Mathematics Users Guide

Information for Mathematics Account Holders

08/18/05
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Still having trouble?
Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to serve as an informal introduction to the computing facilities available in the Mathematics Department at Kansas State University. It provides a basic description of the user accounts, usage guidelines, examples of common tasks, and references to additional information. It is not a replacement for the computing policies set forth in the Departmental Handbook.

If you find any errors in this document, or have suggestions on how to make it more useful please direct feedback to help@math.ksu.edu.

READ THIS. The stress you save will be your own.

Always print out a copy of your grade records after updating them.

Almost every semester we have at least one person that will lose the grade records for a course they are teaching. Reasons have included

• The only copy of the grades is on a floppy disc that goes bad.
• Program error caused the data file to be corrupted.
• The files were accidentally deleted at some point after the semester was over. It wasn’t noticed until the person was checking out of the department and needed to turn grade records into the main office.
• A person mistakenly edited the wrong file and altered/removed grades for the wrong class.

Typically in cases such as these the grade records have not be updated in weeks. All the existing homework has already been returned to the class. And no current printout exists.

In the best of situations we are able to grab a copy from backup tapes. In bad situations you may have to go back to your class and request the hand back in their graded papers. In the worse cases the course was a year ago and there is nothing that can be done.
Your Accounts

Introduction
As a member of Mathematics department you will more than likely have at least three separate computing accounts at KSU. Two of these accounts are internal to the department while the other is your main campus account. Please remember that university policy forbids sharing your accounts with others.

Mathematics Unix Account
This is your primary account in the Mathematics Department. This account provides you with items such as
• A personal work space for personal and work related files. This is known as your home directory.
• A local e-mail address in the form yourID@math.ksu.edu
• An optional personal web page at www.math.ksu.edu/~yourID
• Access to local printers.
If you do not yet have an account please stop by Cardwell 201C to have one set up.

Mathematics Windows Account
This account provides you access to the windows based computers in the department. This includes the computer hooked to the scanner located in Cardwell 201. This account is typically setup at the same time as your unix account. If you do not have an account please stop by Cardwell 201C to have one set up.

KSU Unix Account
Your campus user account. This account is maintained by University Computing and Network Services(CNS). It provides
• storage space for personal and work related files.
• A local e-mail address in the form somebody@@ksu.edu
• An optional personal web page at www-personal.ksu.edu/~somebody
• Access to Unix software the Mathematics department does not provide locally. Which includes the following commercial pieces of software.
  • Mathematica
  • Matlab
You can find more information about your campus account on the CNS web site http://www.ksu.edu/cns
Public Computing Resources

**Introduction**

While in the department the following systems and software are available for your use.

**Unix Software**

The department has most common unix software packages install. In addition to the standard packages the following, more math oriented packages are available from any unix based computer in the department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>GAP (Groups, Algorithms and Programming) is a system for computational discrete algebra with particular emphasis on, but not restricted to computational group theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>Maple is an analytic computation system. It can compute both numerical as well as symbolic solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octave</td>
<td>GNU Octave is a high-level language, primarily intended for numerical computations. It provides a convenient command line interface for solving linear and nonlinear problems numerically, and for performing other numerical experiments using a language that is mostly compatible with Matlab.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Machines**

**GTA Offices**

Each GTA office is currently equipped with 2 computers running KDE. The easiest way to tell the systems apart is that one of them has sound and the other does not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>w/ Speakers</td>
<td>A self contained unix computer. Supports sound based applications like real player. Supports floppy disk access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/o Speakers</td>
<td>An older system that acts only as a display unit for a much faster multi-user system. No access to the floppy disk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scanner PC
A publicly accessible windows workstation is located in the outer office of Cardwell 201. It has many features not found on other machines in the department. Features include

- CD-RW (Allows to create CDs)
- Adobe Acrobat (Full Version)
  - Can create pdf files from scanner or other programs
- Flatbed Scanner
  - Automatic Document Feeder
  - Omnypage OCR Software
- 100MB Zip Drive

Printers
The Mathematics Department has two general usage laser printers in Cardwell 201. These printers are available from your departmental Unix and Windows NT accounts. They are not available from your KSU Unix Account or from the MPCCL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printer</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LaserJet 4000N</td>
<td>The default printer for most of the department. Print jobs sent to it are normally printed duplexed (double-sided).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaserJet 4M</td>
<td>The older departmental printer. It is not capable of printing in duplex. It's primary purpose is to allow you to print small jobs if the 4000N is tied up with a large print job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeskJet 890C</td>
<td>Used for color printouts and transparencies. Due to the costs of consumables for this printer it's usage is restricted. Please contact the systems administrator (<a href="mailto:help@math.ksu.edu">help@math.ksu.edu</a>) if you need to use this printer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X-Term
Usually there is an additional X-Terminal setup in Cardwell 201 next to the scanner PC.

