

The Spam Filter

This one of the least talked about things here on campus.

Spam is similar to postal junk mail in that it is unsolicited, bulk sales information. Spammers create commercial sales emails and then email them to millions of people at one time. They get email addresses by buying lists from other companies, stealing them from websites or sometimes just by guessing what they might be with computer programs. Many of the emails fail to get delivered and many more are not read, but because they distribute them in such large numbers, and because there is always someone who reads and responds to them, they make good money doing it, hence they exist.

Most **ISP's** these days come with some form of **SPAM filter** for preventing SPAM from ever getting to your Inbox. Most require you to both turn them on and do some basic configuring of how aggressive you want the filter to be. The concern here is that non-SPAM email may get tagged incorrectly and you never get it. However the filters have gotten better over time and as I said, you can usually "tune" them to your desire. Often they have and **BLACK** lists, which allow you to either specifically **Include** certain email addresses or **Exclude** them. You can usually use wild cards (*) to cover whole ranges of potential emails, e.g. *@salesoffice.com which if in your **BLACK** list would exclude ALL email from salesoffice.com.

Sonicwall Spam Filter

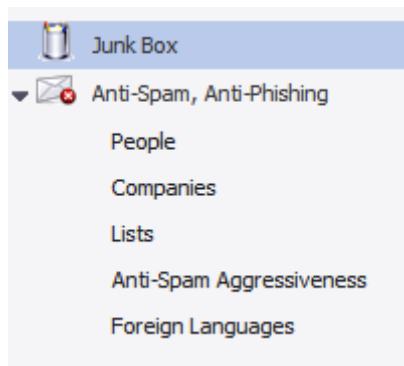
Santa Monica College uses Sonicwall as its filter. To see what it is doing go spam.smc.edu.

Type in your account name and password. The domain name should say SMC.

Under the heading of **Junk Box** you will see all the spam it is catching.

Configuring The Spam Filter

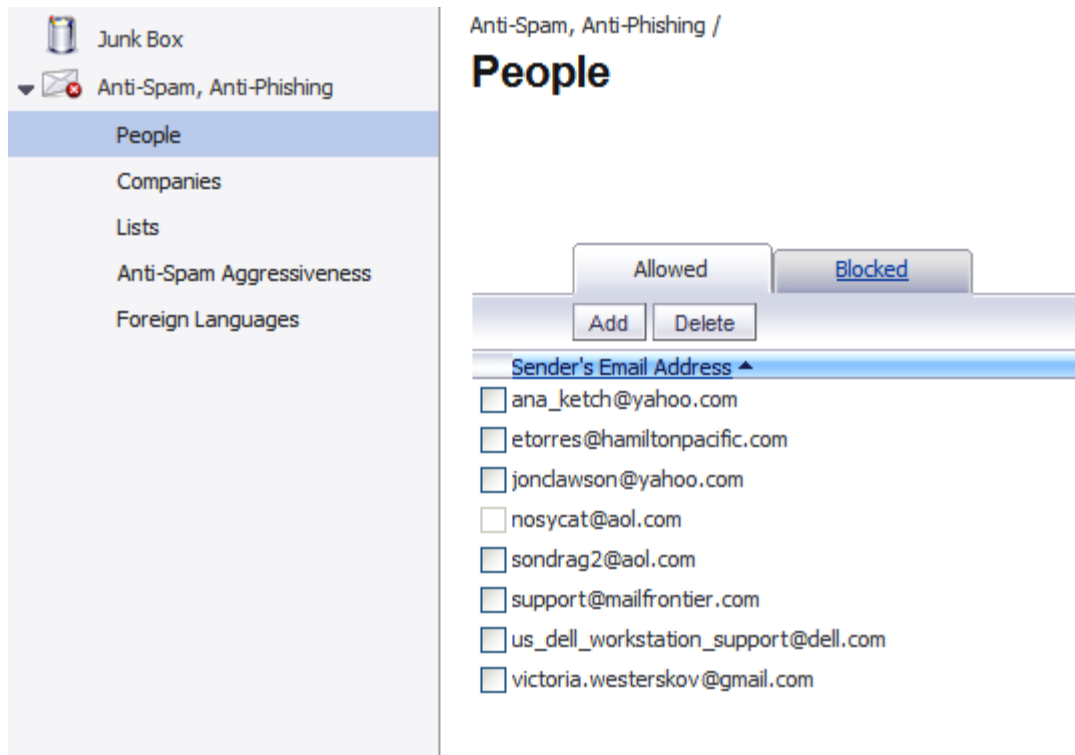
On the left, there is a column this is what you will see. Click the arrow at **Anti-Spam, Anti-Phishing** and a pull down menu will pop up.



