



Thunderbird: Creating an Accurate Spam Filter

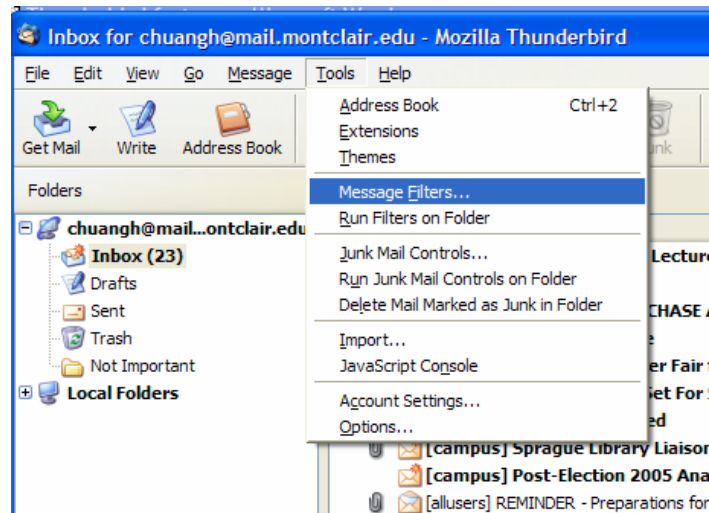
The University's anti-spam gateway adds a special email "header" to every message that indicates the probability rating that the message is Spam. It looks something like this:

[SPAM:87%]Your \$7,500 credit line was approved

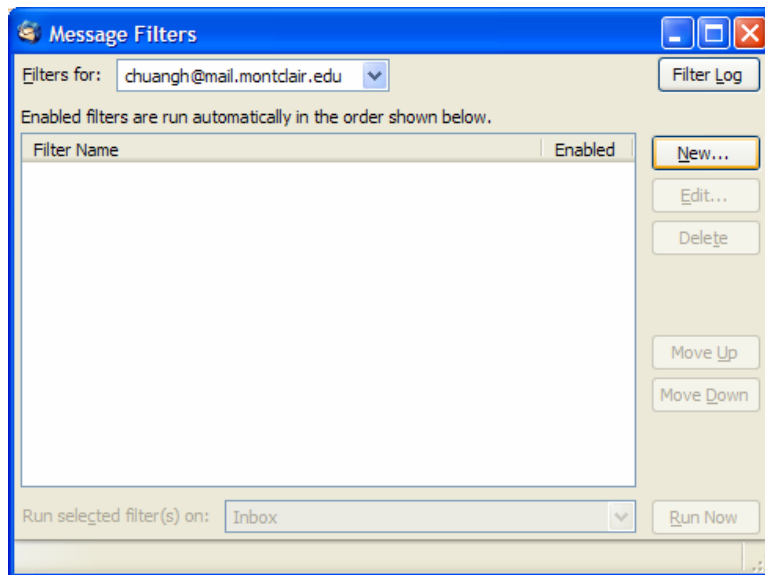
To create an accurate Spam filter that doesn't rely on the text of the subject line, follow the instructions below.

How to Create an Accurate Spam Filter

- 1) From mail, click on **Tools** from the menu
- 2) Click on **Message Filters**