Math/Physics Computer Classroom Laboratory (MPCCL)
The Mathematics and Physics departments have combined their resources to create the Math/Physics Computer Classroom Laboratory (MPCCL). Though the MPCCL is frequently in use by various classes, there are open hours available that you may use to your advantage.
Software of Interest

There are several packages available in the MPCCL that are not available elsewhere in the department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geometer's Sketchpad</td>
<td>Interactive geometry software.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple V</td>
<td>Maple V is an interactive computer algebra system that provides a complete mathematical environment for the manipulation of symbolic algebraic expressions, arbitrary-precision numerics, both two-dimensional and three-dimensional graphics, and programming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATLAB</td>
<td>MATLAB provides core mathematics and advanced graphical tools for data analysis, visualization, and algorithm and application development.(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Office</td>
<td>Standard MS Office Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubasic</td>
<td>A BASIC-like environment which is suitable for number theoretic investigations.(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual C++</td>
<td>C++ Programming Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Fortran</td>
<td>Fortran Programming Environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual Accounts

Individual accounts on the MPCCL network are uncommon. Courses taught in the MPCCL are usually given a single user name and password which all students in that course use. Individual accounts can be created for special purposes. To request an individual account, contact the systems administrator at help@math.ksu.edu.

Usage Guidelines for Public Resources

Log out when you are finished

You should always remember to log off a computer when you are done using it. Failure to log off the machine leaves your files open to anyone who happens to walk by the machine.

Printing

All printing activity is monitored. Abuse of the printing facilities (overuse of supplies, printing long jobs during normal departmental hours) can result in loss of printer access.

Software Installation

Do not install new software on your office computers or into your Unix home directory.

\(^1\) Description pulled from the MATLAB web site.
\(^2\) Description from the software documentation.
If there is software package you'd like to see installed please contact the system administrator at help@math.ksu.edu.

Non-School Related Use of Equipment

We understand that there will be times you wish to use public computing resources for activities not related to your duties/classes at KSU. This will be tolerated as long as the following guidelines are followed.

• People that require the use of computer for school related work have priority. If they need to use the machine you must stop the non school related activity.

• Your usage of the system does not bother other people in the room with you. No loud noises, offensive screen displays, etc.
Common Tasks

Changing the password on your math unix account

Changing your unix password can be accomplished in the following steps.

1. Log in to your account.
2. Enter the the passwd command followed by the ENTER key
3. You will be prompted for your current password. Type your current password and press ENTER. Note: You will not see your password as you type it.
4. You will be prompted for your new password twice. This is to ensure that a miskeying doesn't render your account inaccessible. At each prompt enter your desired password and press ENTER.
5. Your new password is now set. The exact sequence of events should look similar to:

```
newton$ passwd
Changing password for jamest
(current) UNIX password:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
newton$
```

Changing the password on your math windows account

At this time the Windows NT passwords are not automatically synchronized with your departmental Unix passwords.  In addition, the change password functions under Windows NT are not supported at this time.  To change your Windows NT password you will need to:

1. Log in to the machine newton.math.ksu.edu.
2. Enter the the smbboxd command followed by the ENTER key
3. You will be prompted for your current password. Type your current password and press ENTER. Note: You will not see your password as you type it.
4. You will be prompted for your new password twice. This is to ensure that a mis keying doesn't render your account inaccessible. At each prompt enter your desired password and press ENTER.
5. Your new password is now set. The exact sequence of events should look similar to:

```
newton$ smbboxd
Old SMB password: 
New SMB password: 
Retype new SMB password: 
Password changed for user jamest
newton$
```
Forwarding **math.ksu.edu** e-mail to a different account

If you have numerous computer accounts you may find it easier to have all e-mail forwarded to a single address. Our system uses a fairly standard way of forwarding e-mail to a separate account.

1. Log in to your account
2. Use the text editor of your choice to create a .forward file in your home directory. This file contains a single line which is the e-mail address to which all mail sent to your account will be forwarded.

That's it! To disable forwarding of your mail from this account simply

1. Log in to your account
2. type in the following command:

   ```bash
   newton$ rm ~/.forward
   ```

Setting up a personal web page

1. Log in to your account.
2. Set the permissions on your home directory via the chmod command:

   ```bash
   euler$ chmod o+x ~
   ```
3. Create a directory named .html in your home directory:

   ```bash
   euler$ mkdir ~/.html
   ```
4. Set the permissions on the .html directory via the chmod command:

   ```bash
   euler$ chmod o+x ~/.html
   ```
5. Create an index.html file in the .html directory. This is an HTML document that is served when someone requests your home page. It is the starting point for your web site and should contain links to the files you want to make visible on the web. In the example below we'll use a simple text editor known as pico

   ```bash
   euler$ cd ~/.html
   euler$ pico index.html
   ```
6. Set the permissions on your index.html file so that others may see it:

   ```bash
   euler$ chmod o+r ~/.html/index.html
   ```
7. Your page is now visible to the world. If you create other pages you must move them under your .html directory and set their permissions as you did for your index.html file before they will be viewable by the world.
Note: If you are unfamiliar with the hypertext markup language (HTML) used to create pages on the World Wide Web you may want to check out the NCSA Beginner’s Guide to HTML at http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimer.html
E-Mail

Introduction
E-Mail is one of the most important services offered to Mathematics users.

