View Raw Email

How to View the Real Text of an E-Mail Message

Often it is useful to be able to see the text of an email message without any formatting being applied. For example, to trace why an email was delayed, you will need to look at the detailed header information.

Here are some instructions how to do this in various e-mail clients:

Gmail webapp

Pull up the menu at the top right of the message and choose Show Original.

Mac OS X Mail

Select the message then choose View > Message > Raw Source (or type Cmd-Option-U).

Outlook Express

Windows

Right-click message and choose Properties (or type Alt-Enter), then choose Details, then click button for Message Source.

Mozilla Thunderbird

Linux, Windows

Select the message then choose View > Message Source (or type Ctrl-U)

Mac OS X

Select the message then choose View > Message Source (or type cmd-U)

Eudora

Windows

Right-click in message window and choose View Source from the contextual menu.

actually I am not really sure what this is doing...

• see http://email.about.com/od/eudoratips/qt/et_view_source.htm for a suggested method

Evolution

Linux
Select the message then choose View > Message Display > Show Email Source

An example

Here's a e-mail that is trying to look like a request from Smith Barney to update my account information

Here's the same e-mail, now showing the raw source. It looks very suspicious.

---

From: Smith Barney@wasp.bio.brandeis.edu , CitiGroup <identifdep_op4167144242@smithbarney.com>
Subject: CUSTOMER NOTICE: INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLIENT [Tue, 04 Jan 2005 10:16:13 -0300]
Date: January 4, 2005 8:15:13 AM EST
To: karelsl@wasp.bio.brandeis.edu

Dear Smith Barney customer,

Technical services of the Smith Barney are carrying out a planned software upgrade. We earnestly ask you to visit the following link to start the procedure of confirmation of customers' data.

https://www.smithbarney.com/cgi-bin/login/confirm.cgi

This instruction has been sent to all Smith Barney customers and is obligatory to follow.

Customers support service

---

Here's the same e-mail, now showing the raw source. It looks very suspicious.
This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

Content-Type: text/html
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

<html>
<body>

This is a customer notice: instructions for client.

---

Main.karel - 18 Dec 2004

---