

# “Spam” Filter Fighting

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## *The US Post Office Motto:*

*Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night  
stays these couriers from the swift completion of their  
appointed rounds*

It should NOW be...

## *The WWW Spammers Motto:*

*Neither filters nor aliases nor blockers nor change of  
e-mail address may stays these spammers from the  
swift completion of their spamming grounds*

# Overview

- NCSU has a filtering system called Pure Message Your first defense at NC State is to download this program.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/it/mail/puremessage/xspamflag.html>

- I have made a filter that takes care of 90% of my junk mail and has worked well for me. However, I can give no guarantees as to total spam elimination. Spammers are persistent and clever often when you close one door on them they move to the next level of their spamming techniques.

- The filter I suggest you make blocks a senders Domain name which are the letters that come after the last dot in the senders address. Domains are universal to tons of e-mail senders addresses. Our Domain at NCSU is .edu (we will keep this domain)

- The basic premises is to block the end of the Spammers e-mail addresses rather than the full e-mail address of the sender.

- NOTE: Filters not only block out but can also keep in. When a filter is told to keep the full name of important .com's they stay in the in-box.

## The idea is this:

You want to block a “**sender**” who’s e-mail “**ends with**” domain name **.com** and I want to mark all incoming .com e-mail as “**delete from my in-box and move into a folder I made to hold it for awhile (just in case)**” This will be a folder you make in your in-box area. You might call it “**move out of NCSU**”. Or you might call it “**move out .com stuff**”. I don’t get upset when my filter blocks out all the .com’s in the world because I am only marking them to be moved into another folder for later review. They will be out of your sight so you can concentrate on your needed e-mail.

- I have made a picture tutorial to show you how to make this and another filter. The instruction are for **Netscape** and **Mozilla**.

- If you are using another program like **Outlook** just work at developing a **rule** that will do the same thing = block the ends of domains. It can be done.

- Tip: In Mozilla you can import your address book e-mail list into a filter. This is a nice feature.

- I do suggest you move along with caution testing the elimination of each domain and the set up of needed incoming addresses so you feel comfortable with changes.**

# What are the domain names about?

To remove most all of the junk mail:

You will be blocking all the top-level domain names  
and all the second-level country domain names.

everything else is what you really need. Everything is saved including  
the blocked e-mail and all can be retrieved.

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## Top-level domains (TDL)

(are open to global community to register and use)

.biz

.com

.info

.name

.net (open however it is generally used by) networks

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## Second-level (ccTDL's) Country Code Domains

**The full list of country domains are at the end of this PDF file.**

Examples: of CC's I have had the most Junk mail from

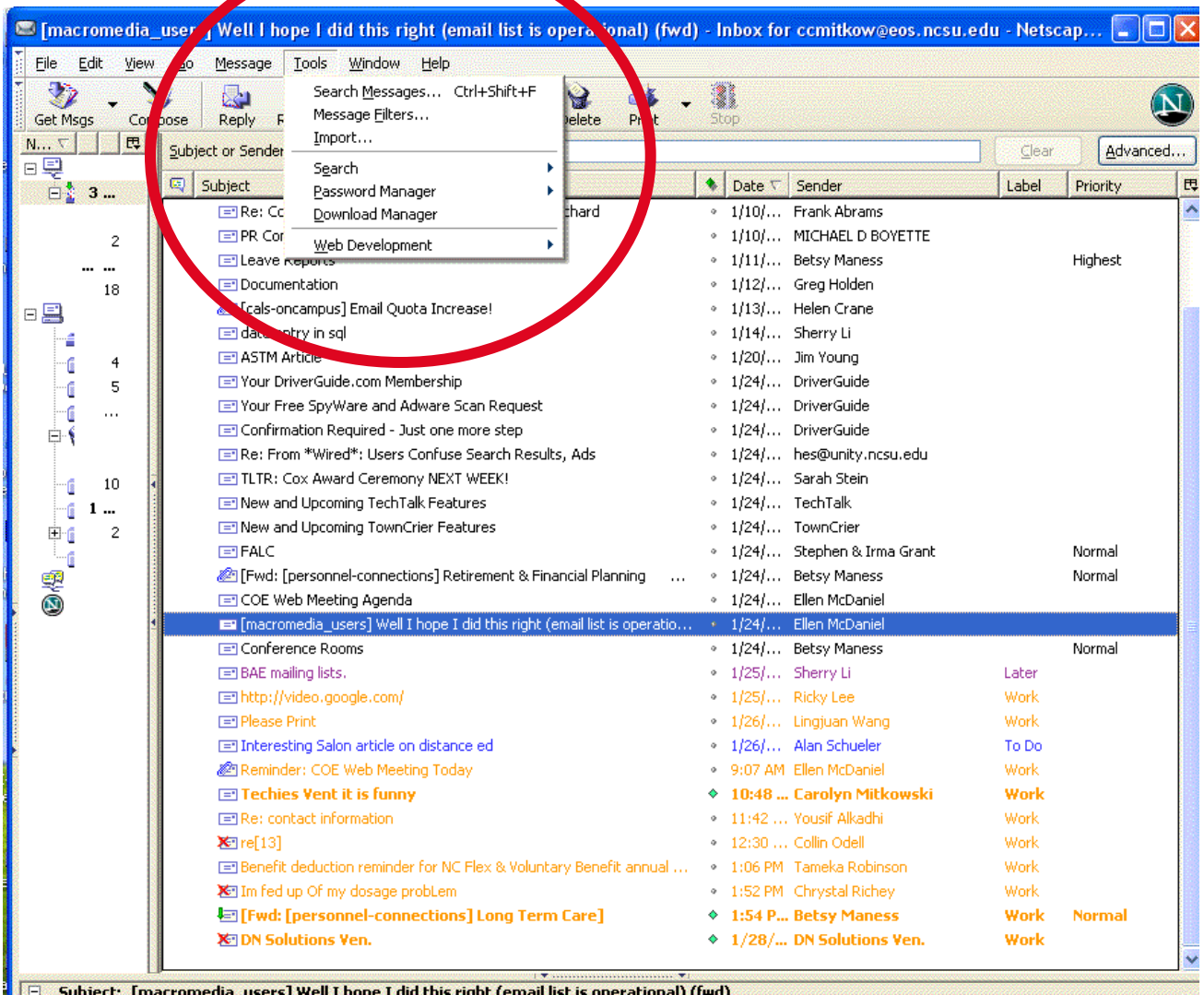
.ca (Canada)	.fr (France)	.nl (Netherlands)
.uk (United Kingdom)	.lt (Lithuania)	.dk (Denmark)
.pl (Poland)	.au (Australia)	.nz (Mozambique)
.cn (China)	.hk (Hong Kong)	.se (Sweden)
.ru (Russia)	.hu (Hungary)	.ee (Estonia)
.fr (France)	.co (Colombia)	.fi (Finland)

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## Restricted TDL's DO not BLOCK with a FILTER.

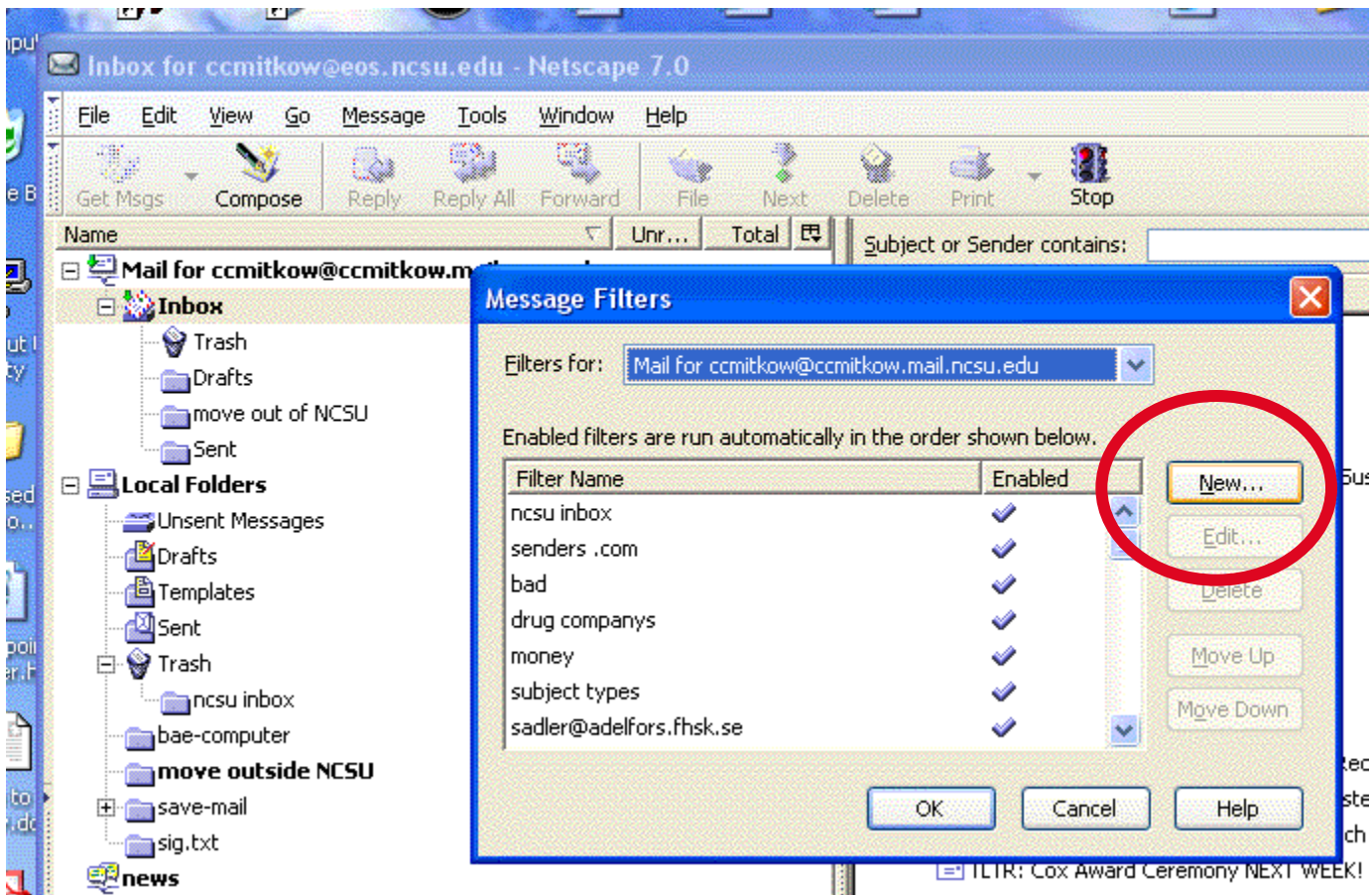
.edu	.int---- international treaty org's
.gov	.aero ---aviation –airline industry
.museum	.coop---cooperatives
.org	.pro--- professional
	.mil--- military