Accessing your mail from department computers.
The following clients are available for your use while using most department computers.

Pine
The most commonly used mail client in the department. It can be accessed by typing the command pine at a unix system prompt.

```
Newton$ pine
```

Mozilla
The Mozilla web browser provides an email client that works well on our systems.

K-Mail
Kmail is the mail client that is bundled as part of KDE.

Accessing your mail from outside the department
Any standard imap or pop based email client should work fine with our mail system. Examples of such clients include Eudora, Netscape/Mozilla mail, or Outlook Express. When configuring these clients you will typically be asked for a couple setting values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>outgoing mail server</td>
<td>Often called the smtp server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This must be set to the smtp server provided by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>your Internet Service Provider (ISP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do not set this to</strong> smtp.math.ksu.edu <strong>it</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>will not work.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming mail server</td>
<td>Set this to to mail.math.ksu.edu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Via the Web (web based mail client)
It is possible to access your mail from any modern computer with a web browser by visiting http://www.math.ksu.edu/mail
KDE

Introduction

The most commonly used computer desktop environment in the Mathematics department is KDE (http://www.kde.org). This section is not complete but I'll try and cover a few things that will need manual adjustment.

Upon first logging in.

You should run a program called KAppfinder to have it populate your menu with all the non-KDE applications found on the system.

1. Click on the K-Menu icon. This is the icon on the lower left corner of the screen that looks like a gear with a K on top of it.
2. Choose Settings menu item.
3. Choose KAppfinder menu item.
4. Click the Scan button in lower right of KAppfinder.
5. Click Select All button.
6. Click Apply button. It should tell you how many apps it added just click OK.
7. Click Cancel button.

Printing from KDE

When printing from a KDE based application you will see a printer selection window that looks similar to the following. You need to make sure a few setting match those in the picture.

1. Set the “Print system currently used:” to CUPS(Common UNIX Print System).
2. Set the “Name:” to lj4000

![Printer Selection Window](image)
Spam Filtering

Introduction

All e-mail sent to the Math Department is now filtered by a program called SpamAssassin.

The way the spam filter works is that each incoming e-mail is examined by the filter which identifies individual characteristics common to spam (unsolicited marketing e-mail) and assigns each of them a point based rating based on how “spammmy” that characteristic is. Once a certain amount of points is reached, action is taken by the filter.

Our current set-up is that once a message is considered spam a new report message is generated. The original message is then attached to this report message (ensuring the original message is completely preserved and easier to recover).

Quick Guide to SPAM filtering.

Activating

To have all incoming spam sent to the SPAM.caught folder instead of your INBOX issue the following command from a newton login.

```
newton$ spamfilter on
```

Spam will now show up in your SPAM.caught folder. This is purged monthly.

Reporting Missed Spam

Move the message into your SPAM folder. Once an hour the messages are processed and removed automatically.

Reporting Mail mis-marked as Spam

Move the message into your NOTSPAM folder. Once an hour the messages are processed and removed automatically.

More Details or Advanced Setups

See the rest of this guide.
Directing Tagged Messages To Another Mailbox

It is highly recommended that email tagged as spam be kept in a folder rather than simply thrown out automatically. Especially in the first few weeks of use, you can expect to have to fine-tune your SpamAssassin configuration such that all the spam (and nothing but the spam) you receive is kept out of your inbox. This will likely involve periodically examining your spam folder to see whether anything you want to keep was put there.

Below are instructions on how to have e-mails marked as spam by the spam filter automatically be sent to a separate mailbox for you to view at your leisure.

Using the Default Setup at KSU Mathematics

Mathematics provides a simple spam filter setup that works as follows.

- All incoming messages tagged as spam are saved in a folder named SPAM
- At the 1st of the month the previous months SPAM folder is renamed SPAM.prev. The old contents of SPAM.prev are lost

Activating the default setup (Simplest)

To activate the redirect to the SPAM folder issue the following command from any unix login.

```
newton$ spamfilter on
```

This command will link your mail filtering rules to a default template that performs the spam filtering. This script is very basic and will not make any changes if it detects that you have already setup custom filtering. If you are already filtering your mail you will need to see the section below on configuring procmail.

