

# MBTS TekJournal

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## PUP's

Do you have a PUP running on your computer? 88% of computer users do and don't even know it. A PUP is not a cute, sweet, fun, little doggy but a "Potentially Unwanted Program". Spyware is running rampant and is on an increase even worse than viruses. Virus writers often work alone to satisfy their egos, while Spyware authors do it for PROFIT! A great deal of money can be made from "Identity Theft", and from affiliates who pay a programmer every time their infection is installed on a users system. Types of Spyware include:

Drive by Install (a form of infection that installs itself without your knowledge or permission simply by having your visit a website)

Adware (delivers pop up ads to your desktop)

System Monitors (records all PC activities)

Keyloggers (which record your keystrokes)

Trojans (virus like infection that can alter and damage system files)

Hijacker (supposed Browser Helper Object that actually redirects your Internet searches to a previously identified website).

According to statistics at Microsoft, over one third of all system crashes are now due to systems infected with Spyware. And this type of infection is getting smarter by using "tricklers" which create a link to their home server to download and install new versions as they become available or if the original infection is compromised. There is also a new infection called a root kit. This infection drills itself into the kernel of the operating system hiding in parts of the system Registry making them more difficult, if not impossible, to remove. New forms of Spyware that infect the kernel will require a complete reformat and reinstall to completely remove them from your system.

There are some very simple steps you can take, with a annual cost under \$ 100 to protect your system from most infections. Call us for more details at 204 771 8930.☎

## General

MicroByte TekSolutions will be closed from Tuesday August 30, 2005 through Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, inclusive. We will be checking voice mail each morning but will not return email inquiries until Saturday September 3, 2005. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

This issue is another clean out the disk series. We have been stockpiling helpful articles on helping you control how much SPAM you get, and Registry tweaks to solve IP problems, and disable annoying helpers. We are also including a spreadsheet to help you convert US gallon cost to Canadian in case you travel the US by vehicle.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the MBTS TeJournal. Email us at [tekjournal@mbts.mb.ca](mailto:tekjournal@mbts.mb.ca) ☎

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## Resetting AutoComplete in XP

AutoComplete is a tool available in Windows, primarily used in Internet Explorer to remember information you have previously keyed in and help you fill in data on forms. For example, when you log in to your web mail your system may ask if you want to save the login and password for future reference when accessing this site again. Since I have to remember about 160 different logins I always prefer to have the computer remember for me. However, about 6 weeks ago this function stopped working and I had to find a fix to get it started again.

The solution to this problem requires you (the users) to access the System Registry in order to facilitate the correction. \*\* However, modifying System Files is not recommended. You must always have a valid backup copy of the file(s) about to be modified before continuing. Incorrect editing may severely and irreparable damage your operating system. MicroByte TekSolutions takes no responsibility for the health or stability of your system should you attempt to implement this modification. If your AutoComplete has stopped working and you want to attempt a fix, here is how it is done.

1. Click start
2. Select Run
3. Keyin REGEDIT and press enter
4. Locate and highlight the following subkey
  - HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Protected Storage System Provider
5. Click File on the menu and select Export
6. Save the file as "savedprotectedstorage" without the quotations
7. Expand the subkey  
HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Protected Storage System Provider
8. Click the user subkey directly under Protected Storage System Provider. It will appear similar to S-1-5-21-124525095-708259637-1543119021-16701
9. On the Edit Menu click Delete and click Yes

when prompted to confirm

10. NOTE One subkey will appear for every identity on your system. To fix the problem for all users delete all subkeys
11. Exit REGEDIT and restart system

Immediately after restarting my system my AutoComplete feature was working again.☺

## Turn Off IP AutoConfiguration

Almost all computers are now equipped with at least one Ethernet card so your computer can be attached to a high speed access line to the Internet or function as a node on a computer network. However, Windows always defaults to an internal IP address that begins 169.x.x.x which identifies a closed network. This may cause problems depending on the software you use on your system and the way your system attaches to the Internet. But AutoConfiguration of the default IP address can be turned off until such time as a high speed Internet connection is made. Here's how.