# How to make this filter fighter for Netscape and Mozilla



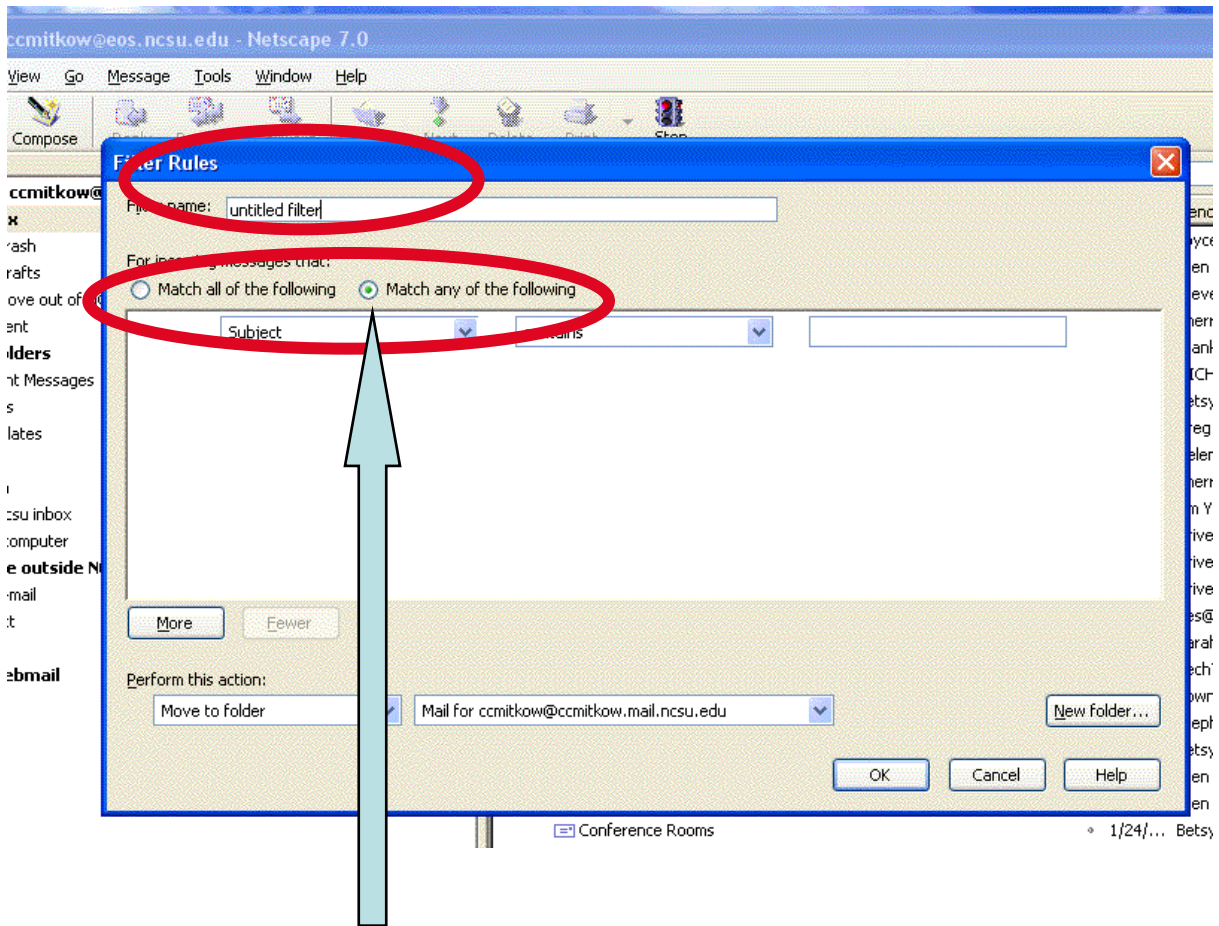
Enter the mail program

Choose **“Message Filter”** from Tools menu

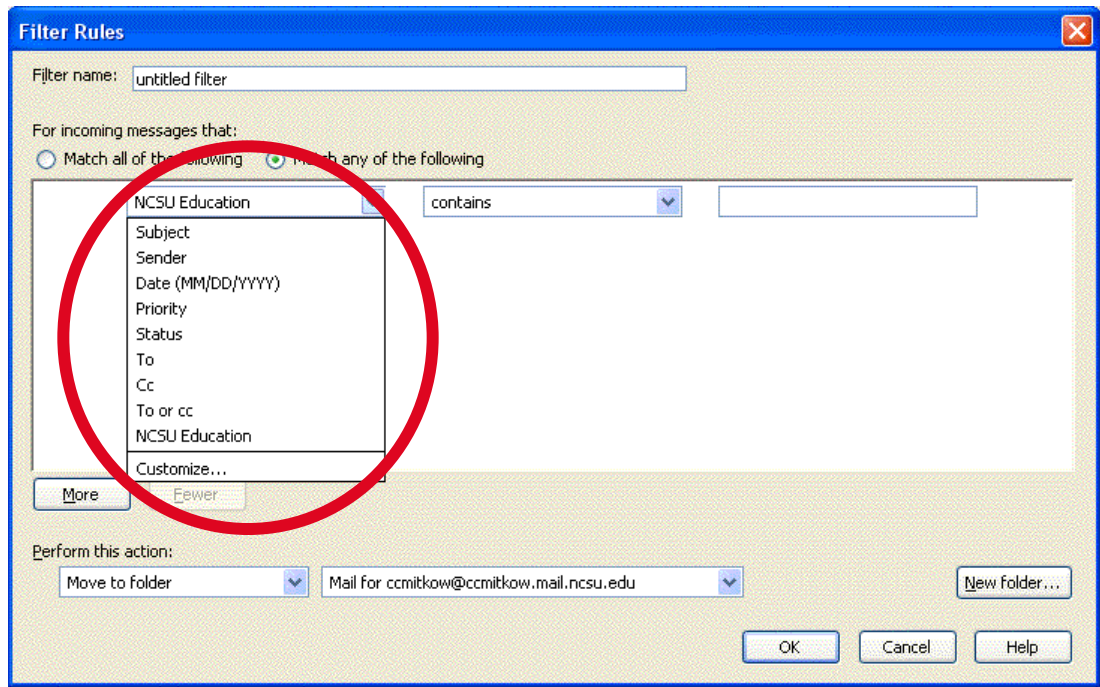


- The Message filter dialogue box comes up.
- Choose **“New”**

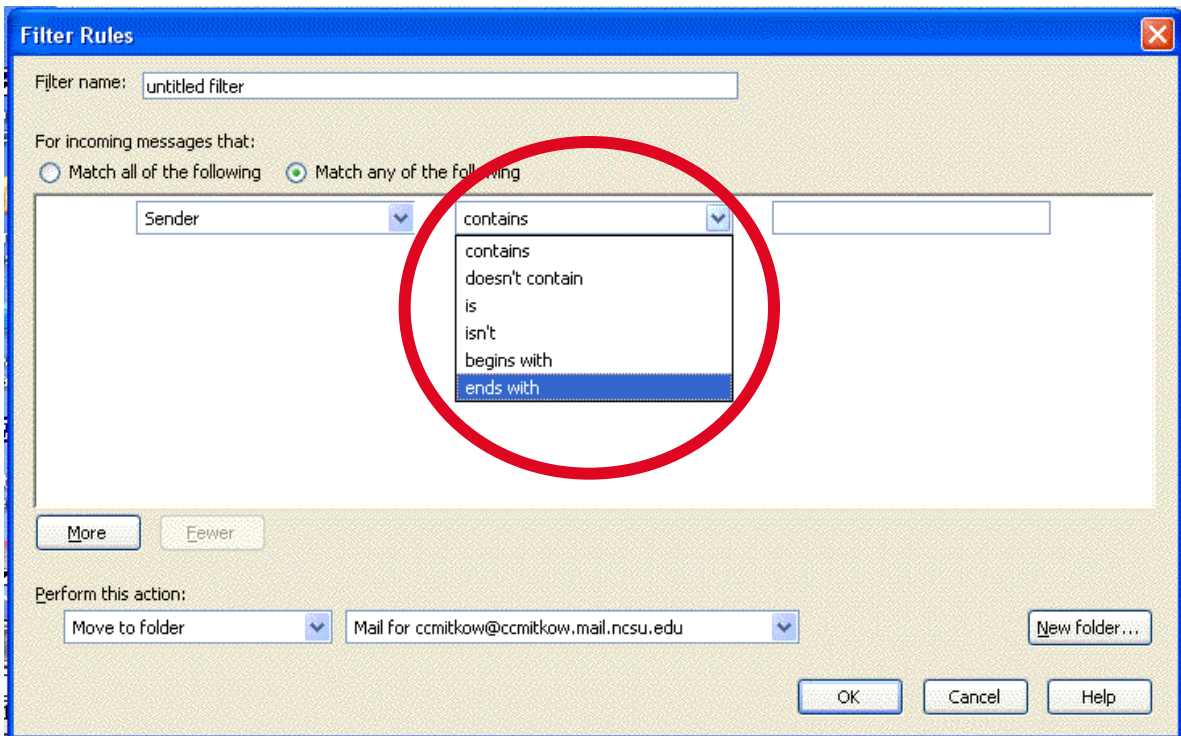
