

Moving Into or Out of Eudora

Eudora, an email program written at the University of Illinois in the eighties, used to be wildly popular because it was free and full-featured. Today, this venerable email client, now sold by Qualcomm, is fading away. Nonetheless, it's still available for both Windows and Mac OS X, and you might be trapped in it. This bonus appendix is your guide toward moving your old data into the Mac.

Moving Email into Entourage or Mac OS X Mail

If you'd like your old Windows /Eudora mail to wind up in a Mac email program like Entourage or Mail, it's good old Thunderbird to the rescue. Follow the steps in "Thunderbird Method (Time-Consuming, Free)," beginning on page 188 of *Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual, Snow Leopard Edition*. In step 4, choose Eudora as the program you're importing from.

Moving Email to Eudora for the Mac

If you use Eudora on Windows and want to move your existing messages into the Mac version of Eudora, you can copy them straight over to your Mac. All you need to know is where to find the necessary files and how to set them up on your Mac.

Here's the most direct path for converting your Eudora mailboxes from Windows to Mac:

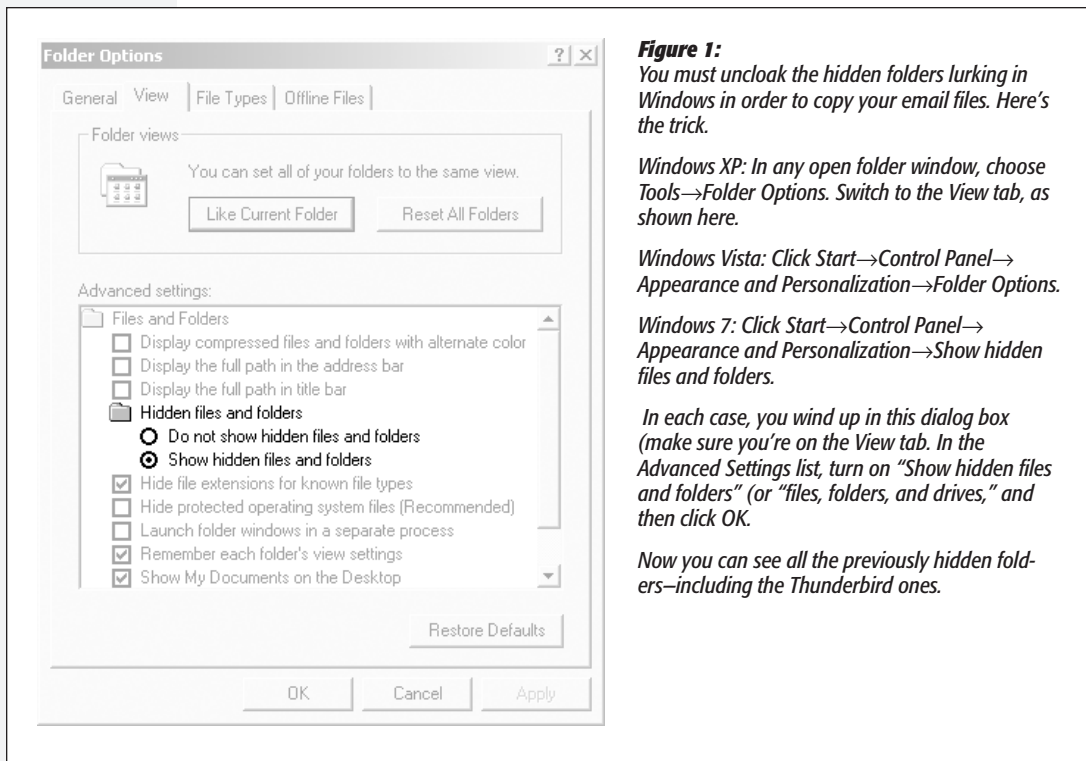
1. Find the Eudora .MBX files on your PC.

The folder names depend on your version of Windows, but here's the gist:

Windows 98 or 98SE: Open the My Computer→your hard drive icon→Win98→Application Data→Qualcomm→Eudora folder.