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1. Open the Registry Editor
2. Navigate to the following Registry key  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Tcpip\Parameters
3. Add a REG\_DWORD value called  
IPAutoconfigurationEnabled
4. If necessary modify the value of the DWORD and make sure it is 0
5. Exit Registry Editor
6. Restart your system

If you ever want to turn this feature back on, navigate to the same Registry key and change the value of the IPAutoConfigurationEnabled value to 1.☺

## Gas Conversions

Do you travel by car in the US? Have you ever wondered if US gas prices are really better than Canadian? This exercise will help you produce a spreadsheet that will do the conversion for you.

Open Microsoft Excel and begin a new worksheet. To make everything fit on one page when printed, your worksheet should be about 50 lines (rows) long. Begin in row 2 and in cells A2 through D2 enter the headings \$ per Gal US, Cdn. Equiv, 25 cent \$, and Price/Ltr.

In cell A4 enter \$ 2.45 which is the least amount you will spend for a Gallon of gas in the US. In cell B4 enter the formula =ROUND((A4/4)\*5,2). This converts the US gas price to an equivalent US price but in Canadian Gallon quantities.

In cell C4 enter the formula =B4\*1.25. This converts the US \$ to Canadian at a rate of 25%.

In cell D4 enter the formula =ROUND(C4/4.5,3). This produces a Canadian value per litre.

In cell A5 enter the formula =A4+0.01. This will add one cent to the price shown in cell A4.

Next, copy the contents of A5 to cells A6 through A50 and you will see that the price column go from \$ 2.45 through \$ 2.91.

Now, copy the formula in B4 to cells B5 to B50. Next copy the formula in cell C4 to cells C5 to C50. and finally copy the formula in cell D4 to cells D5 to D50.

If creating this sheet yourself seems overwhelming, you can download it from our web site with the following link for our spreadsheet US Canadian Gas Converter. Our sheet has two sides and the gas conversion is from \$ 2.45 through \$ 3.37.

We use this on every holiday south to make sure we are getting a good price.

<http://www.mbts.mb.ca/downloads/GasConverter.xls>

NOTE – Due to the incredible rising cost of gasoline we are having to increase our hourly billing rates and set a minimum service call cost. There are still no plans to charge for travel and billing will only start when we are on site. Our new rates are \$ 65.00 per hour with a minimum service call cost of \$ 39.50, plus applicable taxes. ☺

## Can Spam in Outlook Express

Why do we get inundated with SPAM? Spammers are motivated by profit and electronic mail costs next to nothing to reach a wide audience. If only one user in 10,000 buys something from SPAM, the sender can make a very healthy living. Whereas, unless a minimum of 3.5 people buy from direct marketing using Canada Post, the marketer will lose money.

Spammers use software to search the web for possible email addresses, and also use software to generate email addresses based on a given domain. Since it basically is a computer doing the work, the spammer just has to start the process. Invalid email addresses are dropped automatically, addresses for email not opened are also dropped, and over time non responders are also dropped. However, eventually a spammer has a healthy list of valid email addresses. Email address lists can also be purchased via the Internet.

Outlook Express can help you minimize your chance of getting repeat spam if you simply never open—or never let the spammer know you've opened—anything that looks like spam and if you never, ever respond to spam.

### Create Rules to Stop SPAM

You can't open SPAM if you never see it. By creating **Message Rules** you can limit the type of email that actually appears in your Inbox.

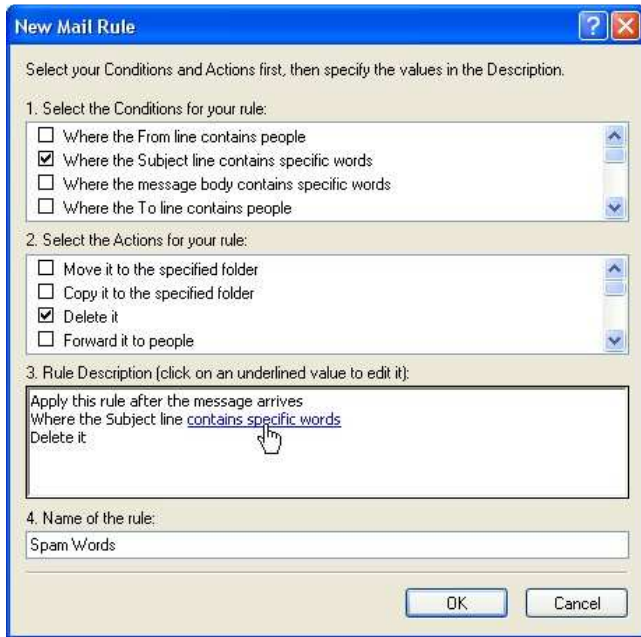
You can create a Message Rule to automatically Delete email that you know you don't want. The most common spam is for medicines like Cialis and Viagra. It is easy to create a rule to ban these types of email.

