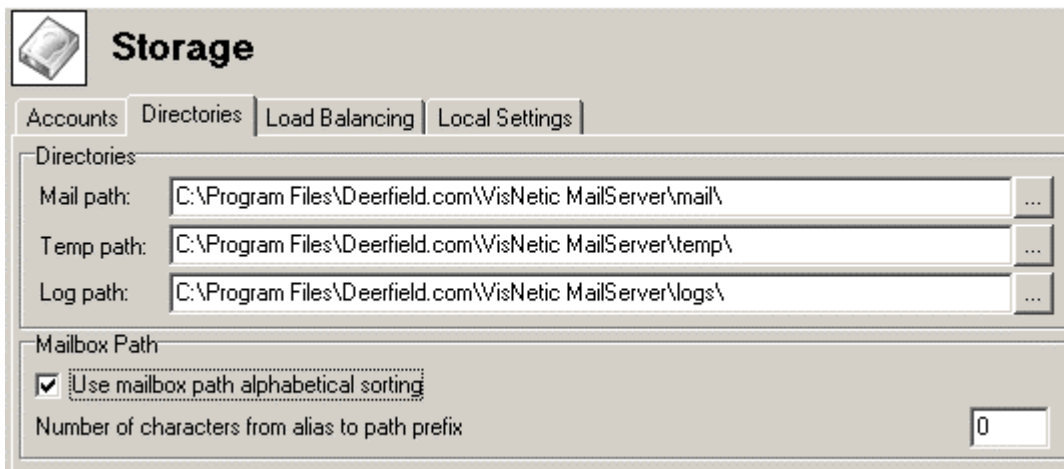
3.5 What's New – Log Rotation

Log rotation is important for high traffic servers. It's not uncommon for servers with high traffic to create logs in excess of 1GB, thus cannot be effectively handled by any log analyzer. The Log Rotation feature **conveniently splits each log into several more manageable log files**.

