

Email Settings on Test and Development

There are a number of settings provided by Moodle for test and development environments specifically to avoid issues around sending emails to users from a non-Production site which is never a good look! This is a common trap for environments that are refreshed from production, particularly when running cron/scheduled tasks

Firstly there is the all or nothing setting. If set, no emails will ever be sent.

```
$CFG->noemail = true;
```

Secondly there is the combination of the `$CFG->divertallemailsto` and `$CFG->divertallemailsexcept` settings which will divert all emails to a specified address, unless they are on the exception list which can be defined with a regular expression (regex):

Here's a simple example:

```
$CFG->divertallemailsto = 'noreply@moodlewiki.com'; $CFG->divertallemailsexcept = '[A-Za-z0-9._%+-]+@moodlewiki.com';
```

NOTE: `$CFG->divertallemailsexcept` can include a comma separated list of email addresses or email address regular expressions.

This will divert all emails to `noreply@moodlewiki.com` unless they match the address `@moodlewiki.com` in which case it will send them as normal.

You can see this in action [with the following RegEx demo](#).

Expression
<code>/[A-Za-z0-9._%+-]+@moodlewiki.com/g</code>
Text
<pre>test@moodlewiki.com↵ someone@hotmail.com↵ someone@outlook.com↵ anotheruser@moodlewiki.com↵ someone@gmail.com</pre>

Notice how the Regex only matches @moodlewiki.com addresses and ignores the others? Only matches to the regex will get emails, all others are diverted to the catch all address.

So make sure all your non-production environments have both the `$CFG->divertallemailsto` and `$CFG->divertallemailsexcept` settings in place in their configuration files. This is probably the *simplest* and most reliable way to prevent emails being sent by accident through Moodle as it doesn't require any database updates, hacks, or 3rd party plugins.

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