Open Outlook Express

Choose Tools, Message Rules, and Mail as shown below.



This action will produce the following dialog.

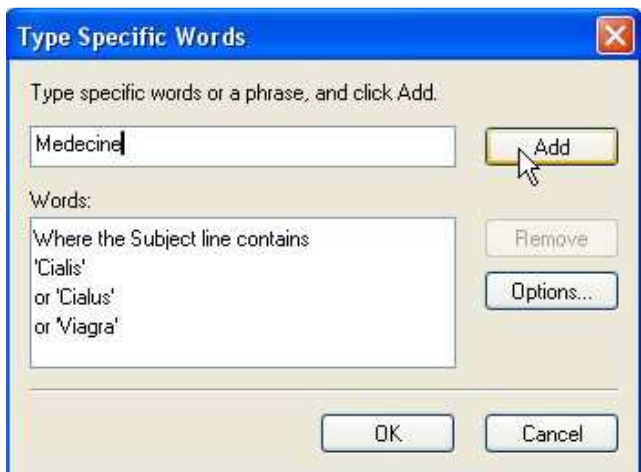


In the first box, "Select the Conditions for your rule", we have checked "Where the Subject line contains specific words"

In the second box, "Select the actions for your rule", we have chosen to Delete the mail when it is received.

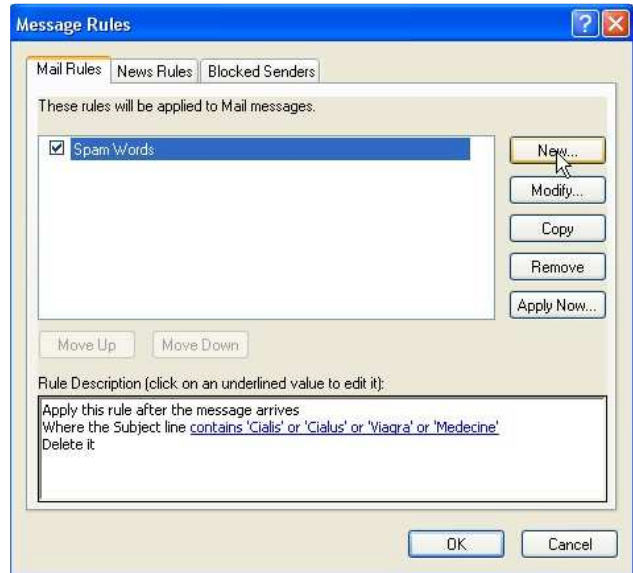
In the fourth box at the bottom we have named this rule Spam Words.

In the third box we actually enter the words to look for when deleting email. The finger is pointing to "contains specific words" and when you click on this phrase the following dialog box will appear allowing you to enter the words which are banned. We have added several words to our list to provide an example of how to do it.



After entering all the words you want to look for press the OK button to complete this process. Assuming

you have entered the name of the rule "Spam Words" or an equivalent, press the OK button again to be returned to the main Message Rules dialog box as shown below.



When you have created all the rules you want, press the OK button to be returned to Outlook Express.

