postmetry

A

What's inside the newsletter from

Alternate

Sender	noreply@newsletter.alternate.de
Sending platform	Optimizely
Sector	High-tech & electronics
Emails read	11 campaigns, 2 transactional
Period	August 2026

Our address was subscribed in August 2026, after the CNIL recommendation was published (April 14, 2026).

Overall score

A B **C** 78/100 D E F

The main finding

An open-tracking pixel is present on all 2 transactional messages.

It is the first of 4 points to fix. The highest score is deliverability (100/100), the lowest compliance (45/100), better than 67% of the 566 brands measured.

Transactional
2 messages

August 2026 · calculated on 24 October

Compliance

45 /100

better than 67% of the 566 brands measured

Deliverability

100 /100

better than 45% of the 565 brands measured

Technical

88 /100

better than 53% of the 566 brands measured

Experience

94 /100

better than 98% of the 566 brands measured

4 points to fix

Each line leads to the criterion in its family, with the excerpt that establishes it and how to fix it.

Priority

An open-tracking pixel is present

Criterion “No open-tracking pixel” · Compliance · on all 2 transactional messages

−35 pts
out of 35 in Compliance

```
<img src="http://newsletter.alternate.de/op/***/***" width="1" height="1" borde…
```

Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level.

Priority

No separate path to refuse tracking

Criterion “The recipient keeps control over tracking” · Compliance · measured on 2 transactional messages

−20 pts
out of 20 in Compliance

A path separate from the unsubscribe link leads to a preference centre where the recipient can refuse tracking (opens, clicks) without unsubscribing.

To review

A remote stylesheet is called

Criterion “No remote stylesheet” · Technical · on all 2 transactional messages

−10 pts
out of 10 in Technical

CSS rules go inside the message, in a <style> block or inline on the elements; no <link rel="stylesheet"> and no @import pointing to a server.

Secondary

The message reads poorly without its images or does not announce itself in the inbox

Criterion “The message makes sense without its images, from the inbox on” · Experience · measured on 2 transactional messages

−6.2 pts
out of 25 in Experience

18 criteria met, including « The message says who is writing and under which rules » and « DKIM signature validated ». They are listed in their family, below.

Every send, at the time it arrived

One dot per message received by our subscription since August. Tap a dot to open it; the arrows move from one send to the next.

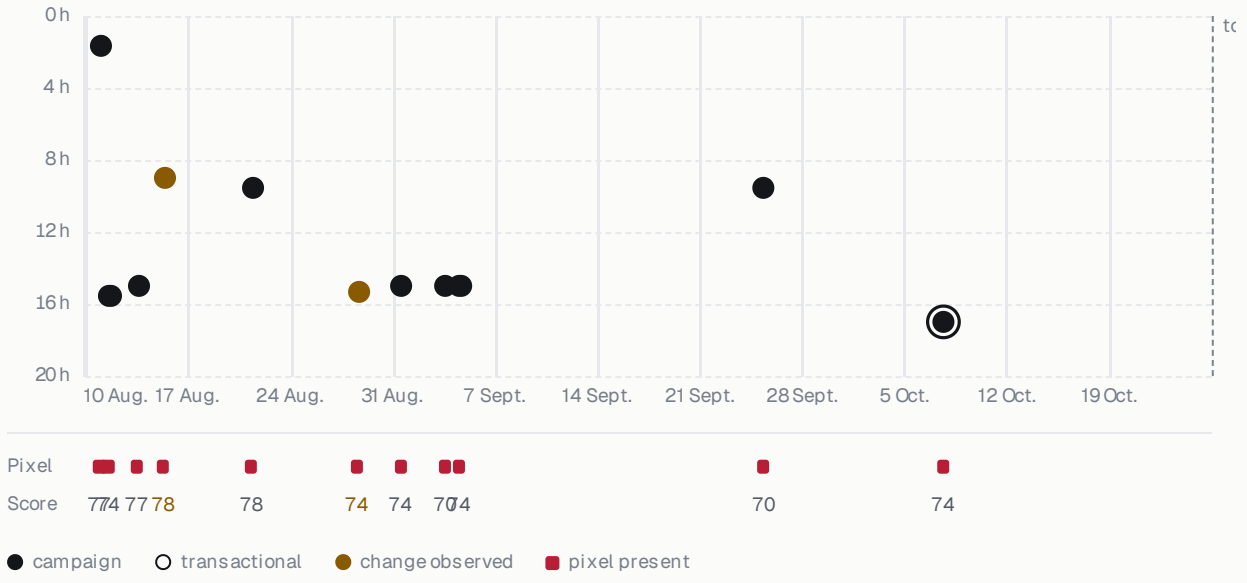
Technical reading of the send of Aug. 8, 2026 →