Entering a MB value greater than zero will activate the log file rotation function. When the log file reaches this limit, a new file is created.
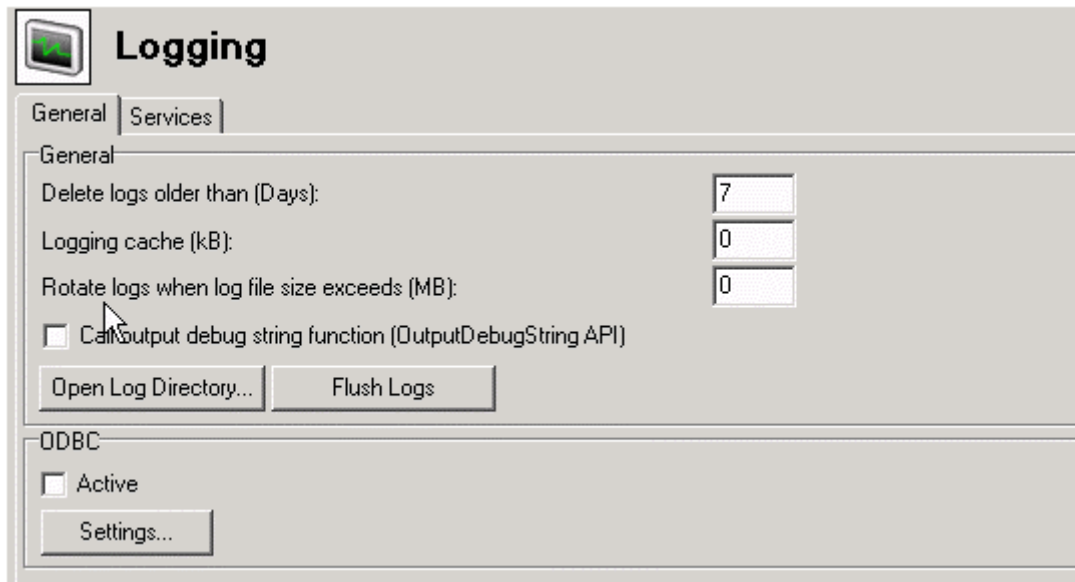
3.6 What's New – Maximum Bandwidth Limit
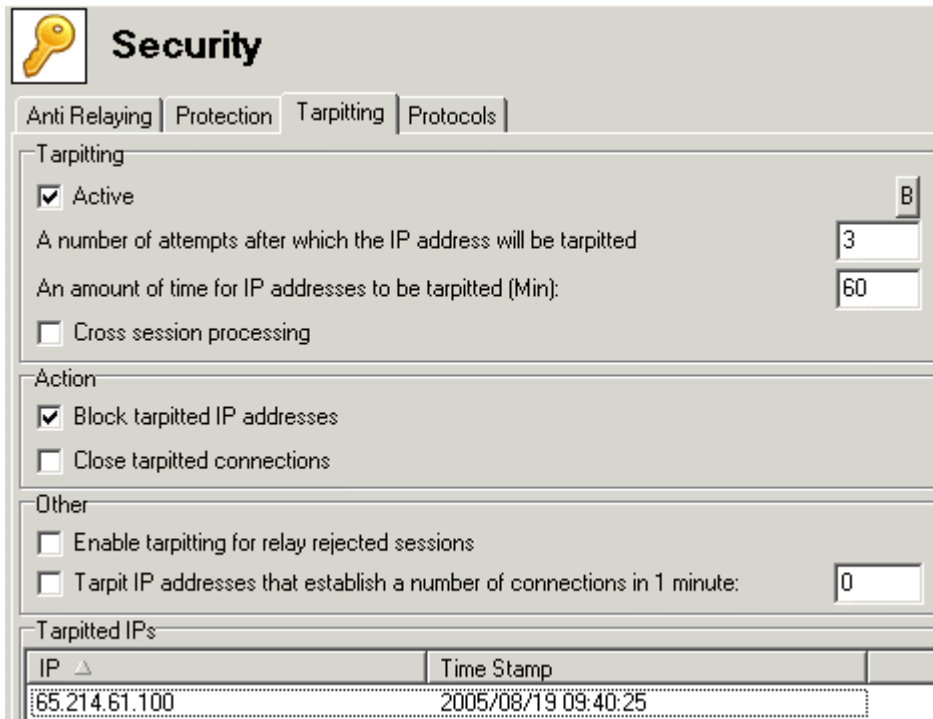
This feature was introduced to help **manage bandwidth consumption**. Restricting bandwidth for a particular service will ensure total connection resources are not occupied. Measured in kilobytes per second, each service may be **limited** to the maximum bandwidth it uses. Trusted IPs (Relaying from) are bypassed.
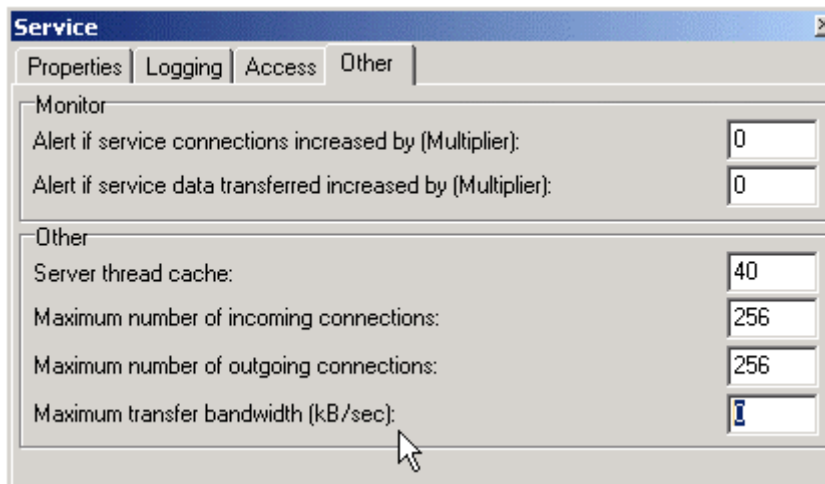
3.7 What's New – IP Address Tarpitting Option

Enabling Block tarpitted IP addresses will **store the tarpitters IP in Tarpit IP database** and blocks the IP for the **specified time period**.

