



Creating a Spam Filter Rule in Pine

ITS has implemented a new way of marking spam messages. Potential spam or junk mail messages are flagged in the subject line of each message as POTENTIAL SPAM. This allows UCB e-mail users to filter spam and junk mail messages away from their inbox. For more information about ITS's effort against spam go to www.colorado.edu/its/email/spam.html

Creating a Spam Filter

Pine's built-in filter function is the natural solution for Pine users since it is readily available, easy to use and offers more customization options than most clients.

1. To set up a filter, type the first letter of each command below:

(M)ain
(S)etup
(R)ules
(F)ilter
(A)dd

2. Then hit **enter** and name your filter. Something like "spam" is a good descriptive name. **Enter** again to save the name.

3. Then type **x** for (X)tra header

4. In the space provided, enter the following, exactly as it reads here (and then **enter**):

X-Spam-Status

5. Then hit **enter** while the cursor is still on **X-Spam-Status**, and type the following (and then **enter**):

Yes

6. Scroll down to **Message is New?** and type a * on **Yes**.

7. Scroll down to **ACTIONS BEGIN HERE**. Under **Filter Action**

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put the cursor on **Folder List =** and hit **enter**. Enter the name of the folder where you want to put possible spam, such as "spam" or "potential-spam" to remind yourself that it could contain **false positives**.

8. Then, to save:

(E)xit Setup
(Y)es -- to save
(Y)es -- to create new folder
(E)xit Setup
(Y)es -- to save

9. Your new spam filter rule is saved.

Filtering High-Scoring Spam

To even further reduce the amount of time you spend dealing with spam, you can create a second spam filter to delete or move messages that are almost certainly spam. This filter would sort on score, removing the highest-scoring messages as they are filtered into the spam folder you just created.

However, you may want to be safe and test this before setting the filter to delete. To test it, you could filter high-scoring messages into a separate folder for a few weeks, checking that there are **NO** false positives before deciding whether to change the filter action to delete.

These instructions will show you how to do both.

1. As before:

(M)ain
(S)etup
(R)ules
(F)ilter
(A)dd

2. Then hit **enter** and give your second filter a name, such as "SPAM" or "probably-spam".

3. Then type **x** for (X)tra header

4. This time enter:

X-Spam-Level

5. Then hit **enter** while the cursor is still on X-Spam-Level, and type the following (20 asterisks):

Each star represents one point scored. So this rule will filter messages scoring 20 or above. You could increase this number to whatever minimum score you choose.

6. Now go down to **Current Folder Type** and type a * on **Email**

7. Now you must decide whether you feel safe about deleting messages which score at 20 or more, or if you would rather move them to another folder, such as "SPAM" and check them for false positives. Chances are low that a legitimate message would score at 20 or more, but it's generally a good idea to test before deleting.

Scroll down to **ACTIONS BEGIN HERE** and under **Filter Action** either:

- Type a * on **Delete**
- Or under **Move** type the name of the folder where you want to put high-scoring spam, such as "SPAM".

8. Then, to save:

```
(E)xit Setup
(Y)es -- to save
(Y)es -- to create new folder
(E)xit Setup
(Y)es -- to save
```

Using Procmail Instead of Pine

If you already have a procmail filter and would rather use that for filtering potential spam, simply add some recipes to your procmailrc— see the examples below. However, if you prefer to use Pine's filter, you can do so without changing anything in procmail.

.procmailrc example

```
# Comments begin with #
```