In the new filter box give it a name  
I call this one “senders.com”



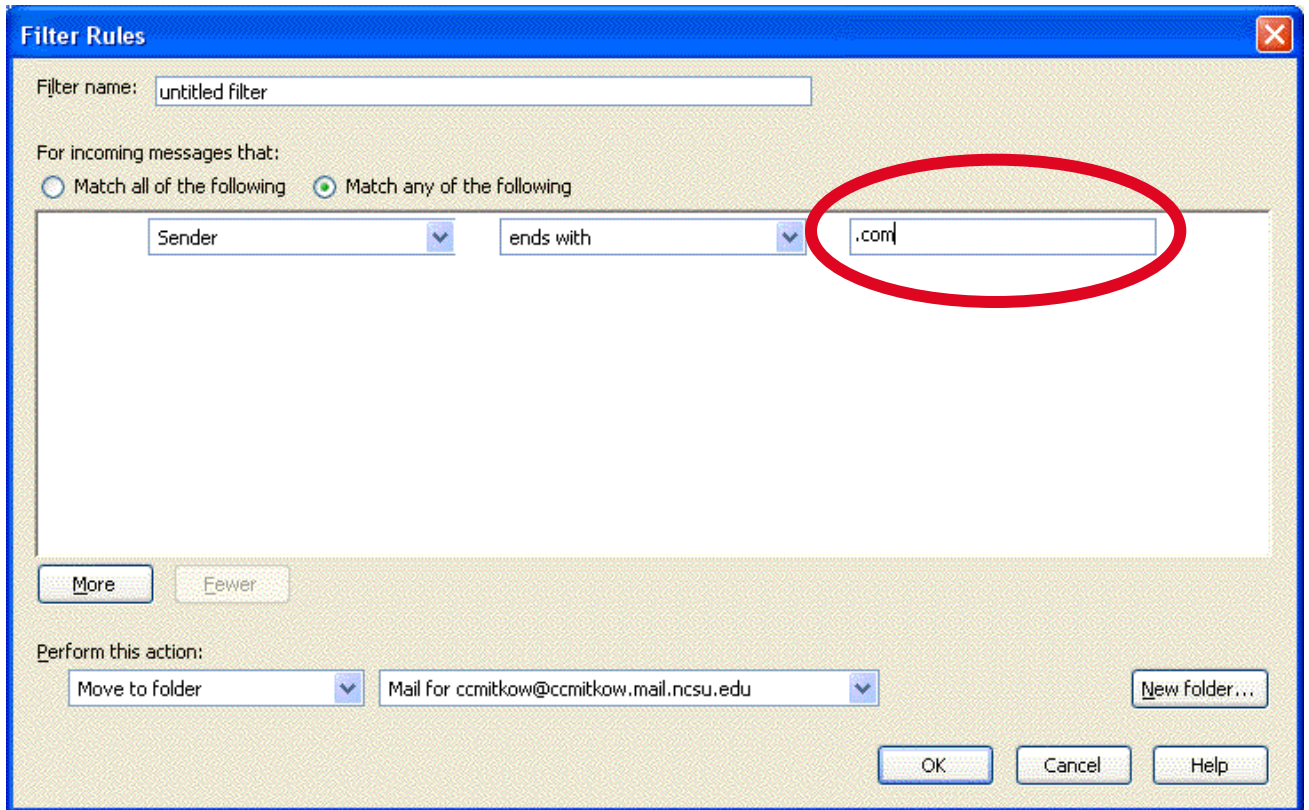
In the two radial boxes choose “**Match any of the following**”.



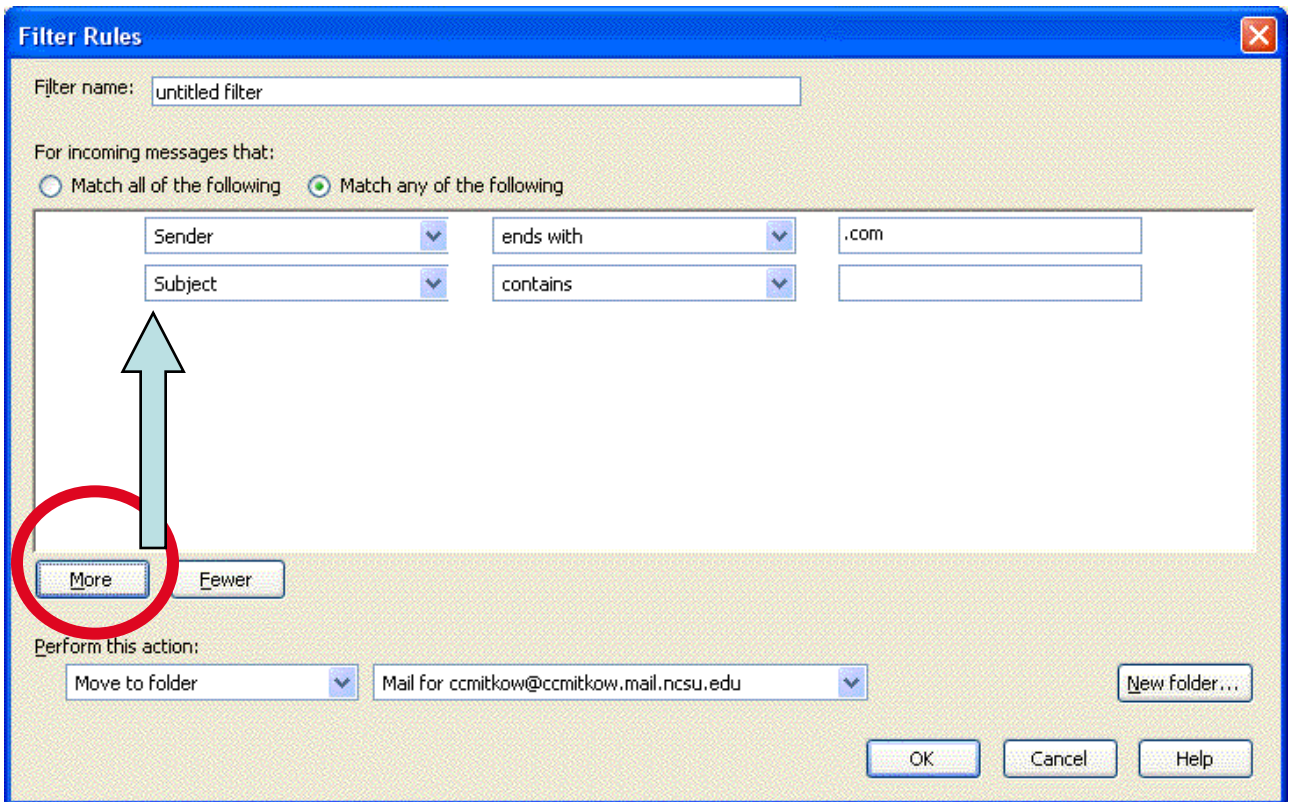
In the subject box note all the options available  
However, for this filter choose “**sender**”



