

# RuleFilenameConventions

## Rule Filename Conventions

[SpamAssassin](#) rules files typically look like this: `20_dnsbl_tests.cf` or `25_dkim.cf`. The convention is:

- a two-digit number at the start of the file
- some descriptive text
- ending in ".cf"

## Numbering

These have grown organically, and are just conventions – so take this with a pinch of salt!

These are ordered with [SpamAssassin](#) in mind, particularly the way it reads the files in sorted order, so lower numbers are read first. The convention goes like this:

- default values for settings/preferences: typically 10
- rules: typically 20-25
- translations: typically 30 (defined after the rules are)
- scores: 50-60
- settings to configure whitelist/blacklist/shortcircuit rules: 60
- sandbox stuff: 70 (NOTE: see below)

Note that files at level 70 in the [SpamAssassin](#) distribution's rules dir are not installed by "make install". That's a magic level.

All the others are approximate.

## Descriptive Text

Our convention is to use all lower case, no spaces, characters from the set `/[-_0-9a-z.]`.

## Ending

Rules files have to end in ".cf", otherwise [SpamAssassin](#) will ignore them. Plugins have to end in ".pm".