

# How do I block recipient address with wildcards?



Document ID: 117888

Contributed by Scott Roeder and Enrico Werner, Cisco TAC Engineers.

Jul 08, 2014

## Contents

### Question

## Question

How do I block recipient address with wildcards?

If you want to block mail to a recipient and specify the recipient address with a wildcard, you must use a message or content filter. Filters allow you to use regular expressions to match the sender or recipient addresses.

The ESA uses Python regular expressions. A simple wildcard construct is ".\*", which will match zero or more characters up to a new line. The "." matches any single character, and the "\*" matches the previous expression zero or more times in a row. Let's say you want to match recipients helpmail1, helpmail2, helpmail3, @example.com. A filter expression to match these is

```
"^helpmail.*@example\\.com$"
```

The ^ matches beginning of line and the \$ matches end of line, which limits the match to only helpmail\*@scu.com, but will not match myhelpmail@scu.com, or helpmail@scu.com.au. "\\" is an escape before the ".", so it will be taken literally. You can then use this regular expression in a message filter:

```
DropHelpmail
if (rcpt-to == "^helpmail.*@example\\.com$")
    drop();
}
```

You can also create this as a content filter, simply by choosing 'contains' and entering the regular expression into the condition window:

---

Updated: Jul 08, 2014

Document ID: 117888

---