

# Mailblock Spam Filtering

## What are wildcards and why are they useful?

Wildcards are a way to match any combination of words or symbols. The best way to explain wildcards is to show a few examples. Consider the following:

joe@somewhere.com	Block mail from joe at somewhere.com
j*@somewhere.com	Block mail from anyone who's username starts with a J at somewhere.com
*@somewhere.com	Block mail from anyone at somewhere.com
*savetrees*	Block mail from anyone at a domain name that has the words savetrees in it.
*.gov	Block mail from anyone at a government address
205.199.212.*	Block mail from anyone at the network of 205.199.212.x
*	<b>VERY DANGEROUS. This would block all electronic mail from everyone.</b>

Wildcards can be used anywhere inside email addresses, domain names or IP addresses. Wildcards can only be used at the beginning or end of subject, message content or header matches.

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