

# FalsePositives

## False Positives

As <http://spamassassin.org/tag/> explains, sometimes [SpamAssassin](#) will get a "false positive", resulting in tagged mails which are not actually spam at all.

Since spammers don't usually highlight the fact that their mail is unwanted, unsolicited ads, [SpamAssassin](#) has to try to work it out – and it's not always easy to do. And it's only a computer program, so it does get it wrong sometimes – even humans do.

We use a huge database of mail traffic, and analyse the hit rates of each rule to maintain quality and try to ensure that they only hit spam (as much as possible, at least). Rules that hit non-spam get very low scores.

Tip: examine exactly which rules were triggered. Take careful note of the *points* listed beside each rule name – low-scoring rules do not make much of a difference; it's the ones with high scores that need to be avoided.

If you are the mail sender, this may help: [AvoidingFpsForSenders](#)

If you admin a [SpamAssassin](#) installation and suspect something in the configuration may be wrong, see here: [AvoidingFpsForAdmins](#)

If you are the recipient, simply add that sender to your [ManualWhitelist](#). (You could also change the score of the rules that were triggered. See [WritingRules](#) ).