The unchecked state of this option lets you use the tarpitting feature but the Tarpit IP db is not utilized, allowing you to force such sessions to be closed only.

3.8 What's New – Login Policy / IP Restrictions

Often it is important to ensure that a particular email account is only accessible from certain computers or networks. The **IP restrictions** option offers a **flexible IP security** system, which can be configured to allow access to the accounts via the specified IPs.

An example of this enhanced security feature would be to allow account access to only those IPs of you LAN. This helps prevent access to the account from compromised computers outside the LAN. Special allowances can be made for remote computers/users.

3.9 What's New – GUI Statistics

An entirely new design is introduced in VMS 8.3. The statistics are now displayed per service; SMTP, POP3, IMAP, Instant Messaging, GroupWare, Web Control, and FTP. Displayed statistics are dependent on the service selected.
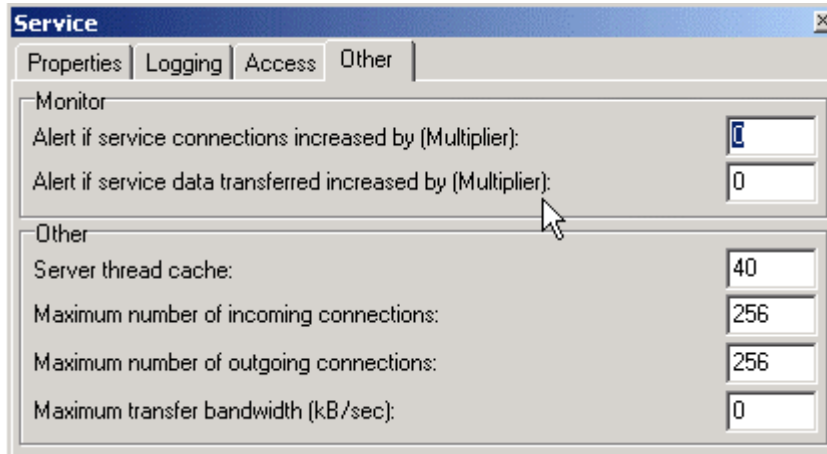
3.10 What's New – Service Monitor

VisNetic MailServer services can now be monitored and issue an **email alert** when specific increases/characteristics are detected. Entering a multiplier of 2 would trigger an alert when the service connections increase 200% (doubled).

3.11 What's New – DomainKeys

A significant new technology in combating spam, DomainKeys is an essential component of email security. DomainKeys are used to verify not only the message sender to the recipient, but also ensure that the message itself is not intercepted in the SMTP session, ensuring that the sender is who they say they are, and that the message is from them.

3.12 What's New - SPF & Sender Rewriting Scheme (SRS)

VisNetic MailServer features support for Sender Policy Framework (SPF), an anti spam measure designed to fight email address forgery. SPF **verifies the authenticity** of the sender's FROM address by performing a DNS query to verify that the sending server is authorized to send email on behalf of that address. To counter issues with SMTP forwarding VisNetic MailServer has introduced SRS. SRS forces the **rewriting** of the MAIL FROM address by the forwarding agent.

3.13 What's New – Greylisting

Greylisting provides a **"temporary reject"** of any receiving email not recognized by VisNetic MailServer. If the email is legitimate, the originating mail server will attempt to resend the message (per RFC) at which time VisNetic MailServer will accept it. The objective here is that most spammers or automated mailers are not configured to retry messages.

3.14 What's New – AntiSpam Logging

Instant AntiSpam logging makes it possible to track and determine what antispam tests were performed against the message and **why a message was or was not marked as Spam**. This information will assist the mail administrator in configuring their spam/quarantine/deletion levels more effectively.