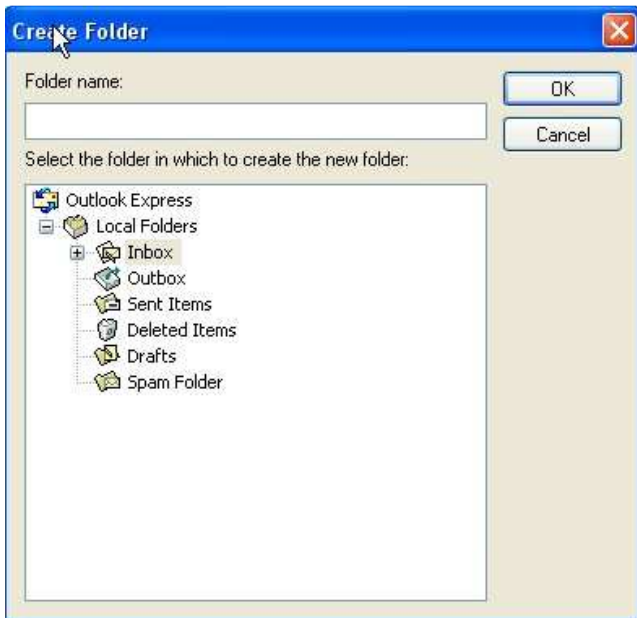
### Should we delete all possible SPAM

Some email may look spam-like but is really meant for you. For example, a message with the subject line "Your Subscription is about to expire" may be a ploy to get you to read the contents, or it may be from your book club in which case you really want to respond to it. These messages are referred to as false positives, in which case you want to review them before they are disposed of. Write a rule to put the false positives in a special folder.

To create the SPAM Folder, open Outlook Express and click File, New, Folder as shown in the following dialog.

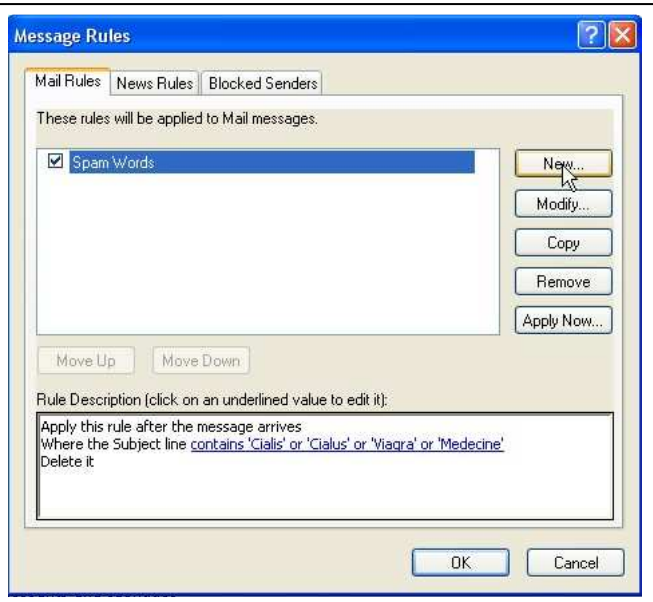


These steps will produce the following dialog box to allow you to create a new folder where you want to store what might possibly be SPAM that you can

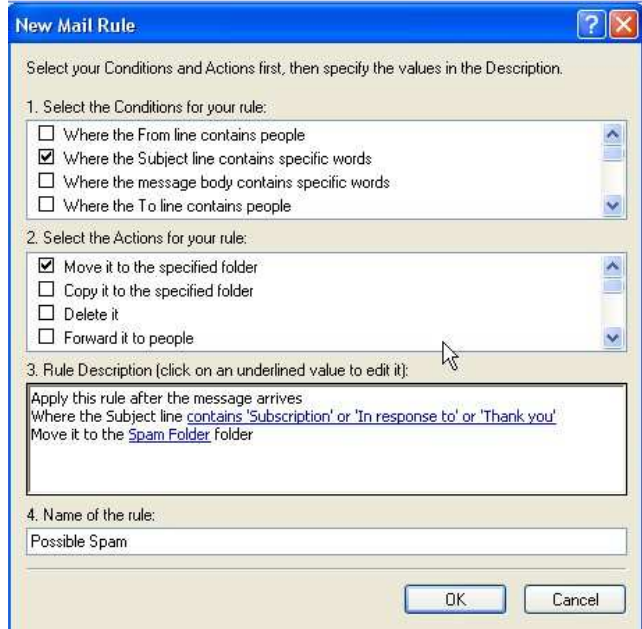


Enter the name of the folder you want to create in the area identified as Folder name and press the OK button. You can see in above example that we have already created a folder called "Spam Folder".