Deactivating the default setup

If you are using the default setup and wish to deactivate the redirect to the SPAM folder issue the following command from any unix login.

```
newton$ spamfilter off
```

This script is very basic and will not make any changes if it detects that you have already setup custom filtering.

Default setup for existing procmail users (Advanced)

Note: Mistakes in your .procmailrc file can very easily result in lost mail. If you are not comfortable making changes in .procmailrc please contact help@math.ksu.edu for assistance.

Using your favorite editor (emacs, vi, pico, etc.) modify the file .procmailrc in your home directory

Make sure the following two lines are at the start of the file:

```
SHELL=/bin/sh
MAILDIR=$HOME/mail
```
Next place the following line at the appropriate place in your procmail rules. Any rules prior to this line will see messages that may be spam. Any rules after this line will not see messages that may be spam.

```
INCLUDERC=/usr/local/etc/procmail/spam.rc
```

**Default setup for elm or mutt users (Advanced)**

*Note: Mistakes in your .procmailrc file can very easily result in lost mail. If you are not comfortable making changes in .procmailrc please contact help@math.ksu.edu for assistance.*

The setup is the exact same as for procmail users above with one exception. You must replace the line

```
MAILDIR=$HOME/mail
```

with (note the capital M below)

```
MAILDIR=$HOME/Mail
```

**Advanced filtering**

*Note: Mistakes in your .procmailrc file can very easily result in lost mail. If you are not comfortable making changes in .procmailrc please contact help@math.ksu.edu for assistance.*

Assuming you are comfortable altering your .procmailrc file the following samples show some additional options available beyond the default setup at mathematics.

```
# Mails with a score of 15 or higher are almost certainly spam (with 0.05%
# false positives according to rules/STATISTICS.txt). Let's put them in a
# different mbox. (This one is optional.)
:true
  ^X-Spam-Level:\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\n```

**Adjusting the spam filter**

A key point to remember is that if you sign-up for any product updates and/or newsletters from commercial companies, and you wish to receive these unmarked as spam, you have two options.

**Opting out of SpamAssassin**

If you wish to stop having SpamAssassin altering your e-mail do the following:

Using your favorite editor (emacs, vi, pico, etc.) open up .spamassassin/userPrefs in your home directory

Find the line that says:

```
# required_hits 5
```
Change it to:
```plaintext
required_hits 100
```
(make sure to remove the # at the beginning of the line)
If the line doesn't exist just add it.
Save the changes to the file.

**Creating a personal "whitelist"**

To ensure that SpamAssassin does not label e-mails from specific people that you consider legitimate e-mail as spam do the following:

Using your favorite editor (emacs, vi, pico, etc.) open up .spamassassin/userPrefs in your home directory.

Find the lines that say:
```plaintext
# Whitelist and blacklist addresses are now file-glob-style patterns, so
# "friend@somewhere.com", "@isp.com", or ".domain.net" will all work.
# whitelist_from someone@somewhere.com
```

Under these lines add a line such as the following for each person you wish to receive e-mail from unmarked by SpamAssassin:
```plaintext
whitelist_from myfriend@aplace.math.edu
```

Save the changes to the file.

**Creating a personal "blacklist"**

SpamAssassin is a program that is being updated fairly frequently to improve its accuracy and we will continue to update our installed version. Unfortunately SpamAssassin will never catch all spam. There are two things we can do to reduce the amount of uncaught spam.

If you find yourself constantly receiving spam or other unwanted mail from a specific e-mail address that is getting through the spam filter you can put them on your "blacklist". A blacklist is a list of e-mail addresses which send spam which are normally not caught by SpamAssassin. If an e-mail is received from an e-mail address in the blacklist it will be marked as spam.

To create a blacklist do the following:

Using your favorite editor (emacs, vi, pico, etc.) open up .spamassassin/userPrefs in your home directory.

Find the lines that say:
```plaintext
# Whitelist and blacklist addresses are now file-glob-style patterns, so
#"friend@somewhere.com", ".@isp.com", or ".domain.net" will all work.
# blacklist_from someone@somewhere.com
```

Under these lines and after any whitelist entries you may have add a line such as the following for each person you receive e-mail from that you would like marked as spam by SpamAssassin:
```plaintext
blacklist_from spammer@spamcity.com
```
(change spammer@spamcity.com to a real e-mail address)

Save the changes to the file

**Still having trouble?**

Because stammers are always looking to thwart anti-spam measures taken by email users, fine-tuning SpamAssassin to combat spam is an on-going process.

If you receive a large number of e-mails from different e-mail addresses that are similar in nature and contain similar phrases we may be able to customize SpamAssassin to block these, please forward them to help@math.ksu.edu

Note: A fair bit of these instructions were taken or derived from the following:

http://www.math.mit.edu/computer_help/spamassassin.html

http://www.cites.uiuc.edu/email/spamassassin.html