Windows Me: Open the My Computer→your hard drive icon→WINDOWS→Application Data→Qualcomm→Eudora folder.

Windows XP and later: Microsoft's assumption is that you, the lowly, technically ignorant PC user, have no business mucking around in the important operating-system folders—so Windows hides them from you. To expose the hidden files, follow the steps shown in Figure 1.



Once that's done, open the My Computer→your hard drive icon→Documents and Settings→your name→Application Data→Qualcomm→Eudora.

All versions: In the Eudora folder, you'll find several mailbox files that—depending on your version of Eudora—may end with the filename extension .mbx: In, Out, and Trash, as shown in Figure 2. These are the files you want, whether they end in .mbx or not.

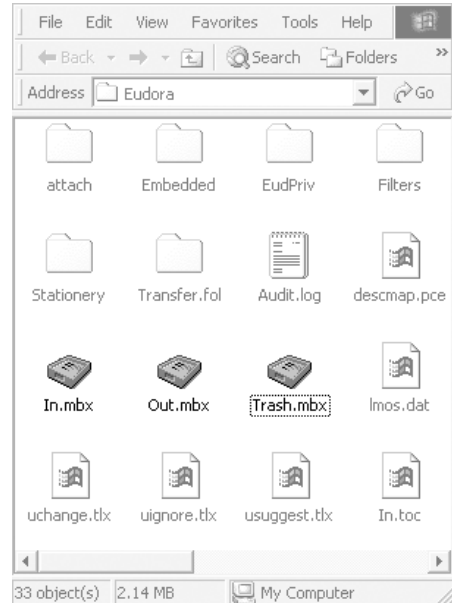
1. Copy the files to your Mac.

Don't worry about all the other stuff in the Eudora folder. The mailbox files contain all your messages, so they're the only ones you need to convert.

2. Fix the carriage returns in the .mbx files.

Figure 2:

Drill down into your PC's Applications Data folder to find the Eudora folder, where your Eudora mailbox files live. The Trash file contains messages you've already thrown into Eudora's trash can. There's no need to copy that file over to your Mac unless you want to preserve those trashed messages.



Here's where things get a little bit ugly. While these mailbox files are really just text files containing your email messages, Windows handles *line breaks*—the invisible “this is the end of a line!” symbol—differently than the Mac. In order for the Mac version of Eudora to read the files correctly, you have to convert the *hard returns* in the text files into *line breaks*. You can accomplish this by doing a simple find-and-replace in a program like Microsoft Word, as shown in Figure 3.

Tip: If you don't have Microsoft Word, you can also run the mailbox files through a shareware conversion program like BBEdit, which is available on this book's “Missing CD” page at www.missingmanuals.com, among other places.

3. Remove the .mbx extension from the file names.

On the Mac side, Eudora expects the file to be called In, not In.mbx. Remove the extension, if it exists, from each of the mailbox files you've brought over.

4. Drop the converted mailbox files into Eudora's Mail Folder folder on your Mac.

Starting from your Home folder, go to Documents→Eudora Folder→Mail Folder, and replace the existing mailbox files with the ones you copied and converted from your PC.

Note: If you don't see a folder called "Mail Folder" inside the Eudora folder, it's probably because you're looking in the Eudora application folder (in the *Applications* folder) instead of the Eudora folder inside your *Documents* folder.

