

# WhereDoLocalSettingsGo

## Where should I put local-system-specific rules or configuration options?

Local configurations should go in the site-specific area - typically `/etc/mail/spamassassin` or `/etc/spamassassin`. All files in this directory matching `*.cf` will be processed in lexical order.

Do *not* put them in `/usr/share/spamassassin` (where the rules distributed with [SpamAssassin](#) are stored) - this directory is cleaned out when new versions of [SpamAssassin](#) are installed. Type `man Mail::SpamAssassin::Conf` for details of what you can configure, and how to do it.

If you are an "end user" and do not have update access to `/etc/mail/spamassassin`, then your configuration parameters should go into your `$HOME/.spamassassin/user_prefs` file. Assuming your mail host's configuration allows for individual configurations, this file is read and then merged with (and supersedes) site-specific and distribution parameters. (If your host's configuration does not allow for individual configurations, then chances are you do not have a `$HOME/.spamassassin` directory.)

To clarify the above – if you put the `*.cf` files in `/etc/mail/spamassassin` then they are applied to all users on the system.

If you want to make the rules specific to one user, it's different. Putting the `*.cf` files in the user's `$HOME/.spamassassin/` directory won't work; they actually have to be in the `$HOME/.spamassassin/user_prefs` file.