

CAPTCHA alternatives

If your web forms are getting spammed, and CAPTCHA isn't a good solution, here are some possible alternatives.

- <http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=1836>
- <http://softwareas.com/captcha-alternatives-and-end-user-attitudes>
- I've taken to renaming our feedback pages, and then using robots.txt to prevent search engines from indexing their new names.
- Related Link: <https://kb.ucla.edu/link/438>

The Akismet service has a good reputation, and is widely used by Wordpress amongst others. It could be another layer of protection against spam.

- <http://akismet.com/> (official site)
- <http://codex.wordpress.org/Akismet> (an example of it in a blogcentric CMS)

Jared Smith of [WebAIM](#) has compiled a series of server-side processing techniques that get rid of spam without the use of CAPTCHA. Scripts are provided in PHP.

Spam-Free Accessible Forms

The scripts include:

- Detect spam-like content within submitted form elements
- Detect content within a hidden form element
- Validate the submitted form values
- Search for the same content in multiple form elements
- Generate dynamic content to ensure the form is submitted within a specific time window or by the same user
- Create a multi-stage form or form verification page
- Ensure the form is posted from your server

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