11
campaigns in 8 weeks
about one a week, from August to October

No fixed day
sending day
Friday leads, 4 of the 11 campaigns

15 h
favourite sending hour
55% of campaigns arrive between 15:00 and 16:00

7 Oct.
last send received
« ⏰ Letzte Chance: Die Cyber Week endet am Freitag! 😱 »



Campaign 11 of 11

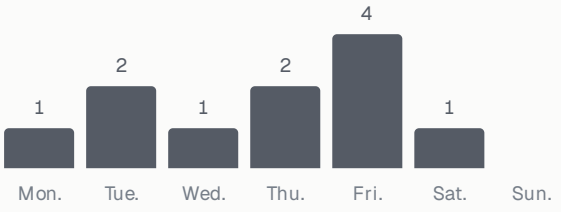
Wednesday 7 Oct., 17:00

⏰ Letzte Chance: Die Cyber Week endet am Freitag! 😱

Type	Marketing campaign
Score	74 / 100
Pixel	Present, detected by its size

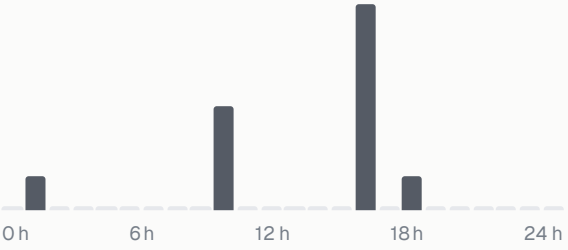
Sending day

Tap a bar to find its sends on the timeline.



Arrival time

Hour by hour, on the 11 campaigns.



2 changes observed since August

Each campaign is compared with the previous one, criterion by criterion.

15 Aug.	The detail of this change, criterion by criterion, is reserved for the Pro version. confirmed by the next campaign · the per-send score goes from 77 to 78
28 Aug.	The detail of this change, criterion by criterion, is reserved for the Pro version. confirmed by the next campaign · the per-send score goes from 78 to 74

Criteria in detail

The 24 criteria + 1 bonus

18 met · **1** partly met · **3** not met · **0** not observable · **2** not applicable

Compliance

These checks cover what the send imposes on the recipient and what it leaves them: measurement of their behaviour, ways to leave, tracking of their objection.

Tracking pixels: the CNIL rule · Method, Compliance family

better than 67% of the 566 brands measured

The calculation · 45 pts out of 100 — 3 met · 2 not met · 1 not applicable

Weight of each criterion in the score.

No open-tracking pixel — Not met

0/35 pts

Open-tracking pixel detected on the 2 transactional messages concerned

0 points out of 35 — met on 0 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

An invisible image tells the sending platform that the message was opened, when, and from which device: this is individual tracking of reading behavior, and the recipient sees none of it. The message does not say whether they consented or objected — that choice lives in the sending platform, not in the email.

Served from `alternate.de`.

The excerpt that establishes it

```
<img src="http://newsletter.alternate.de/op/***/***" width
="1" height="1" border="0" alt="" style="height:0;display:blo
ck;">
```

How to fix it

Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level. Look for “open tracking”.

Turning it off loses the open rate — a measure already largely distorted by mailbox privacy protections, which preload images — and changes nothing about the click rate.

Met when no tracking pixel is present. A single pixel is enough for the criterion not to be met on an email.

CNIL 14/04/2026 · LIL art.82 · PM-PRIV-001 · The detection rule

Unsubscribing is possible and announced — Not applicable

not applicable

This measurement did not apply to any of the emails received. It **drops out of the denominator**: it is never counted as a failure.

Met when the message announces unsubscribing in its headers, through a page rather than an email to write, and in its body. The detail says which of the two is missing. Not applicable to a

transactional email.

RFC 2369 · PM-PRIV-002

The recipient keeps control over tracking

Not met

0/20 pts

No separate path to refuse tracking on the 2 transactional messages concerned (0 of 1 measures met)

0 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

How to fix it

A path separate from the unsubscribe link leads to a preference centre where the recipient can refuse tracking (opens, clicks) without unsubscribing. Most email platforms offer this page; otherwise it goes in the template footer, with its own link, named for what it does ("manage my preferences", "refuse tracking").

The page takes an afternoon to set up and then serves every send. It is what the CNIL recommendation expects from an email that measures how its readers behave.