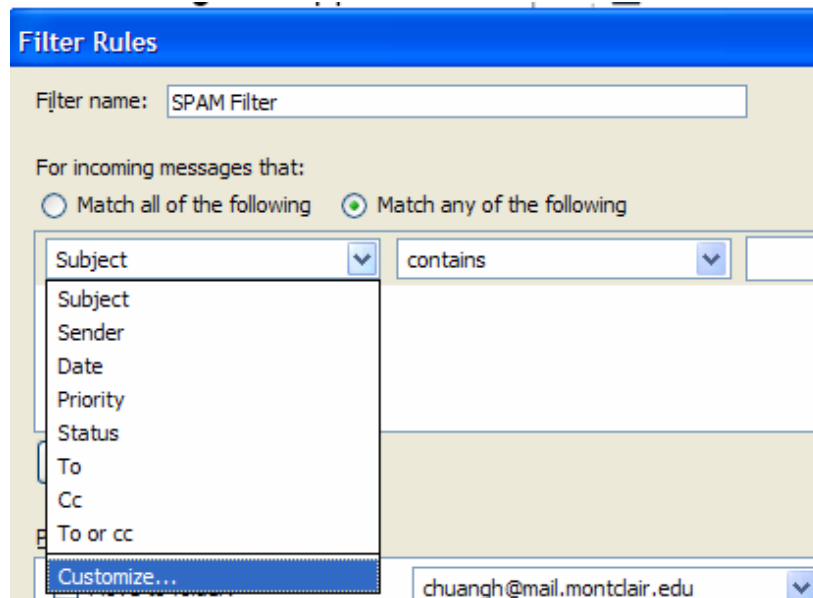


3) Click **New**



4) Type a name for the filter (e.g. SPAM filter)

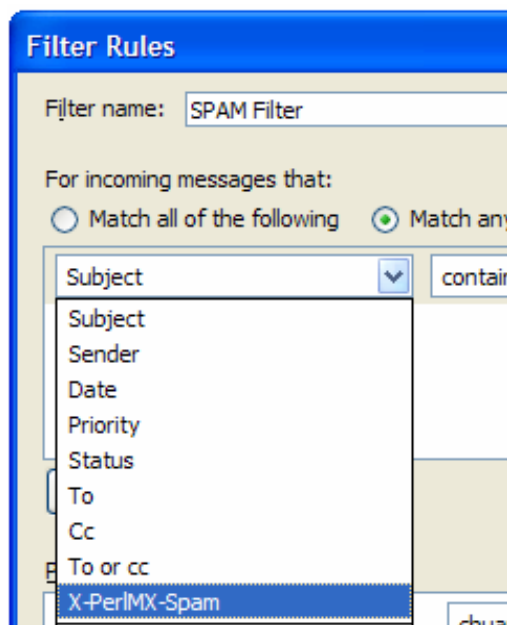
5) Click on the drop-down list next to Subject and select **Customize**



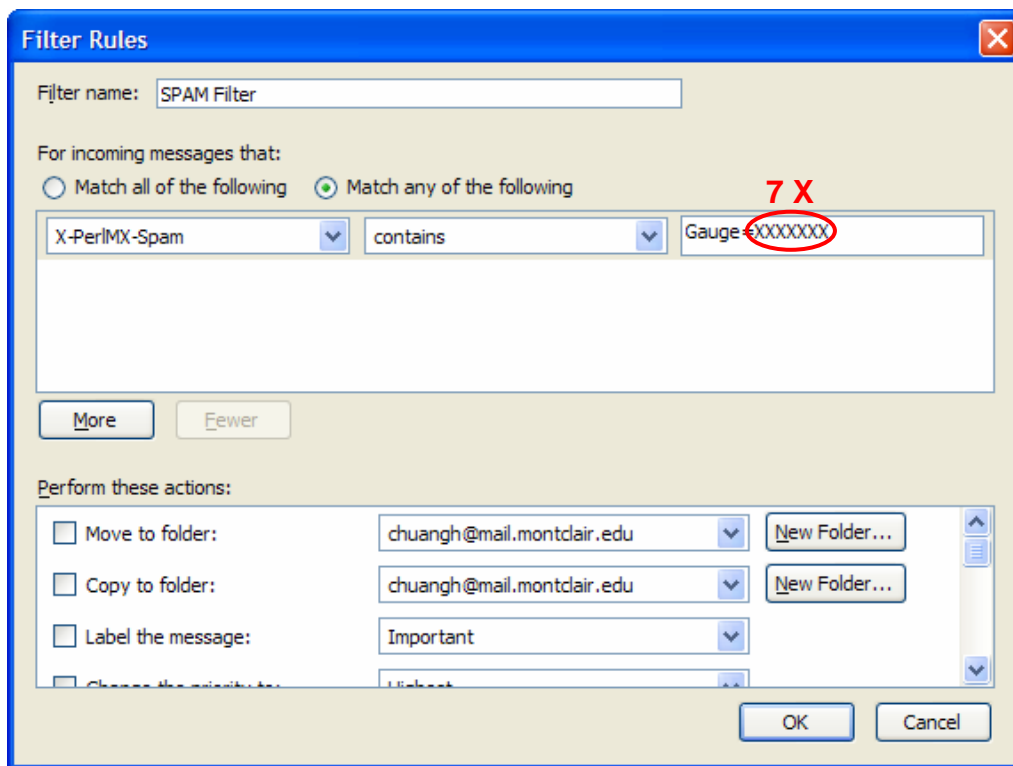
- 6) In the Customize Headers window, type **X-PerIMX-Spam** in the new message header field (be sure to use the capitalization and dashes exactly as shown)
- 7) Select **Add**
- 8) Click **OK**