3.15 What's New – Challenge Response Challenge Queue

Located in the VisNetic MailServer Admin Console, the Challenge Queue dialog window. The dialog allows the administrator to **control and maintain the status of challenged messages**. The dialog presents the status and history of challenged messages as well as serving as a filter, where the admin can sort messages according to their status, owner or sender. The Challenge Queue provides the ability to delete and authorize pending messages.

3.16 What's New – Improved GroupWare Outlook Connector

The new GroupWare Outlook Connector has been simplified making it more **user-friendly**. The redesigned interface simplifies **adding shared accounts** and **friends** and is now multithreaded and supports Outlook distribution lists.

3.17 What's New – Web Administration

Back by popular demand, Web Based Administration allows administrators to access the **VMS Admin console** remotely through a **web browser**. Instead of having to load a

separate Remote Admin executable, simply access a standard Internet browser and enter the designated Web Admin URL to configure or monitor your MailServer installation. The Web Admin interface has been redesigned to make it more flexible and administrator friendly.
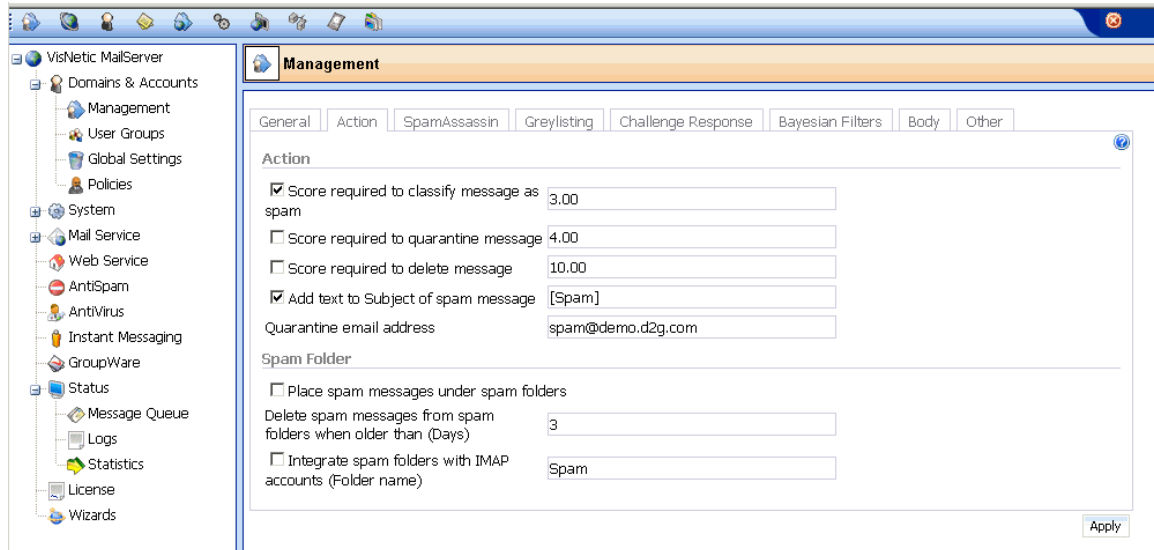
3.18 What's New – Miscellaneous

Other enhancements include: Improved API, Updated SpamAssassin Engine, IM Modules, SNMP Server, XML Content Filters, and WebMail IP address logging.

Technical Support

Technical Support Options

Technical Support for VisNetic MailServer is offered on several different levels. Please review the support options and select whichever is appropriate for your needs.

http://www.deerfield.com/support/VisNetic-MailServer

Reseller Purchase

Users who purchased VisNetic MailServer from an Authorized Deerfield.com Reseller will be referred back to them for support. For information about Authorized Deerfield.com Resellers, or to locate a reseller near you visit:

http://www.deerfield.com/corporate/resellers/

Sales and Reseller Inquiries

Sales questions (of a non-technical nature) relative to VisNetic MailServer software should be directed to **sales@deerfield.com**. Alternatively, you can call Deerfield.com at (989) 732-8856.