



Fairfield County Bank  
150 Danbury Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Phone: 1-203-431-7431  
Toll Free: 1-877-431-7431

### **Keep Your Email Safe from Web Scraping**

**Web Scraping** is a technique used to extract large amounts of data from websites, such as your email address, and saved for future use. Web scraping is also referred to as web harvesting and screen scraping.

#### **Why is it done?**

Spammers use web scraping to look on millions of web sites, message boards, blogs, posts etc. They look for valid email addresses that they can send you junk mail from and then in return mimic (spoof) your email address and send junk mail out as you. This is dangerous because once your email address gets listed as a spam sender (even though it was not really you sending it), it's difficult to reverse this listing of your email address as a spammer and some of your legitimate email might get auto-blocked by some of your recipients.

#### **Protect yourself!**

There are several steps you can take to protect yourself from web harvesting. Do not post your email address on a website where your full email address can be seen by others. Most reliable sites have a way to enter your address without exposing it to everyone. If you wish to post your email address on a message board or other public forum, use phrases that will make it more difficult to be scraped. An example of this would be johnsmith at G Mail dot com instead of johnsmith@gmail.com.