Two measures: does the unsubscribe link go through a tracker, and does a separate path lead to a preference center or to refusing tracking? Neither establishes that a refusal succeeds — checking would require following the link, which would record a click on the sending platform's side. They describe the control left to the recipient, not the result they would get.

What was measured — 0 met out of 1

- Untracked unsubscribe link — no emails concerned Not observable
- No separate path to refuse tracking on the 2 transactional messages concerned Not met

CNIL 14/04/2026 · Postmetry · PM-PRIV-003

The message says who is writing and under which rules

Met

20 pts

The message says who is writing and under which rules on 2 transactional messages

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

A commercial email must make it possible to identify the advertiser (CPCE, article L. 34-5), and the recipient must be able to know who processes their data. This indicator groups what a message can show of it.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- The message names its sender on 2 transactional messages Met
- A reply to the message is possible on 2 transactional messages Met
- A link leads to the privacy policy on 2 transactional messages Met

CPCE L. 34-5 · directive 2000/31 art. 6 · CAN-SPAM · PM-PRIV-004

An untracked path leads to the site

Met

15 pts

An untracked path leads to the site on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when at least one link in the message leads to the brand's site without going through a click counter.

Postmetry · PM-PRIV-005

No recipient identifier in the message ■ Met

10 pts

No recipient identifier in the message on 2 transactional messages

10 points out of 10 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when the recipient's address appears — neither in clear, nor encoded, nor hashed — in no URL and no proprietary header. Addressing headers do not count: they carry it by design.

Postmetry · RGPD art.4 en repère · PM-PRIV-020

Deliverability

100
out of 100

These checks read the authentication verdict set by our server when the message arrived. This verdict is dated by construction: we never recalculate it, which would query today's DNS rather than the DNS of the day the email was sent.

Gmail sender requirements ↗ (https://support.google.com/a/answer/81126)
Yahoo requirements ↗ (https://senders.yahooinc.com/best-practices/) Method, Deliverability family

better than 45% of the 565 brands measured

The calculation · 70 pts out of 70, scaled to 100

5 met · 1 not applicable

20	20	15	10	5

Weight of each criterion in the score.

DKIM signature validated ■ Met

20 pts

Valid DKIM signature on 2 transactional messages

20 points out of 20 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when our receiving server validated the DKIM signature of the email.

RFC 6376 · RFC 8601 · PM-DELIV-001
RFC 6376 — DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) Signatures (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc6376)
RFC 8601 — Message Header Field for Indicating Message Authentication Status (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8601)

DMARC alignment validated ■ Met

20 pts

DMARC alignment verified on 2 transactional messages

20 points out of 20 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when the domain shown in the sender matches the one that authenticated the message.

RFC 9989 · PM-DELIV-002
RFC 9989 — Domain-Based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989)

DMARC policy that helps keep out some impersonation ■ Met

15 pts

Active DMARC policy on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when the published policy is “reject” or “quarantine”. A “none” policy asks nothing of mail providers: it is published with no effect on messages that impersonate the domain.

RFC 9989 §4.7 · PM-DELIV-003 · RFC 9989 — section 4.7, "p" tag (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989#section-4.7)

No SPF failure — Met

10 pts

No SPF failure on 2 transactional messages

10 points out of 10 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when SPF does not fail. An SPF "none" alongside a valid DKIM and DMARC is a common and legitimate configuration: it is not penalized.

RFC 7208 · PM-DELIV-004

RFC 7208 — Sender Policy Framework (SPF) for Authorizing Use of Domains in Email (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7208)

One-click unsubscribe, as defined by RFC 8058 — Not applicable

not applicable

This measurement did not apply to any of the emails received. It **drops out of the denominator**: it is never counted as a failure.

Met when the "List-Unsubscribe" header carries an https address and "List-Unsubscribe-Post" is exactly "List-Unsubscribe=One-Click". This is what Gmail and Yahoo require of bulk senders: the mailbox's button then acts without opening a page. Not applicable to a transactional email.

RFC 8058 · Gmail et Yahoo · PM-DELIV-005

A DKIM signature that covers what matters — Met

5 pts

The DKIM signature covers what matters in the message on 2 transactional messages

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

What the signature covers, not only that it passes: an algorithm accepted by RFC 8301, the whole body signed, the From, Subject, Date and List-Unsubscribe headers signed, a signature not expired on receipt. Not applicable without a DKIM signature.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- Accepted signing algorithm on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Whole body signed on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Essential headers signed on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Signature valid on receipt — Not applicable

RFC 6376 · RFC 8301 · PM-DELIV-006

Technical

88
out of 100

These checks cover what email clients actually do with the message: truncation, style blocks removed, resources never loaded. Each threshold states where it comes from: the documented behaviour of an email client, a specification, or our own method.

