How to Report Scam Emails (So They Can't Fool Someone Else)

Don't just delete it…help stop the scammers!

So you spotted a scam email (nice work!).

Most people just delete it and move on. That's fine, but did you know you can also **report scam emails** to help stop the bad guys?

It only takes a minute, and it makes the internet a little safer for everyone. Here's how.

Step 1: Don't click, reply, or download anything

Before we report it, **do not interact** with the scam.

- Don't reply
- Don't click links
- Don't open attachments

Just leave the email as-is.

Step 2: Report it to your email provider

Different email services have a built-in **"Report" button.** Using it tells them to block and filter similar scams.
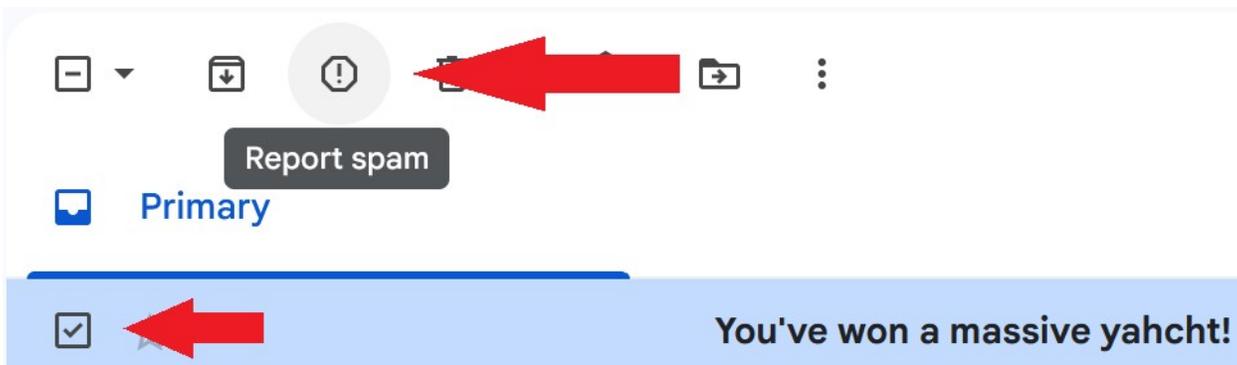
- **Gmail** → Check the box next to the message → Click **"Report Spam"** (it looks like a stop sign with an exclamation point)

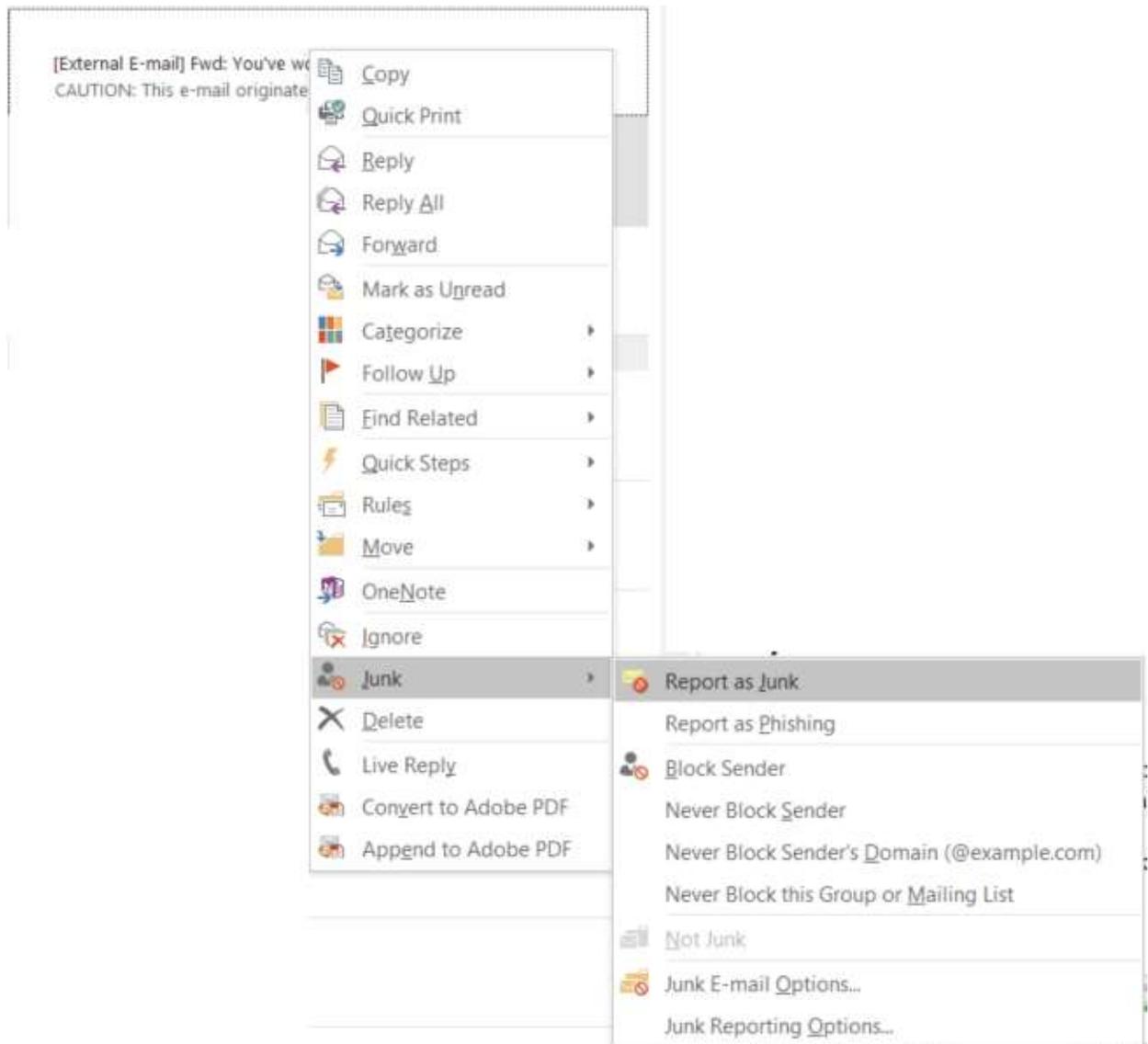- **Outlook / Hotmail** → Right click on the message → Mouse over **"Junk"** → Choose **"Report Spam"** or **"Report as Phishing"**

- **Yahoo Mail** → Select the message → Click the **shield icon** → Choose **"Mark as Spam"**

This helps your email service catch more scams automatically.

Step 3: Forward the email to the government

In the U.S., you can forward scam emails to: **reportphishing@apwg.org**

This goes to the Anti-Phishing Working Group, which tracks scams worldwide.

You can also report it to the **FTC (Federal Trade Commission)**: ReportFraud.ftc.gov

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Step 5: Delete the email

Once it's reported, go ahead and clear it out.
Think of it like taking out the trash — done and gone.

You Did It!

By reporting, you:

- ✓ Protect your own inbox
- ✓ Help your email provider filter scams
- ✓ Give law enforcement a chance to shut scammers down

That's a big win.