How/Why do I receive so much junk email?

User Friendly

USING BCC INSTEAD OF CC

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One of the ways that evil-doers use to acquire email addresses is through messages with many email addresses in the **To:** or **cc:** part of the message; in other words, mass mailings. Email addresses are often harvested using 'sniffers'. About 15 years ago, the general rate was $15 for 100,000 addresses. This is a major source of spam and worse — ransomware, hackers, etc. If you must send a message to a large number of individuals who have not provided permission to share their addresses, please use blind courtesy copy (**bcc.**) Using **bcc** allows each recipient to view only the sender's email address and his/her own address. When one chooses a recipient, there will usually be a dropdown arrow next to the **To:** allowing one to decide to change the **To:** to a **cc:** or to a **bcc**. There may also be other ways to choose **To**, **cc**, and **bcc**. And as an important side benefit to using **bcc**, you are protecting the privacy of the recipients. Some or all of them may not want their private email addresses disseminated to strangers.

Another bit of related email etiquette is to avoid forwarding messages that others have sent with previous recipients' addresses. Often one receives a wonderful message with several previous recipients' email addresses, either as **From**, **To**, or **CC**, and you want to share it with an additional 50 of your closest friends. Again, it is unlikely that each sender has received permission from the previous senders to disseminate their email addresses or permission from the many previous recipients of the message. To avoid passing on strangers' addresses, copy the part of the message that you wish to forward into a new composition window and address it via **To**, **cc**, or better yet, **bcc**, to those you want to receive the material. ❖