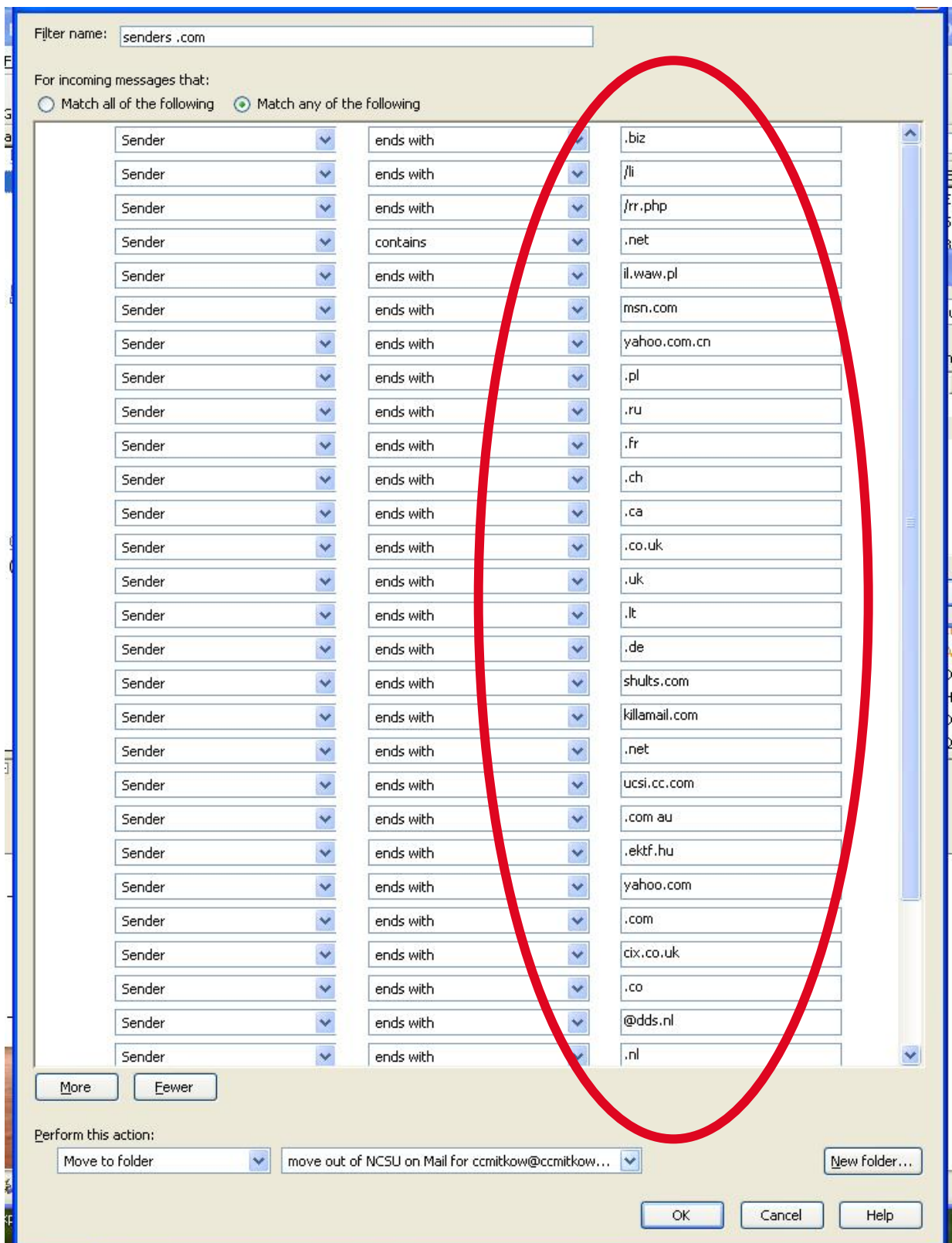
Note the options in the next drop down.  
But pick “**ends with**”



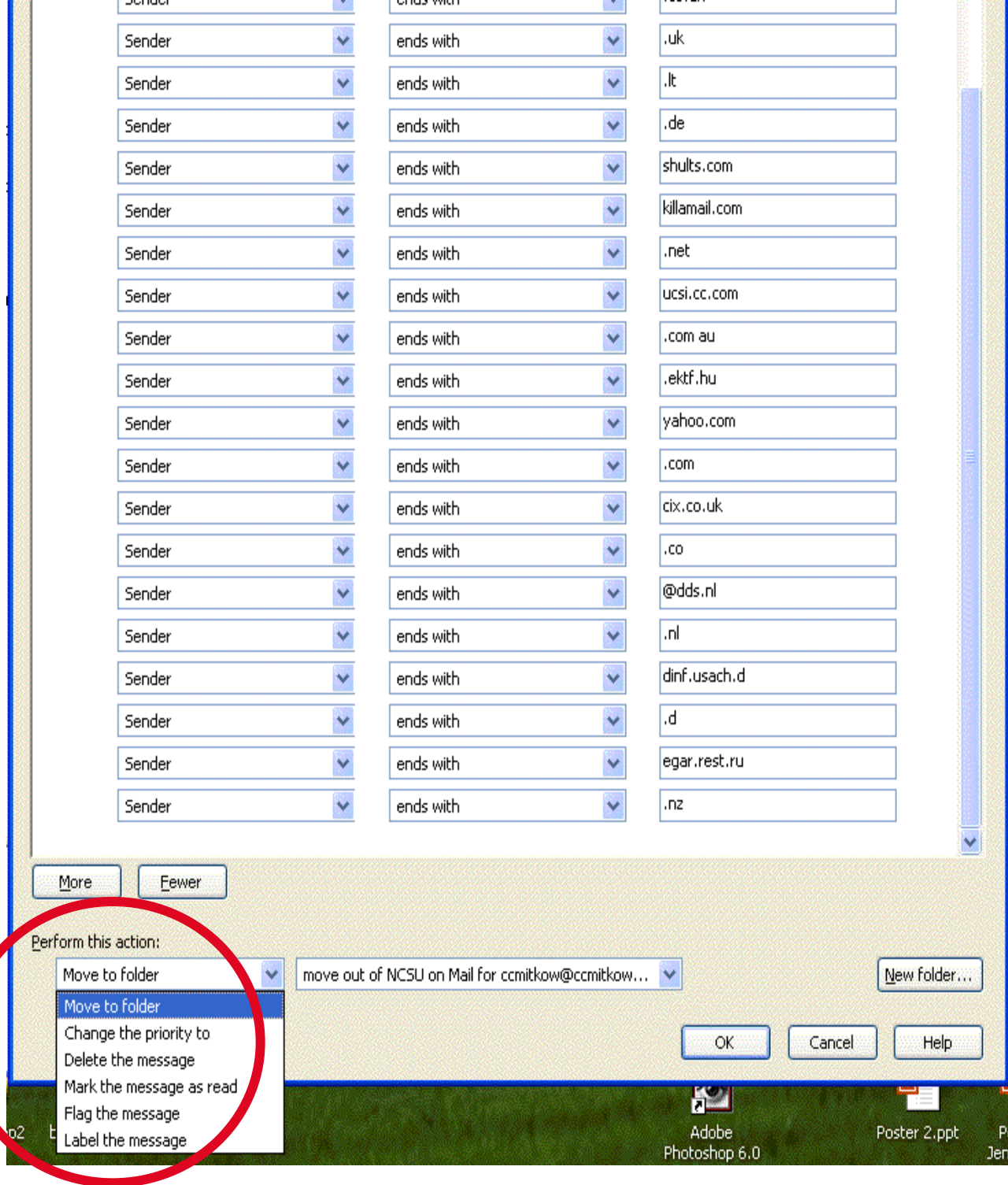
- In the blank drop down enter what you want to block.
- In this case we will begin to develop a list of e-mail domains like **.com** to block.



- The **“More”** button will add a new line to block
- Add **“sender”**, **“ends with”** and your next **“blocked item”** like .biz.
- To give you a jump start enter the list of **Domains** both **top level** and **second level country codes** on page 5.
- Later with the edit button you can enter all of the domains country codes on page 25.