There will be different ways for you to configure your spam filter.

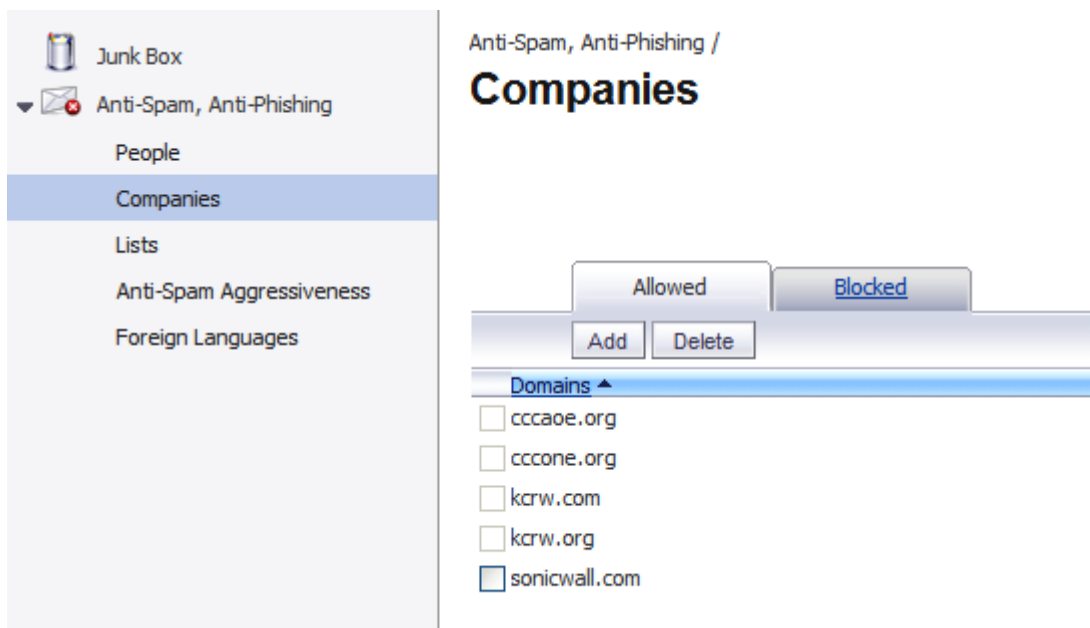
Allow/Block

You will see two tabs. One you can set up to allow certain email to get through and others you want to block. You can add or delete your email address. Click on the Tab that you want to use.



There might be a lot of email that comes in as **@smc.edu**. It might even have your name on it or someone else. Santa Monica College on-campus email does not come to you as **@smc.edu** because of it being internal system. Usually it is being sent to you off-campus. It is likely spam. You can usually tell by the name in front of it or the content. You might want to add it to the block list.

As for things like **Companies** you just have to add the domain name just after the "@" symbol.



Foreign Languages

A lot of spam comes from foreign countries like China or Russia. But it also comes from other countries. You might want to block them too.

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for 'Foreign Languages' under 'Anti-Spam, Anti-Phishing'. On the left is a navigation pane with options: Junk Box, Anti-Spam, Anti-Phishing (expanded), People, Companies, Lists, Anti-Spam Aggressiveness, and Foreign Languages (selected). The main content area has a title 'Foreign Languages' and a checkbox 'Adhere to Corporate defaults' which is unchecked. Below this is a descriptive text: 'This screen enables users to allow or block emails in the languages listed below.' Three instructions follow: 'Choose **Allow All** to allow all email in a language without any screening.', 'Choose **Block All** to block all email in a language.', and 'Choose **No Opinion** to allow email in a language to be screened by all filters installed in SonicWALL Email Security.' A table with three columns ('Allow All', 'Block All', 'No Opinion') and 14 rows of languages is shown. The 'Block All' column is selected for all languages except English, which is selected in the 'No Opinion' column. An 'Apply Changes' button is at the bottom.

Allow All	Block All	No Opinion	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	English
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	German
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	French
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Spanish
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Arabic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Baltic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Chinese
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Cyrillic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Greek
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Hebrew
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Japanese
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Korean
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Thai
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Turkish
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Vietnamese

Remember!

Not all emails are spam or junk mail. If you don't get one that a person swears they sent you, look at the Spam Filter and see if it there. Don't forget to Unjunk it and add them to the Allow list. You need to configure it the way you would like emails to come to you.

For as many ways there is to block junk mail, there are many more ways the spammers work to get around it.