

Only senior executives can send email to the All Employees distribution list, but mistakes still happen

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Some time ago, a senior executive sent email to the All Employees distribution list at Microsoft announcing that a particular product was now available for dogfood. The message included a brief introduction to the product and instructions on how to install it. A few hours later, a second message appeared in reply to the announcement. The second message came from a different senior executive, and it went

| I got your note and tried it out. Looks good so far.

Oopsie. The second senior executive intended to reply just to the first senior executive, but hit the *Reply All* button by mistake. This would normally have been caught by the *You do not have permission to send mail to All Employees* rule, but since the mistake was made by a senior executive, that rule did not apply, and the message went out to the entire company. People got a good chuckle out of this. At least he didn't say anything embarrassing.

Bonus chatter: I'd have thought that these extra-large distribution lists would be marked *Nobody can send to this distribution list*, and then when somebody needed to send a message to the entire company, the email admins would create a one-day-only rule which allowed a specific individual to send one message.

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