

## Re: Subject text length limit in system.net.mail?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2007-06/msg02109.html>

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- *From:* Michael Nemtsev <[nemtsev@xxxxxxx](mailto:nemtsev@xxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 19 Jun 2007 17:13:06 +0000 (UTC)
- 

Hello Alec,

Well.... I'm not the expert in Exchange server, suggest to refer this question to the exchange group

I see the other problem in the approach you choose. If u fix your issue and everything will be working fine, than what if the client, who u ship the app, decided to change the mail server? You are not assured with new mail server limitation

I'd suggest to review your architecture, and add feature to send the links to pre-generated html pages published somewhere.

So, if client's mail server works wrong, you can switch on alternative way

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WBR, Michael Nemtsev [.NET/C# MVP]. My blog: <http://spaces.live.com/laflour>  
Team blog: <http://devkids.blogspot.com/>

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it" (c) Michelangelo

AM> Thanks for that info Michael.

AM> AM> Ok. It must be something else then.

AM> AM> I'm using Exchange Server 2003 and am aware that subject lines can  
AM> normally be much longer than 15 chars.

AM> AM> What I'm trying to do is send a batch of marketing messages (HTML  
AM> format) from our CRM database. The HTML of the body, plus the  
AM> subject line and the list of recipient email addresses all come from  
AM> the SQL db.

AM> AM> By doing a lot of trial-and-error testing yesterday I found that I  
AM> had to either reduce the HTML in size such that it was going to be  
AM> useless (literally no more than a bare minimum valid doc with a  
AM> single "hello" paragraph), or reduce the subject text to 15 chars or  
AM> less.

AM> AM> While going over those limits does not cause an exception, the  
AM> message just seems to vanish into the ether – not even being present  
AM> in the Exchange log file.

AM> AM> I have wondered if this is partly due to the Symantec AV client  
AM> (Corp/Enterprise ver 10.1). This certainly introduces a lengthy 1.5  
AM> – 2 minute delay in the message being handled, but I cannot be

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AM> certain if it is stopping the messages altogether. I have tried  
AM> stopping all the Symantec services. This allows the messages to be  
AM> delivered far more quickly (I'm using my own address for testing),  
AM> but it doesn't seem to prevent the larger content variations from  
AM> disappearing.  
AM> AM> I'm at a real loss to know what's going on here. I have used  
AM> Net.Mail very successfully in other projects, but in those cases,  
AM> the content of the message had very little DB-sourced content  
AM> (though there was interaction to SQL in terms of lookups and saving  
AM> of data).  
AM> AM> Using the same project to test a "plain text" version of sending  
AM> works every time, so I have been checking the content of the DB  
AM> stuff for invalid characters that might cause the process to  
AM> "stall", but as yet have not found anything obvious.  
AM> AM> The subject text is input via a simple Win-form textbox. The HTML  
AM> content is create using an HTML editor component based on the Nikhil  
AM> Kothari component. While it does introduce unwanted variations in  
AM> the html source, I don't think its anything that would cause such an  
AM> issue.  
AM> AM> Any further help would be deeply appreciated.  
AM> AM> Regards,  
AM> AM> Alec  
AM> AM> "Michael Nemtsev" <nemtsev@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
AM> [news:a279a63a3f83138c9801711e88fa8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:a279a63a3f83138c9801711e88fa8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
AM>

Hello Alec,

I assume that it is the mail server limitation, because the Subject  
in System.Net get the string type and doesn't trim it

Relation the standard, below, there is no 15 chars limitation for the  
subject

"RFC 2822 ("Internet Message Format")"

2.1.1. Line Length Limits There are two limits that this standard  
places

on the number of  
characters in a line. Each line of characters MUST be no more than  
998 characters, and SHOULD be no more than 78 characters, excluding  
the CRLF.

The 998 character limit is due to limitations in many implementations  
which send, receive, or store Internet Message Format messages that  
simply cannot handle more than 998 characters on a line. Receiving  
implementations would do well to handle an arbitrarily large number  
of characters in a line for robustness sake. However, there are so  
many implementations which (in compliance with the transport  
requirements of [RFC2821]) do not accept messages containing more  
than 1000 character including the CR and LF per line, it is important  
for implementations not to create such messages.

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Michelangelo

AM> Is anyone aware of a size limit imposed on the subject text when

AM> using the System.Net.Mail library?

AM> AM> I'm getting problems of message not being recieved if the subject

AM> exceeds 15 chars.

AM> AM> Thx

AM>