WINMAIL.DAT

There is no solution, I have set up a case at Microsoft Support and they said it is caused by Outlook, and will be solved in a later version, I imagine Office 2010.

## When, How and Why WINMAIL.DAT-Application/MS-TNEF is Created

It's [Outlook](http://email.about.com/od/outlook/)'s fault, in a way; or the recipient's email client's. If Outlook sends a message using the RTF format (which is not very common outside Outlook) for bold text and other text enhancements, it includes the formatting commands in the winmail.dat file. Receiving email clients that do not understand the code therein display it as a stale attachment. To make matters worse, Outlook may also pack other, regular file attachments in the winmail.dat file.

Fortunately, we can get rid of winmail.dat altogether by making sure Outlook does not even try to send mail using RTF.

## To prevent Outlook from attaching winmail.dat when you send an email:

* Select *Tools | Options...* from the menu.
* Go to the *Mail Format* tab.
* Under *Compose in this message format:*, make sure either *HTML* or *Plain Text* is selected.
* Click *Internet Format*.
* Make sure either *Convert to Plain Text format* or *Convert to HTML format* is selected under *When sending Outlook Rich Text messages to Internet recipients, use this format:*
* Click *OK*.
* Click *OK* again.

### Disable Winmail.dat Stubbornly Going to Particular Recipients No Matter the Default

The standard settings for outgoing mail formats in Outlook can be overridden per email address. So, on a per case basis — when somebody complains about an inexplicable "Winmail.dat" attachment after you have made all the right settings changes —, you may have to reset the format for individual addresses:

* Search for the desired contact in your Outlook *Contacts*.
* Double-click the contact's email address.
  + Alternatively, click on the desired email address with the right mouse button and select *Outlook Properties...* from the menu.
* Make sure either *Let Outlook decide the best sending format* or *Send Plain Text only* is selected under *Internet format:*.
* Click *OK*.
* Here's a definitive resolution for the "winmail.dat" issue.
* If you, as an Outlook user, send e-mail formatted as Rich Text (RTF), and you send it to a person whose mail client does not support RTF, then that person will receive a plain text message, and everything else - attachments included - will be wrapped up into an unreadable "winmail.dat" file.

## There are two ways for Outlook users to prevent this from happening:

1.) When composing new messages, make sure to set the format to "Plain Text" (Format menu -> Plain Text).

2.) When sending to a recipient that you know has no RTF mail capabilities, modify the recipient's contact record to indicate this. Go to your address book, click once on a contact name, then click the "Properties" button. Then, click on the folder tab that says "Name," and at the bottom of the window you'll see a checkbox that says, "Send e-mail using plain text only." Check this box, save the changes, and you will be all set.

More info and links can be found in the Microsoft Support Knowledgebase:

[Winmail.dat Attached to All Internet Messages Regardless of Setting on Client.](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;257800)