Next, access the Message rules once more (Tools, Message Rules, Mail) which will display the following dialog.



In this dialog box we will click the New button to create a new rule which will move all suspected Spam emails to the new folder we just created. Pressing the New button displays the New Rule dialog box shown next.



In this case where we want to allow the SPAM to enter our system so we can decide if it really is SPAM, setting the conditions (Box 1) will still look in the Subject line, but the Actions (Box 2) will specify that we want to Move the email to a specific folder.

In box 3 we have already identified the folder for you. On your screen you will see "specify folder" underlined in blue and when you click on that line you will be able to select the new folder you created as the folder when possible spam will be sent. As in the first example you will also click the "contains specific words" link to add the words and phrases to look for that may be spam. We named this rule Possible SPAM and clicked the OK button when done.

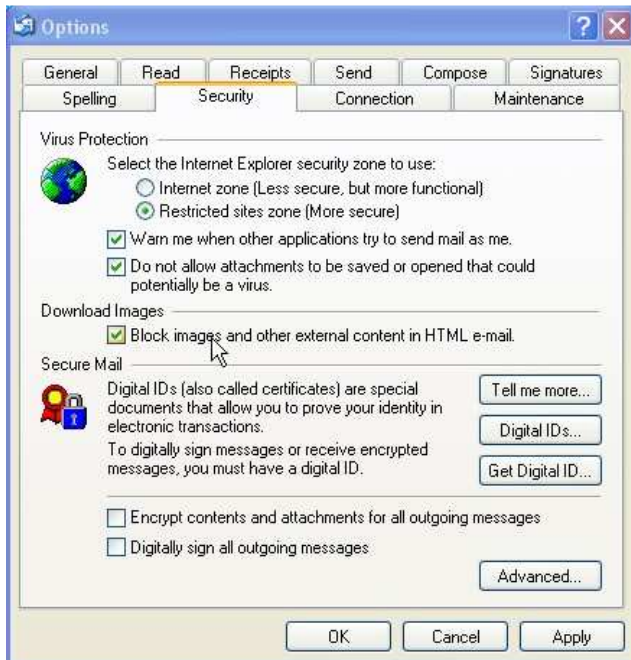
### Suppress Display Of Graphics

Most users have turned on the Preview Pane in Outlook Express (or other email client) and as a result a spammer will automatically know when a valid address has been reached. How?

By embedding a graphic in the email which must be downloaded from a host system when the email is opened, a spammer will be able to identify a valid address even when you don't knowingly open the email or respond to it. But there is a way to stop this from happening, while leaving the Preview Pane turned on.

Once again open Outlook Express but this time click

on Tools and Options. Once the options dialog box appears, click the tab labeled Security as shown below.



Where we have positioned the arrow identifies how you want to handle images. If this box contains a check mark, images will not be shown automatically in an HTML email message. This allows a spam message to be displayed in the Preview Pane without telling the sender that a valid email address has been reached.

Implementing these, and other, rules will definitely help you reduce the amount of SPAM that reaches your inbox. ☺

## Disable Bubble Help

Windows XP provides help captions in a yellow bubble that can become annoying after you continually see the same messages. Using this quick Registry modification will turn off the Bubble Help.

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Open the Registry Editor

Navigate to the following key

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current Version\Explorer\Advanced

Locate the DWORD value called EnableBalloonTips

If there is no DWORD found, create one.

Set the data value of this DWORD to 0 to turn off the balloon tips, or to 1 to turn them back on.

Close the Registry editor and restart your system. ☺

## Disable Click Here to Start

As with Balloon Tips, the Click here to start caption can also be quite annoying after the first few days you have been using Windows XP. Here is the Registry fix to remove that annoying item.

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Open the Registry Editor

Navigate to the following key

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Explorer

Locate the DWORD value called NoStartBanner

If there is no DWORD found, create one.

Set the data value of this DWORD to 0 to turn off the balloon tips, or to 1 to turn them back on.

Close the Registry editor and restart your system. ☺

## Final Note

Since we have not been getting a great deal of feedback as to the types of articles to produce for the TekJournal, this will be the final issue until future requests are made for it's return. Thank you for reading. ☺