

# MOVING MAIL.APP RULES TO A DIFFERENT MAC

So you use Mail.app for email. And you've created *rules* in Mail.app to perform automatic and complex actions on incoming messages. If you're like most, you probably use rules to filter spam, move messages from certain senders to different folders, execute AppleScripts, and automatically respond to people when you're out of the office. Which is great!

But if you use multiple Macs, or if you purchase a new Mac, you're faced with a perplexing problem: How do you backup and export Mail.app rules to a different Mac? Fortunately, there is a way to do it. Here's how:

1. Open your Library folder. See [How to Open the Library Folder on Your Mac](#) for instructions.
2. Time to open some folders. Here's where you want to go: Mail → V2 → MailData. Once there, you should see the **MessageRules.plist** file, as shown below.

Name	Date Modified	Size	K
AvailableFeeds-shm	Nov 12, 2011 12:29 AM	55 KB	C
AvailableFeeds-wal	Nov 12, 2011 12:29 AM	12 KB	L
BackingStoreUpdateJournal	Today 6:25 PM	76 bytes	C
BackupTOC.plist	Today 6:12 PM	5 KB	P
DefaultCounts	Today 6:25 PM	22 KB	L
Envelope Index	Today 6:12 PM	1.2 MB	L
Envelope Index-shm	Today 6:11 PM	33 KB	L
Envelope Index-wal	Today 6:25 PM	700 KB	L
FlagMailboxes.plist	Dec 21, 2011 2:10 PM	323 bytes	P
LSMMap2	Yesterday 1:21 PM	315 KB	L
<b>MessageRules.plist</b>	Today 10:58 AM	25 KB	P
MessageRules.plist.backup	May 3, 2012 10:07 AM	23 KB	L
OpenedAttachments.plist	Today 6:25 PM	4 KB	P
▶ Signatures	Nov 21, 2011 1:49 AM	--	F
SmartMailboxes.plist	Dec 21, 2011 2:10 PM	308 bytes	P
SmartMailboxes.plist.backup	Dec 21, 2011 1:48 PM	308 bytes	C
VersionedSmartMailboxes.plist	Dec 21, 2011 2:10 PM	317 bytes	P
VersionedSmartMailboxes.plist.backup	Dec 21, 2011 1:48 PM	317 bytes	C
▶ RSS	Today 6:25 PM	--	F

- Now you'll need to copy this file somewhere else. Hold down the Option key and drag the file to a different folder or an external drive. That will copy your rules while leaving the original file right where it is.
- To transfer the rules to another Mac, just drop the **MessageRules.plist** file into the same folder (Mail → V2 → MailData) on the new Mac. When you launch the Mail application and create your accounts, all of your rules will be there.

This is a great timesaver! Remember that you can use these instructions to copy your rules to every Mac you use.

Source : <http://www.macinstruct.com/node/471>