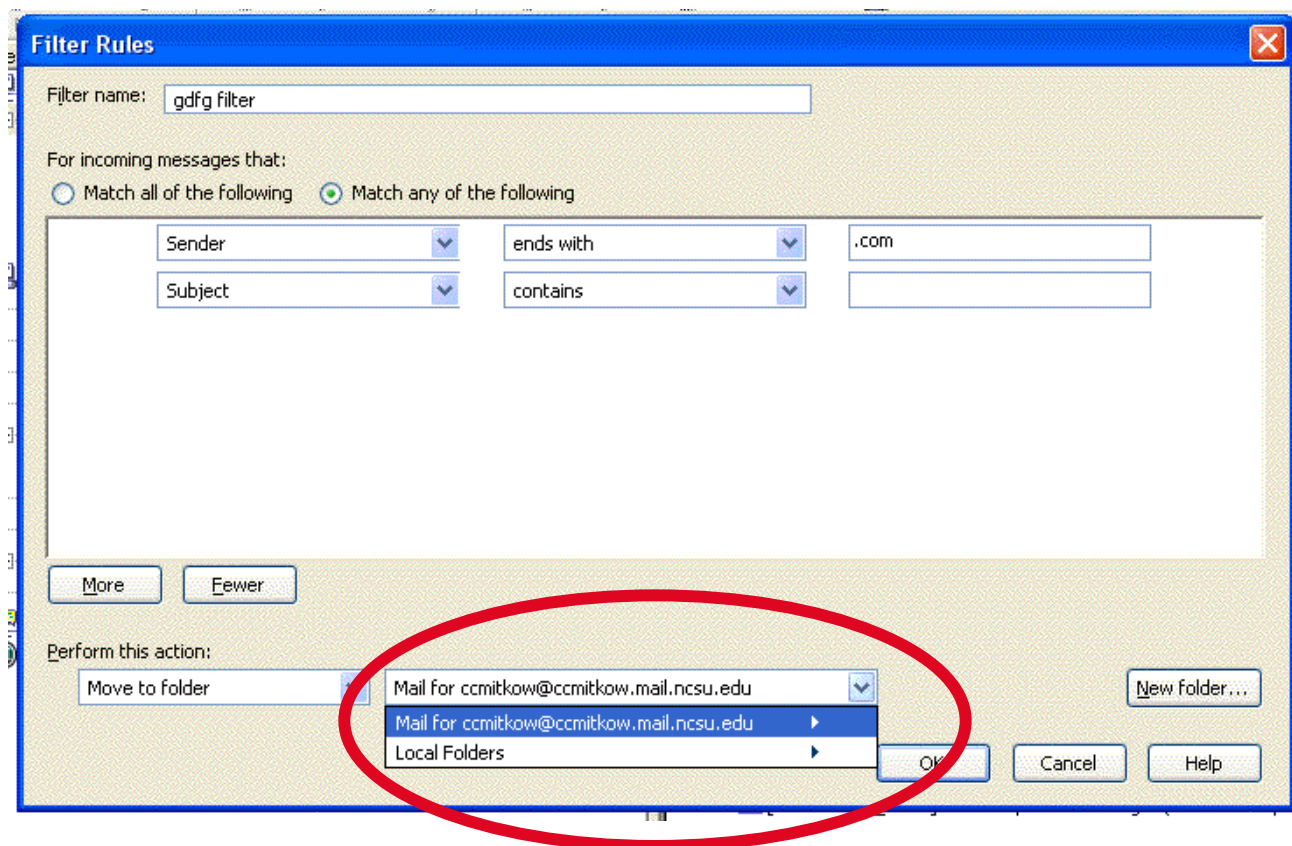


- When you are all done later the list will be very long but you will fighting tons of spam from now on.



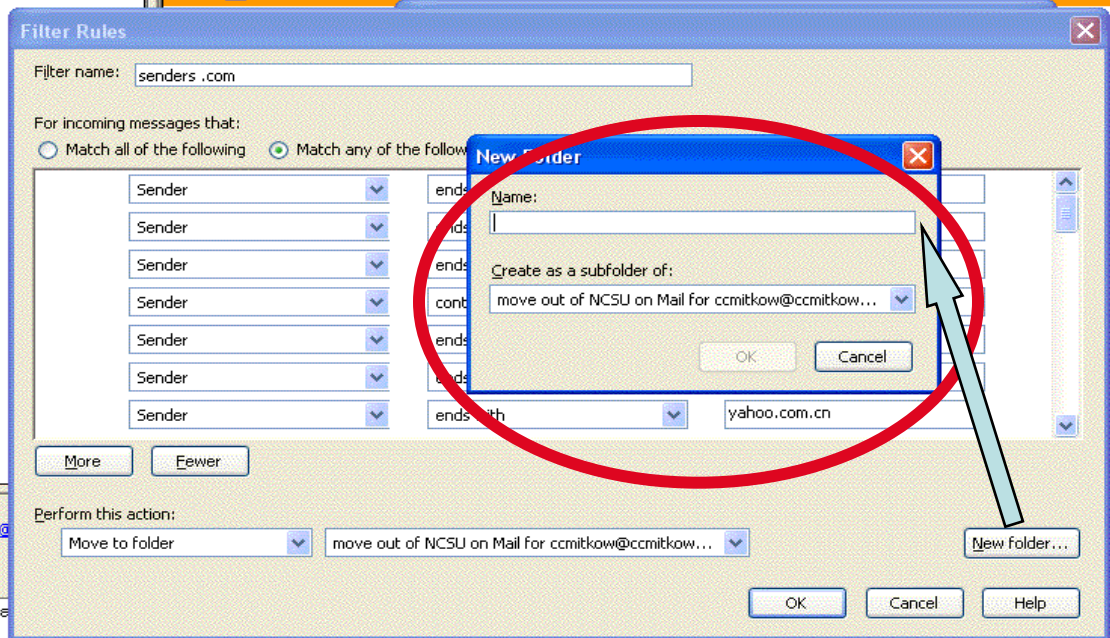
•Next you tell the e-mail filter what to do with filter entries.

•Under perform this action: Note the options you have in the drop down list. Leave it on the default “**Move to folder**”.



- In the next box keep the default “**Mail for- your e-mail**” (some people may also have a local folder choice available so you can save in folders on your hard drive).

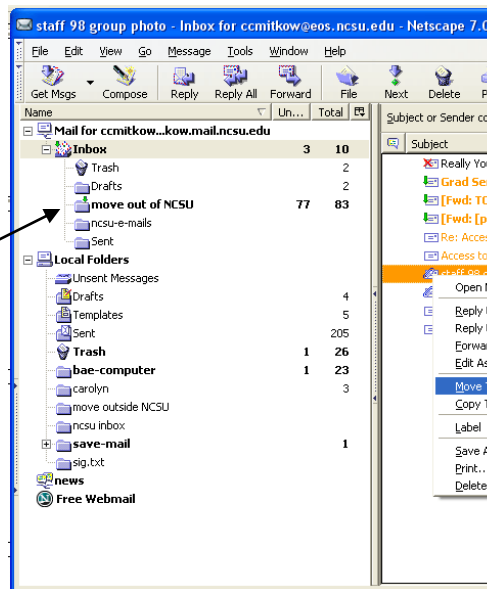
- But do note the arrow next to it we will be back to use this later.

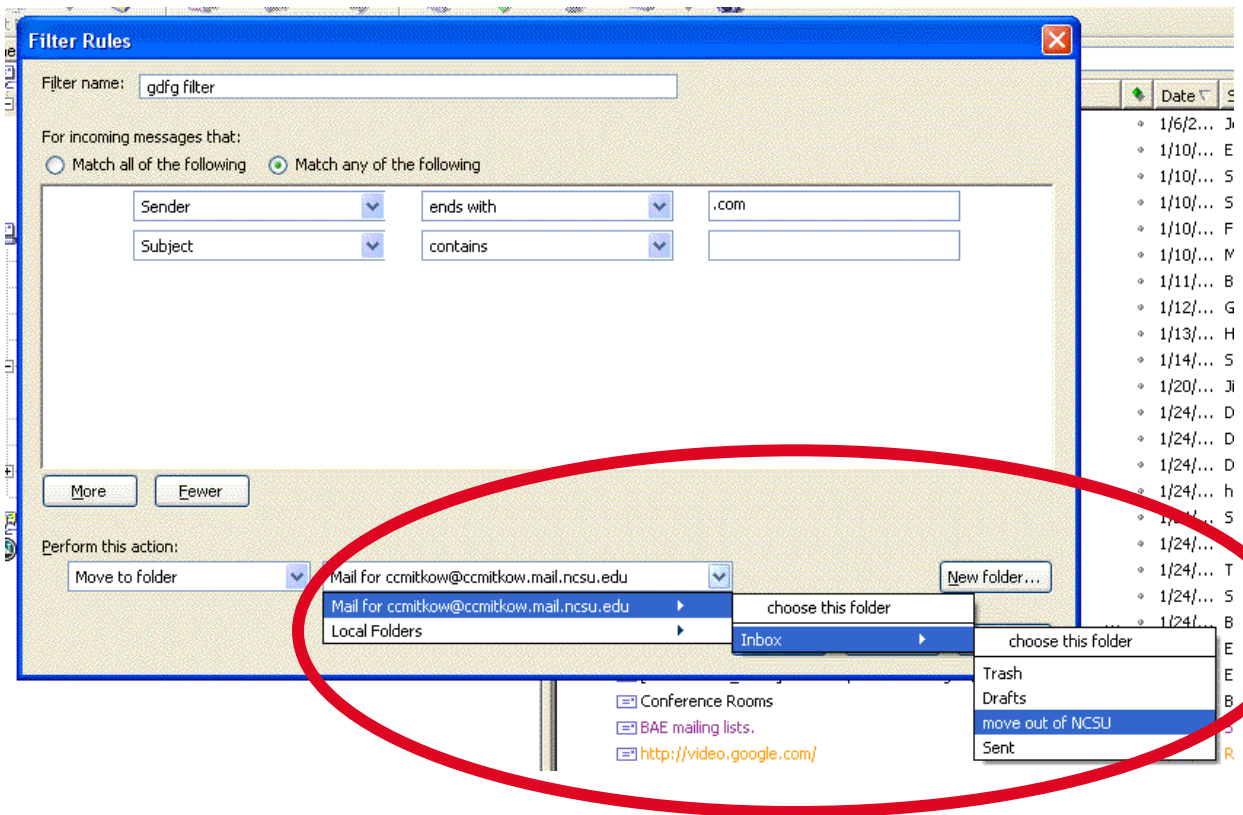


- Choose the **“new folder”** button
- The new folder box pops up.
- Name this folder **“move out of NCSU”** or whatever you like.

