

Too many people see email as a perfect way to make your life hell. Whether its the inexperienced script kiddie or the 'black hat' professional. **By Berni Dwan**

Email is in, and there is no way out. If you want to do business, you use email as an essential tool. If you want to be left out in the cold, you don't. Taking that route will guarantee your security but put you out of business. So, you have to take

on email seriously, or should we say, take on seriously the risks of using email in a world where too many people see it as a perfect way to make your life hell.

You too can do damage by accidentally or prematurely sending

email that you cannot stop or retrieve, and this is where products that give you control over the life cycle of your email are invaluable. You are at risk from the enemy within, the enemy without, careless colleagues and your own mistakes.

VisualRoute

Version 6.0
Supplier Visualware, Inc.
Price from \$39.95 (single license)
Contact www.visualware.com



Answering the question "Why can't I get there from here?" VisualRoute provides an analysis of the Internet from where you are to where you want to go, helping you to navigate your data's journey and locate jams and delays. Simple to set up and manage, VisualRoute is an easy-to-use geographical tool that determines precisely where and how traffic is flowing between two points on the Internet. It will determine if a connectivity problem is due to your ISP, the Internet, or the host you are connecting to. It will counteract spam by using contact information provided by popup network and domain WHOIS information. It will identify routing loops, whose network has the problem, and identify the web software that a server is running.

It does so by harnessing common Internet utilities like ping, whois and traceroute to automatically analyze the traffic, assessing any Internet connectivity and performance problems. The results are then displayed in a table and world map with performance reports relating to each leg of the route. An overall analysis gives a brief description in plain English of the number of hops, where problems occurred, and the type of web server software running at the site that you are trying to reach. The data table lists information for each hop, including the IP address, node name, geographical location and the major

Internet backbone where each server resides.

VisualRoute's inherent tracking features also allow you to play detective, especially if you are anxious to identify servers sending spam, identify the sources of online fraud schemes, denial-of-service attacks or most importantly, child pornography. Its ability to identify the geographical location of routers and servers is extremely valuable to help identify the source of network intrusions and Internet abusers.

There may of course be IP addresses that you do not want VisualRoute to trace, and this is simply achieved by entering the IP range in the secure.txt file. Henceforth, if there is any attempt to trace directly to a secure IP address in this file it will be treated as a DNS error. The eMailTracker feature in the personal edition tracks an email address to the server, providing a useful tool to troubleshoot email problems and to identify/report spammers.

VisualRoute Server is a separate option that adds web server functionality, giving easy access to

VisualRoute through a web browser. It acts as its own web server, and does not require any third party web server application to function. This option is very useful in network environments with a firewall that blocks ping and traceroute information. By placing VisualRoute Server outside a firewall, users inside the firewall can have traceroute capabilities that are otherwise blocked by the firewall. The server option is also helpful in the case where a host site wants to provide traceroute information to their customers, to assist with quickly troubleshooting connectivity problems and improving service to end-users.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★

FOR Delivers the functionality of ping, whois and traceroute tools, in a high-speed visually integrated package.
AGAINST None.
VERDICT You will want to ascertain your network connectivity problems promptly, and VisualRoute is invaluable here as it tracks all IP hops in parallel instead of consecutively.



SC Magazine reprint

By placing VisualRoute Server outside a firewall, users inside the firewall can have traceroute capabilities that are otherwise blocked by the firewall.

Berni Dwan



Contact details:
 Visualware Inc., PO Box 668,
 Turlock, CA 95381, USA
www.visualware.com

Sales information:
sales@visualware.com
 866-847-9273 / 703-802-9006