- 9) In the Filter Rules window, select the new X-PerIMX-Spam header that you just created



- 10) Type the “Gauge=” value that you want this rule to detect. For example, to have this rule filter all messages with a Spam rating of 70% or higher, specify seven “X”s for the gauge value:



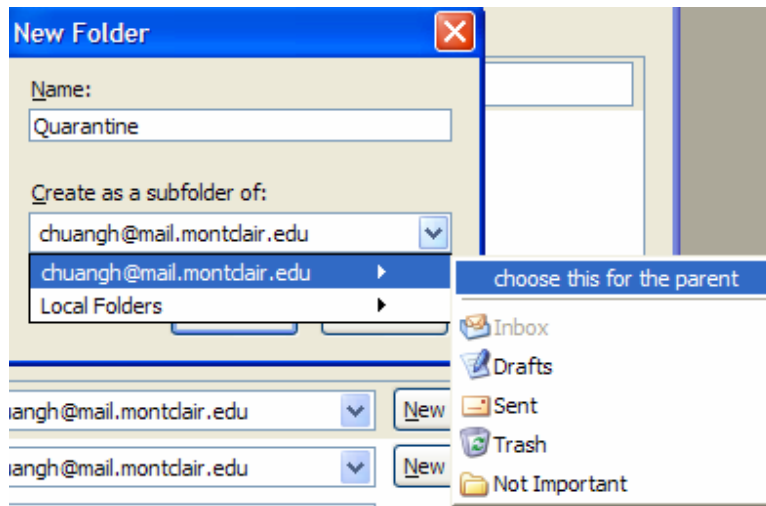
- 11) In the bottom portion of the Filter Rules window (“Perform these Actions”), specify what you want to do with messages that match the above rule (70% or higher Spam rating)

Note: While it is tempting to just select “Delete this message” or “Move to folder: Trash”, keep in mind that on rare occasions a legitimate message might be assigned a relatively high Spam rating due to certain circumstances. For example if someone sends an email from their home broadband connection (DSL, cable modem, etc) and their modem has been assigned a network address that has been “blacklisted” for previous Spam activity, then it is possible that our anti-spam gateway will assign their messages a high probability rating because it originated from a blacklisted network address.

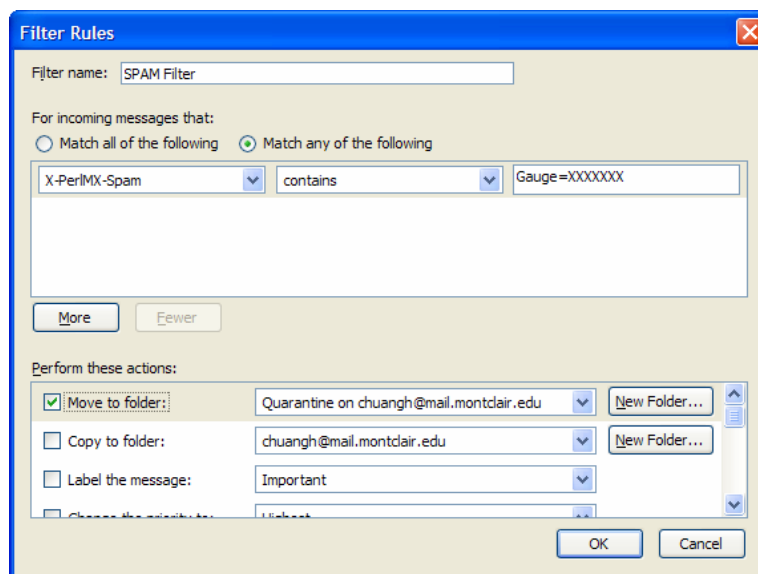
For these and other reasons, OIT strongly recommends that you create a special folder to direct suspect messages to and review at a later time, rather than just dumping them directly into the Trash. You can then periodically check this folder and delete its contents after confirming that nothing legitimate has been moved there in error. Some suggested names for this special folder might be “Junk”, “Quarantine”, “Possible Spam”, etc. Use whatever name makes sense to you.