• Later you will see the folder you made appearing in the mail-explorer under the *In-box*.

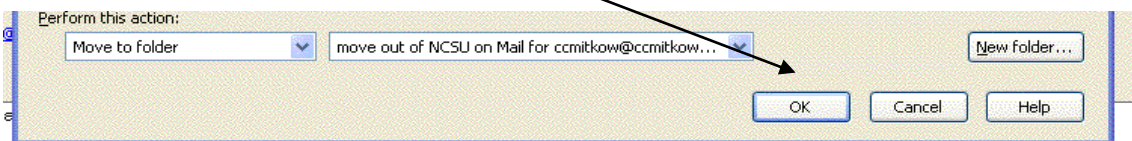
• *For now...*





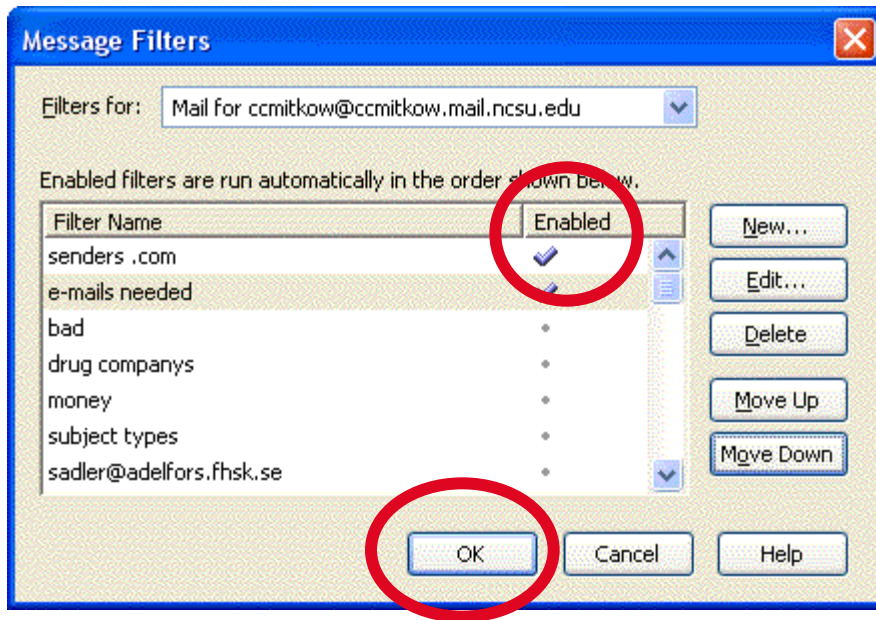
- Go back to the previous drop down and use the tinny arrow and navigate to choose the folder you just made.

- Press OK and you will return to the main “list of filters box”



- At this point or on another day use the edit button to input all the country code Domains starting on page 25

- To finish make sure the enabled “**check mark**” is on.
- Then press “**OK**” to activate the filter.



The filter “**senders.com**” is done...

Go to page 20 to view what the in-box looks like now.

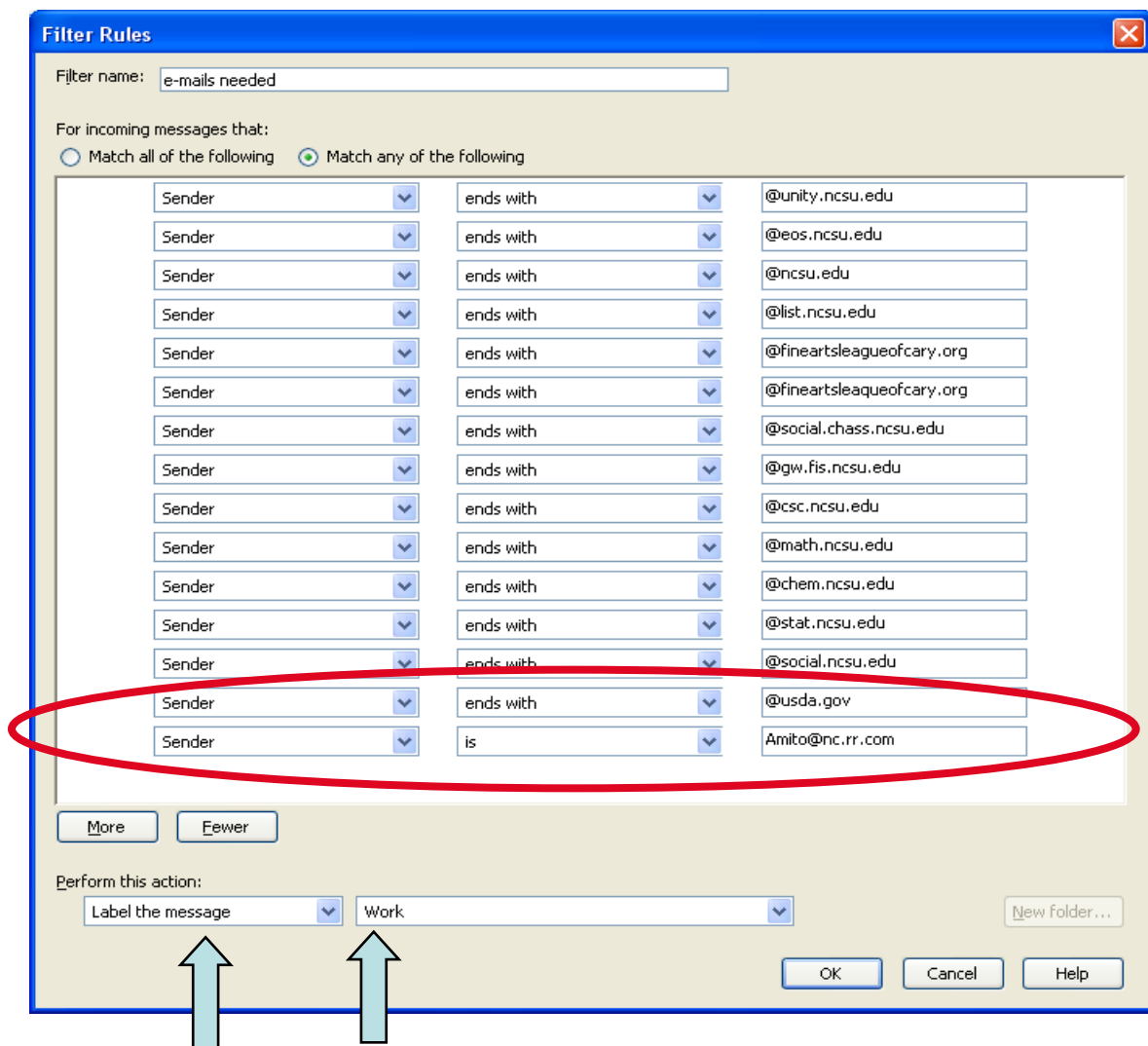
## How to make a filter to **keep e-mails**...

It is up to you if you want to make the next filter. I call it “**e-mails to keep**”. This filter can keep e-mails like a favorite .com company that you work with from being marked as **X** to delete and move out of the in-box.

The two filters “**senders.com**” and “**e-mails to keep**” work nicely hand-in-hand.

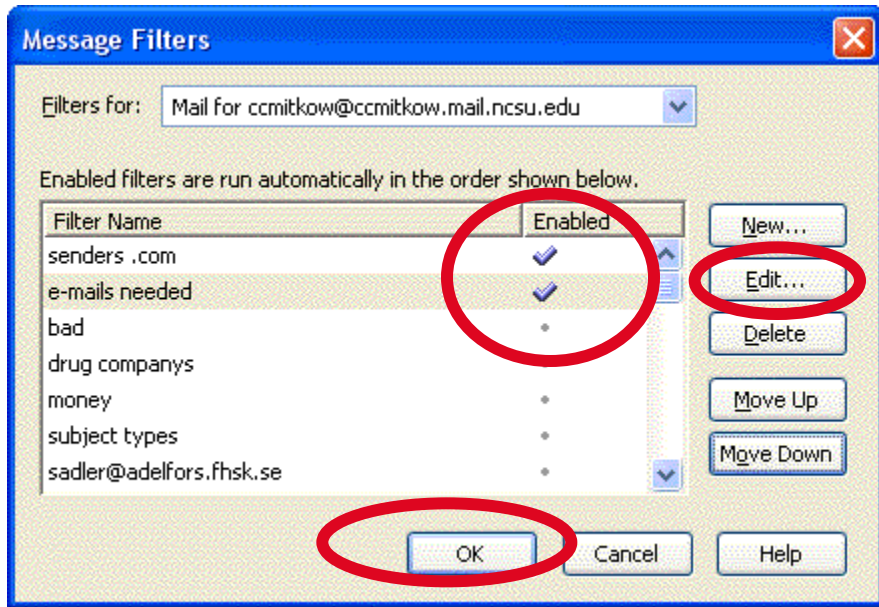
# Making the Filter “e-mails to keep”

- Follow the directions for the first filter but with these choices
- Name the filter “**e-mails to keep**”.
- For friends and businesses change the “*ends with*” to “**is**”
- Add the full e-mail of friends, businesses or if the e-mail program imports the address book do it.
- You can if you want add “NCSU extensions including list serves” (I am trying to get all the extension on campus) as **sender --- ends with --- NCSU extensions** it will get labeled work.