Support by email client (caniemail) ↗ (https://www.caniemail.com/) Method, Technical family

better than 53% of the 566 brands measured

The calculation · 75 pts out of 85, scaled to 100

5 met · 1 not met

Weight of each criterion in the score.

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold — Met — 25 pts

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold on 2 transactional messages

25 points out of 25 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when the HTML part stays under 102 KB. Beyond that, Gmail cuts off the end of the message — and the end is where the unsubscribe link and the notices are.

Gmail · PM-TECH-001

A shallow template — Met — 20 pts

Shallow template on 2 transactional messages

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

Met when layout tables are nested no more than 6 levels deep. Beyond that, the Word engine shared by desktop Outlook and the diverging clients each render the template their own way.

What was measured — 1 met out of 1

- Lightly nested layout tables on 2 transactional messages Met

Postmetry · PM-TECH-002

Well-formed HTML — Met — 15 pts

Well-formed HTML on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

A doctype, a character set declared in the document, balanced tags and unique identifiers. Each client repairs incomplete markup its own way, which is what makes rendering unpredictable. End tags that HTML makes optional do not count.

What was measured — 4 met out of 4

- Doctype declared on 2 transactional messages Met
- Character set declared in the HTML on 2 transactional messages Met
- Balanced tags on 2 transactional messages Met
- Unique identifiers on 2 transactional messages Met

WHATWG · PM-TECH-030

Every link leads somewhere — Met — 10 pts

Every link leads somewhere on 2 transactional messages

10 points out of 10 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when no link is empty, reduced to "#" or written as "javascript:". Such a link leads nowhere, and most clients neutralise it. Not applicable if the message contains no link.

Postmetry · PM-TECH-031

No remote stylesheet — Not met — 0/10 pts

Remote stylesheet declared on the 2 transactional messages concerned

0 points out of 10 — met on 0 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

How to fix it

CSS rules go inside the message, in a `<style>` block or inline on the elements; no `<link rel="stylesheet">` and no `@import` pointing to a server. Remote fonts are not counted here: most clients ignore them, but they break nothing.

Gmail, Outlook and most clients do not load a remote stylesheet: the message shows without its styles for most readers.

Met when the message calls no external stylesheet, through “link” or “@import”. Several clients never load them. A font stylesheet does not count: without it, the text falls back to another font.

caniemail · PM-TECH-020 · <link> in an email — support by client (https://www.caniemail.com/features/html-link/)

The message follows the shape of an email — Met

5 pts

The message follows the shape of an email on 2 transactional messages

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

Lines of 998 bytes at most, readable Message-ID and Date, a character set announced on every text part, a transfer encoding consistent with the content (RFC 5322, RFC 2045). Most servers tolerate these deviations, each in its own way.

What was measured — 5 met out of 5

- Lines of 998 bytes at most on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Well-formed Message-ID on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Readable date on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Character set announced on every text part on 2 transactional messages — Met
- Consistent transfer encoding on 2 transactional messages — Met

RFC 5322 · RFC 2045 · PM-TECH-010

94
out of 100

Experience

Four questions about what becomes of the message once received: does it stay understandable, can the recipient still act, can a client render it, can a screen display it. Automatic detection only covers what is declared in the message.

WCAG 2.2 ↗ (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/) Method, Experience family

better than 98% of the 566 brands measured

The calculation · 94 pts out of 100 — 5 met · 1 partly met · 1 bonus

25	15	15	10	20	15

Weight of each criterion in the score.

The message makes sense without its images, from the inbox on — Partly met

18.8/25 pts

Preheader missing, too short or too long (1 of 2 transactional messages concerned) (1 of 2 measures met)

18.8 points out of 25 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

How to fix it

A preheader of 40 to 130 characters, in real text, follows the subject in the inbox; every meaningful image has an `alt` attribute that says what it shows; the main message is in text, not inside an image. In the editor, the preheader is a dedicated field, and the `alt` is filled in image by image.

Half of readers see the message without images when it first opens. An `alt` and a preheader take a minute per campaign.

Met when the message keeps at least 200 readable characters with images blocked, and a preheader of 40 to 130 characters announces it in the message list. Without a preheader, the inbox shows the first text of the body instead — often “View in browser”.

