

E-mail attachment filtering at YSU

Due to the increased number of malicious computer viruses being created and the likelihood of them making their way onto computer systems at Youngstown State, a series of filters for e-mail attachments has been created.

Two types of filters:

1. **By specific file names:** Some viruses are known to be associated with specific files. For example, the file "Navidad.exe" is a known carrier of the Navidad virus. Therefore, any e-mail with an attachment named "Navidad.exe" would be refused and a message would be sent to the sender saying:

"Navidad.exe found – possible Navidad virus attachment. If this is a legitimate file you are sending, please package it as a zip file and re-send it."

2. **By file extension:** Most viruses are not discovered until they begin infecting computing systems. For this reason e-mail attachments are scanned for potential viruses by their file extension. Any executable file will be flagged as a potential virus and the sender will receive this message:

"This message has been rejected because it has a potentially executable attachment. This form of attachment has been used by recent viruses or other malware. If you meant to send this file then please package it up as a zip file and re-send it."

File extensions that will be rejected include:

.ade, .adp, .bas, .bat, .chm, .cmd, .com, .cpl, .crt, .eml, .exe, .hlp, .hta, .inf, .ins, .isp, .jse, .lnk, .mdb, .mde, .msc, .msi, .msp, .mst, .pcd, .pif, .reg, .scr, .sct, .shs, .url, .vbs, .vbe, .wsf, .wsh, .wsc

** this list is current as of the publish date of this document and will increase as needed*

Packaging files:

In both rejection messages there is a reference to packaging your attachment. There are several free packages that allow you to compress your files and send them error free. Some of the more popular packages are WinZip, StuffIt, and PKZip. Below are some links whereas you can download a free copy of the software and find their FAQs :

[WinZip](http://www.winzip.com/faq.htm#wzt) , <http://www.winzip.com/faq.htm#wzt>

[StuffIt](http://www.aladdinsys.com/) , <http://www.aladdinsys.com/>

[PKZip](http://www.pkware.com/downloads/) , <http://www.pkware.com/downloads/>

NOTE: Some e-mail client software may restrict attachments further.

If you have any questions, please call the YSU Tech Desk at 330-941-1595.