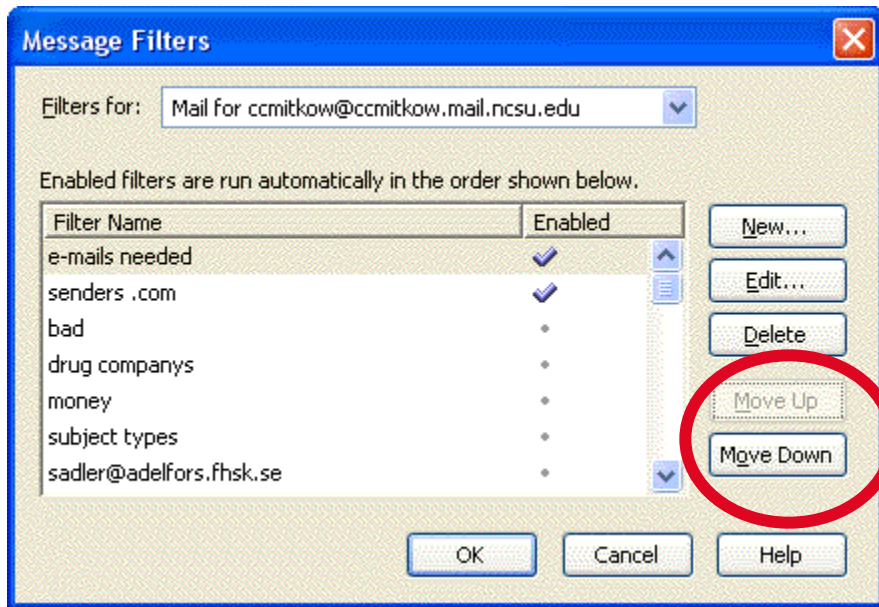


The actions to take are “**label this message**” and “**work**”  
These options do not require a folder be made. Say “**OK**”

# Other things you need to know about filters



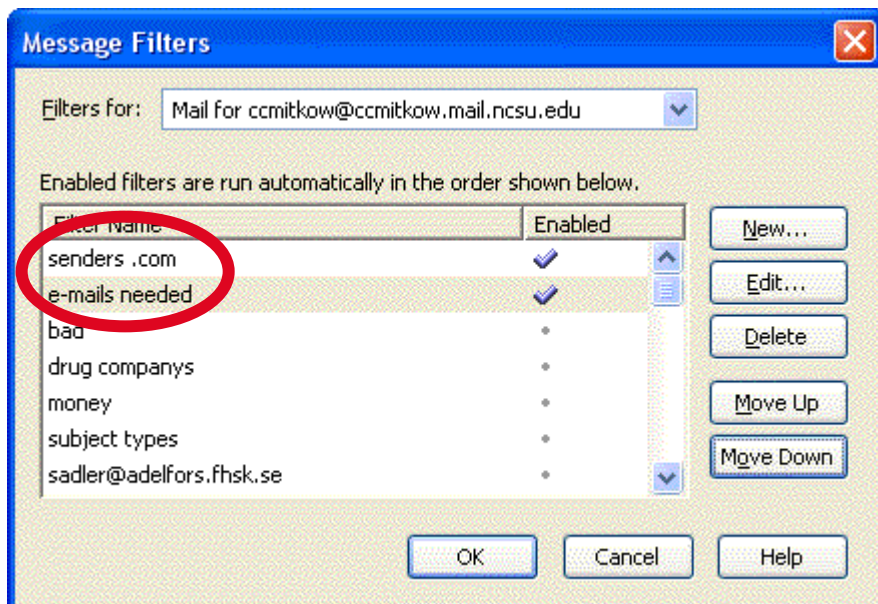
- Note the other button choices on the right hand side of the filters box.
- To “**Edit**” choose the filter--highlight it, The edit button brings you back to this list to make changes or add more items to the list.
- You need to say “**OK**” to the changes in both the *list dialog box* and the *message filters dialog*, thus assuring the filter changes will take effect.
- **TROUBLE SHOOTING:** If your changes do not work you must have forgot to say *OK* in both places or you had the wrong filter highlighted when you *OK*'ed it. Don't forget to Enable with a check mark.
- Next the importance of the **move-up** and **move-down** buttons



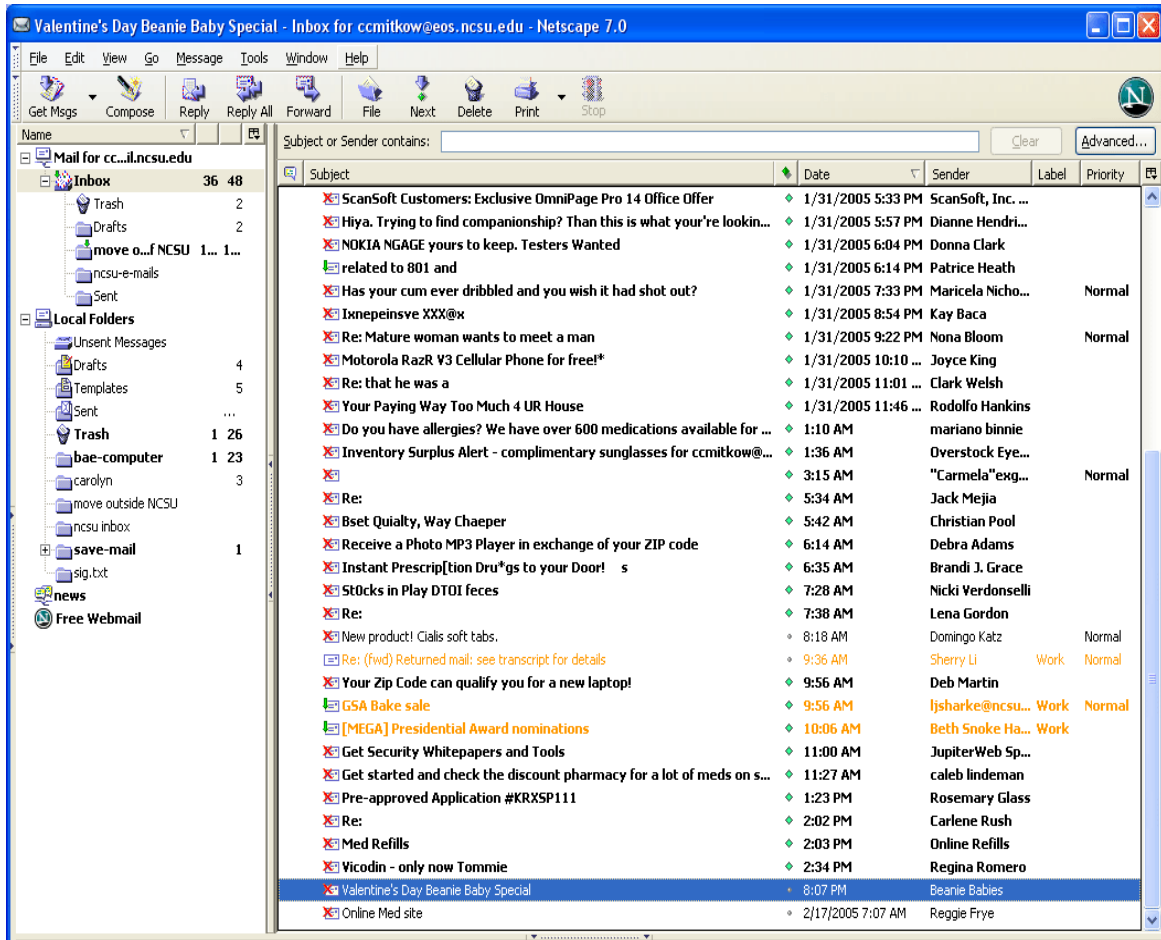
•With the “**move up**”, “**move down**” buttons you can put filters in the order you want the filters to be read first. In this case we want the senders.com to be filtered first and e-mails to kept second.

### Why is the order important?

•The order reminds the filter to put back the e-mails that might have a .com ending in there address you want.