What was measured — 1 met out of 2

- At least 200 characters remain readable with images blocked on 2 transactional messages Met
- Preheader missing, too short or too long (1 of 2 transactional messages concerned) Partly met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-001

The message can be rendered outside HTML Met

15 pts

A text version renders the message on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

Met when a text version comes with the email and carries the essentials: at least 60% of its text and 80% of its links. A client that does not display HTML falls back on it; reduced to “view the web version”, it renders nothing.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- A plain-text version accompanies the message on 2 transactional messages Met
- The text version carries at least 60% of the text on 2 transactional messages Met
- The text version carries at least 80% of the links on 2 transactional messages Met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-002

All links stay visible with images blocked Met

15 pts

All links stay visible with images blocked on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when no link is carried by a single image without alternative text: such a link leaves nothing on screen. Not applicable if the message contains no links.

Postmetry · PM-EXP-003

Tap targets large enough Met

10 pts

Tap targets of sufficient size on 2 transactional messages

10 points out of 10 — met on 2 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Met when no sized tap target falls below 24 px a side (WCAG 2.2, criterion 2.5.8). Only targets with a declared dimension are measured; the criterion's exceptions — a target within a line of text, sufficient spacing — are not. Not applicable if the message declares no dimensions.

WCAG 2.2 — 2.5.8 · PM-EXP-004

WCAG 2.2 — Target Size (Minimum), success criterion 2.5.8, level AA (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/#target-size-minimum)

The message stays readable with assistive technology ■ Met

20 pts

The message stays readable with assistive technology on 2 transactional messages

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

Declared language, described content images, layout tables marked as such, link texts that say where they lead: what a screen reader needs to render the message. The detail says which of these measures is missing.

What was measured — 4 met out of 4

- Message language declared on 2 transactional messages Met
- Every content image is described on 2 transactional messages Met
- Layout tables marked as such on 2 transactional messages Met
- Every link says where it leads on 2 transactional messages Met

WCAG 2.2 · RGAA · PM-EXP-005

HTML Standard — The lang and xml:lang attributes (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/dom.html#the-lang-and-xml:lang-attributes)

HTML Standard — Requirements for providing text to act as an alternative for images (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/images.html#alt)

The message declares its adaptation to screens ■ Met

15 pts

The message declares its adaptation to screens on 2 transactional messages

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 2 transactional messages.

Met when the message declares its viewport and its adaptation to screen width. Without them, it displays on a phone at its original width, and is read by zooming and scrolling sideways.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- Viewport declared on 2 transactional messages Met
- Adaptation to screen width declared on 2 transactional messages Met

W3C · PM-EXP-026 · CSS Device Adaptation — the viewport tag (https://www.w3.org/TR/css-device-adapt-1/)

Media Queries Level 4 (https://www.w3.org/TR/mediaqueries-4/)

Dark mode declared ☐ Bonus point not earned

+0 pts

The message does not declare its support for dark mode on the 2 transactional messages concerned

0 points out of 5 — met on 0 of 2 transactional messages concerned.

Earned when the message declares `color-scheme` or a `prefers-color-scheme` rule. No standard requires it — clients that force dark mode invert the colors themselves — but declaring it leaves control to the template rather than to the mail client.

caniemail · PM-EXP-027

Sector comparison

High-tech & electronics — 28 brands with at least one campaign analyzed. The shares below are counted on them, never on the catalog.

28 brands analyzed in this sector

Reserved for the Pro version

Reading notes

How to read this page

01 **A criterion that is not observable or not applicable leaves the calculation.** It stays listed, never counted as zero: its weight leaves the denominator rather than weighing as a failure.

02 Each line describes an **observable finding**, with the excerpt that establishes it. No legal qualification is ever attached to it.

03 The measurements come from **deterministic analyzers**: the same message always gives the same result, and a disputed finding can be redone identically from the archive.

04 Every share is published **on an observed basis**, and names it: “26 of 30 brands analyzed.” A brand with no email received enters no denominator.

05 The **deliverability score is borrowed**: its verdict comes from the server that received the message. All the other families come from our own analyzers.

Does this analysis speak to you?

Get Alternate's changes

One email when a criterion changes state, nothing else.

Do you work at Alternate?

Let's go through it together, in 20 minutes.

We go over the 4 points with you, the evidence for each and the order in which to fix them. By video call, no commitment.

Claim the brand: transactional emails, alerts, dated evidence.

The Pro version

Full history, before and after, alerts.

This report can also be read online, with a preview of each email:
https://postmetry.com/en/marque/alternate-2/?kind=transactional