To Create a New Folder from the Filter Rules Window:

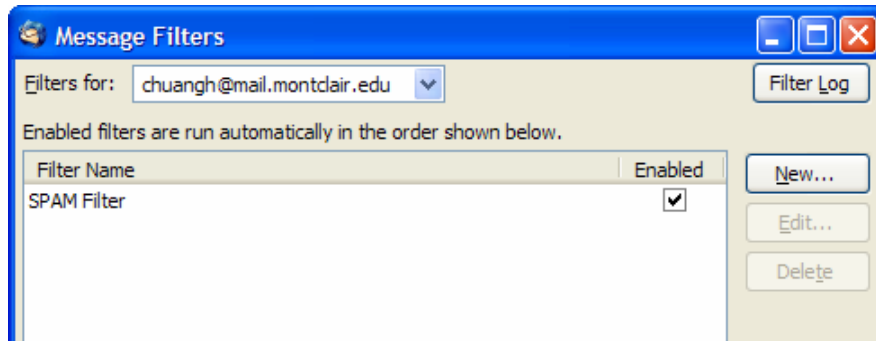
- 1) Click **New Folder**
- 2) Type a name for the new folder (e.g. Quarantine)
- 3) Click the drop-down arrow to select the location of your new folder (e.g. Mail, Local Folders)
- 4) Click **choose this for the parent**
- 5) Click **OK**



- 6) Check the box next to “Move to folder:”
- 7) Click **OK** to confirm your settings in the Filter Rules window

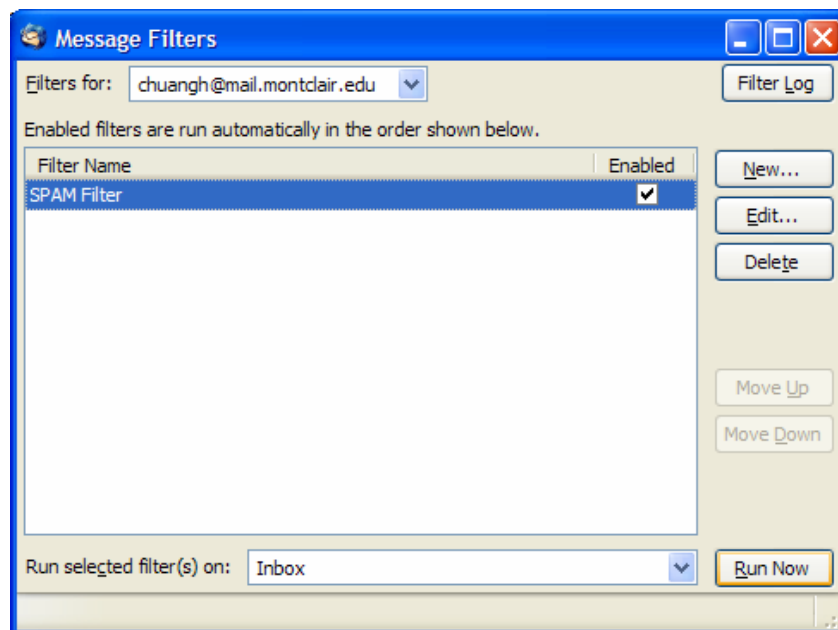


- 8) In the next window (Message Filters window) your new filter will be listed with a checkmark next to it. This means this filter is enabled and activated



If you have existing Spam messages in your Inbox that you want to clean up, do it now.

- 9) Select a filter name (e.g SPAM Filter that we've just created)
10) Select the **“Run Now”** button to scan all messages in your Inbox using the new filter



If the filter is working properly, any message that was in your Inbox with a Spam rating of 70% or higher will be automatically moved to the “Quarantine” folder (or whatever location/action you specified in the filter rules.)

From this point on, all new messages will be checked against the Spam filter and moved to the Quarantine folder if their X-PerIMX-Spam Gauge is 70% or higher.

Hope you enjoy a less cluttered Inbox!