# Look at what got filtered and marked with X



•When you open the in-box the junk “**senders**” are flagged **X**. When you compact your e-mail junk is removed to the folder “**move out of NCSU**” (not the trash). **ASAP** you should compact the folder before you open any mail.

•What is left is what you want to see in the in-box. The junk safely tucked away can be reviewed another day or whenever.

•If you made the filter “**e-mails to keep**” these will have a green down arrow indicating it has not been read yet and it will be labeled as **work**.

•See what in-box looks like after it is compacted next page....

# What's in the in-box NOW...

## Your real e-mails – the junk is gone

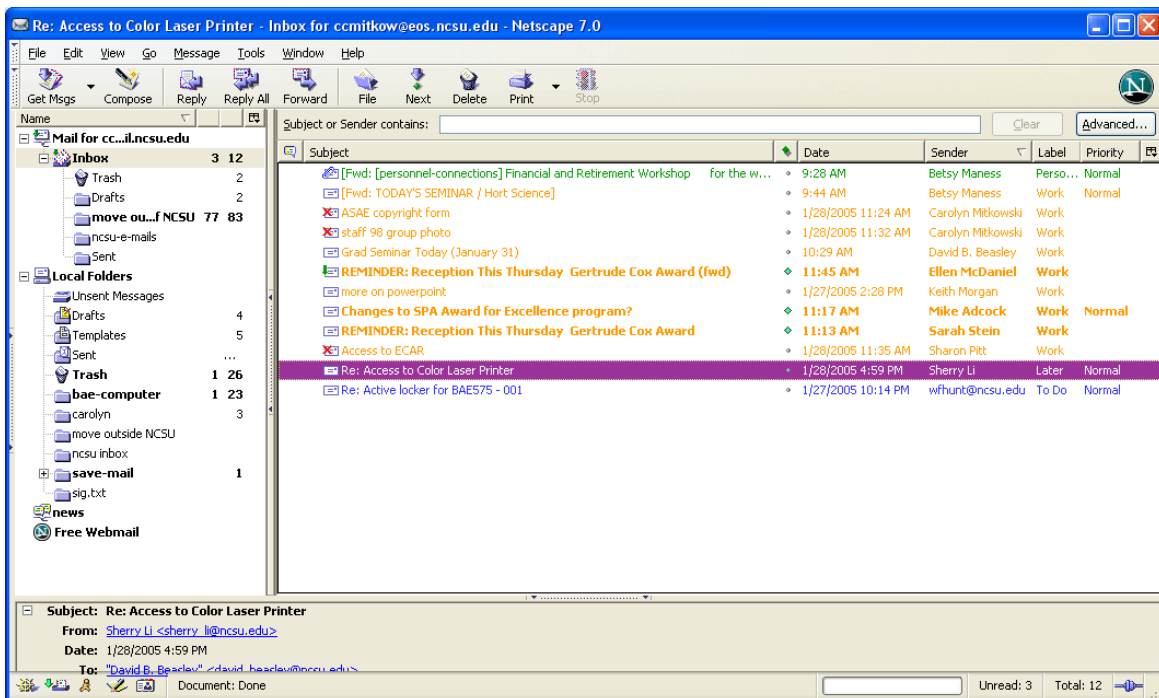
•Reminder: Before you start to read e-mail ---- you have to compact the folder to delete and move the JUNK mail.. However, If you want... you can....

quickly scan the deleted messages for senders and or subjects which are possibly needed and unselect them.

*This is not a must do.* You can always wait and review the junk anytime later. You will find the compacted junk-mail waiting for you in the “**move out of NCSU**” folder.

•Mail in the “**move out of NCSU**” folder **does not** automatically delete. When you are confident that nothing is needed then “**select all**” to delete messages.

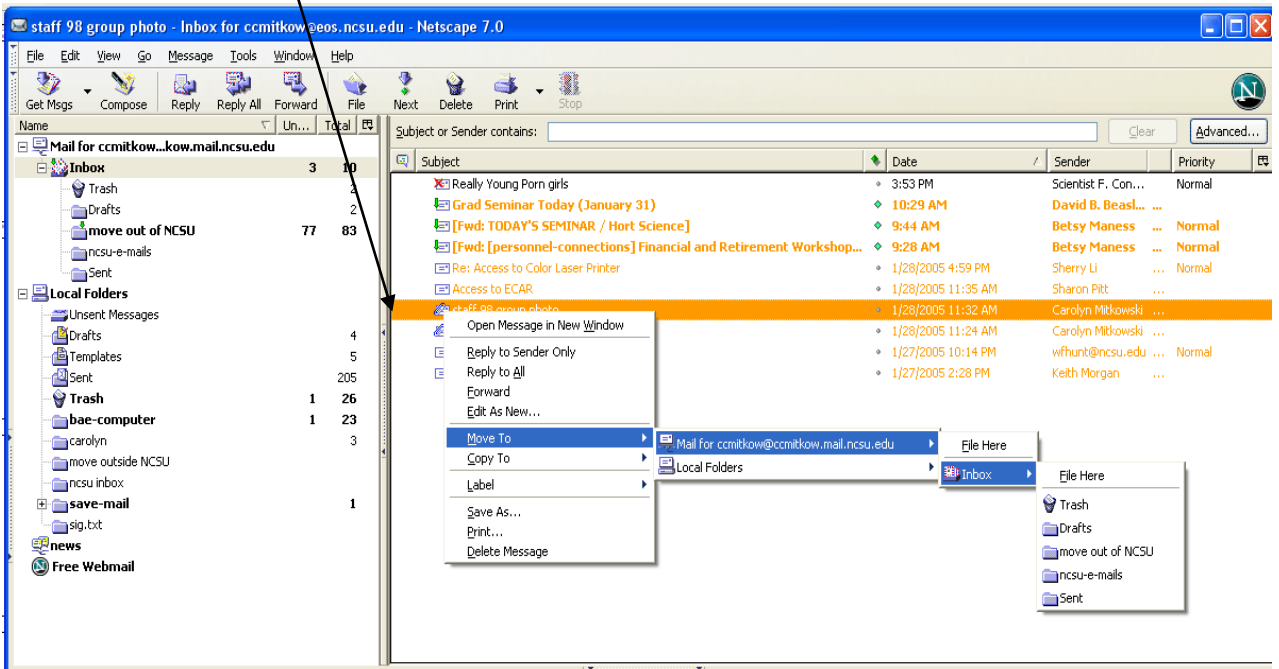
•This is the way we should look at are e-mail.

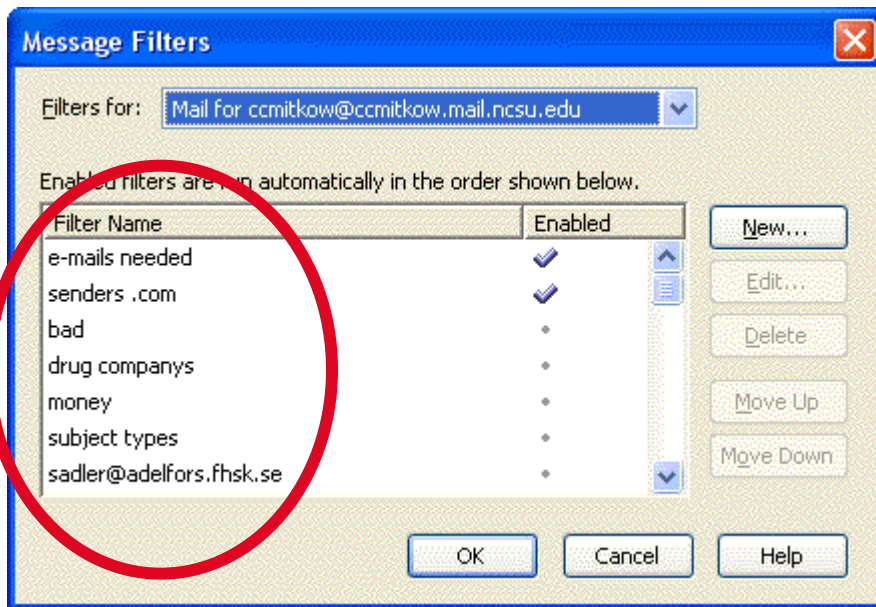


# Other things to do with e-mail

- E-mail of special importance can be filed into folders. To make additional folders for the mail in-box choose Netscape's menu file/new/folder. It is best to use local folders for storing long term e-mails for reference but now that they have increased the size of e-mail space you can store more here.

- The **Label** options are handy for busy people. Just right right click on an e-mail. You can quickly label items to remind you how to take care of a particular e-mail's content like /important/later/personal. **Label** options can be applied to help you organize your work further or you can move personal e-mail into other folders.





•I have made many other filters that back-up my main two filters. You may want to make some of your own.

**YOU ARE DONE**  
BE HAPPY....You are a spam filter fighter now.

Contact: Carolyn Mitkowski [ccmitkow@eos.ncsu.edu](mailto:ccmitkow@eos.ncsu.edu) 515-6769

The list of country code TLD DOMAINS  
are on the TLD pdf