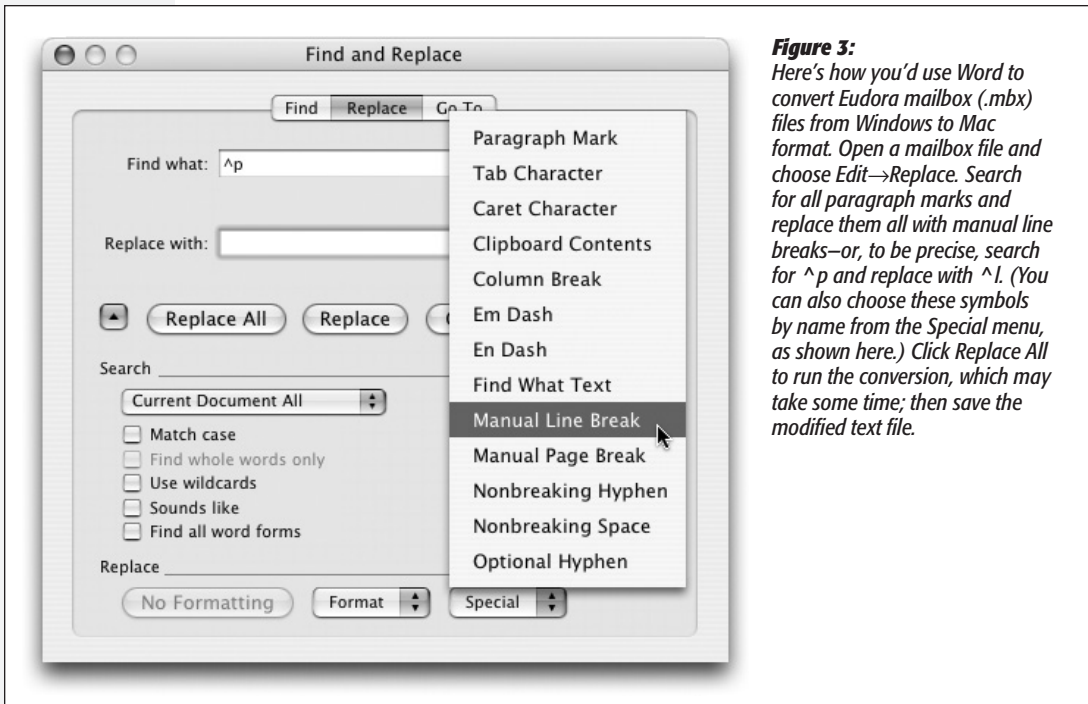


Figure 3: Here's how you'd use Word to convert Eudora mailbox (.mbx) files from Windows to Mac format. Open a mailbox file and choose Edit→Replace. Search for all paragraph marks and replace them all with manual line breaks—or, to be precise, search for ^p and replace with ^l. (You can also choose these symbols by name from the Special menu, as shown here.) Click Replace All to run the conversion, which may take some time; then save the modified text file.

5. Launch Eudora and read your mail.

When you launch Eudora, your converted mail should now be accessible. Unfortunately, the status of each message (read, unread, forwarded, and so on) is not preserved, nor are any labels you may have applied to organize the messages within Eudora. Oh well.

Mail from Outlook/ Outlook Express -> Eudora for Mac

Start by importing your Outlook (or Outlook Express) email and addresses into Eudora for *Windows*. (To import from Outlook Express, choose File→Import; to import from Outlook, choose File→Import and then click Advanced.) Use the most recent Eudora version, if possible.

Now that your mail and contacts are in Eudora for Windows, see the previous pages for instructions on getting it all into Eudora for Mac OS X. (This technique also transfers your old address book into Eudora for Mac, which is handy.)

Transferring Your Eudora Address Book

Once again, the steps here depend on which program you'll be using as your Mac address book.

Moving Contacts into Address Book

Fortunately, this one's easy. The Swiss Army Converter known as Thunderbird can convert your Eudora address book into a Mac-compatible format; see "Thunderbird Method (Time-Consuming, Free)" on page 188 of *Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual, Snow Leopard Edition*.

Moving Contacts into Entourage

As noted earlier in this chapter, Thunderbird isn't enough if the landing site for your contacts is Microsoft Entourage. In that case, you should use the CSV format as a go-between. See "CSV Method (Free, to Entourage Only)" on page 195 of *Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual, Snow Leopard Edition*.

Moving Contacts into Eudora on the Mac

The easiest way to transfer your old Eudora contacts to the Mac is to *first* get your contacts into Mac OS X's Address Book program, as described above. Then, once that transfer is complete, open Eudora on your Mac and choose Eudora→Preferences→Address Book. Turn on "Show OS X AddressBook."

Now all the contacts from your PC are in both Address Book *and* Eudora, which is extra convenient if you ever decide to switch from Eudora to Mail.