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Identifying Comment Spammers

By [Roger Keays](#), 3 July 2007

Today I've been having a closer look at the Apache log files to try and sort out a problem we've been having with comment spam. It was surprisingly easy to find the log entries for comment spam. The pattern is basically:

- A POST without a `Referer` header or preceding GET, and/or
- The text 'User-Agent' in the `User-Agent` identifier

I was surprised that the spammer(s) made the mistake of beginning their fake `User-Agent` identifier with the words 'User-Agent'. That made it very simple for me to find the relevant log entries.

Thanks

About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed address and has left footprints on 40-something different countries around the world.

Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.