

# Increase the Outlook attachment size limit

<https://4sysops.com/archives/how-to-increase-the-attachment-size-limit-in-outlook/>  
Surender Kumar

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However, this error is a bit misleading. Even if you configure your mail server to support large email attachments, Outlook will continue to throw this same error because the 20 MB limit is actually there in the Outlook client, not your mail server. Whether you're attaching a single file or multiple files in an email message, the maximum attachment size in Outlook is, by default, 20 MB.

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The file you're attaching is bigger than the server allows. Try putting the file in a shared location and sending a link instead.

## Increase Outlook attachment size limit with the Regedit GUI

The Windows registry plays a critical role in the configuration, management, and tweaking of the Windows OS, as well as the software installed on it. To increase the attachment size in Outlook, launch *regedit.exe*, and navigate to either of the following registry subkeys:

*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\xx.x\Outlook\Preferences*  
*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\xx.x\Outlook\Preferences*

Where *xx.x* is a variable value determined by the version of Microsoft Outlook (or Office Suite) installed in your system (e.g., for *Office 2021/2019/2016*, the variable becomes *16.0*). The following table shows the registry path for different versions of Office/Outlook:

Office / Outlook Version	Registry Path
2016, 2019, 2021 or Office 365	<i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Preferences</i> OR <i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Preferences</i>
2013	<i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\15.0\Outlook\Preferences</i> OR <i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\15.0\Outlook\Preferences</i>
2010	<i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Outlook\Preferences</i> OR <i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Outlook\Preferences</i>
2007	<i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Outlook\Preferences</i> OR <i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Outlook\Preferences</i>
2003	<i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\11.0\Outlook\Preferences</i> OR <i>HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\11.0\Outlook\Preferences</i>

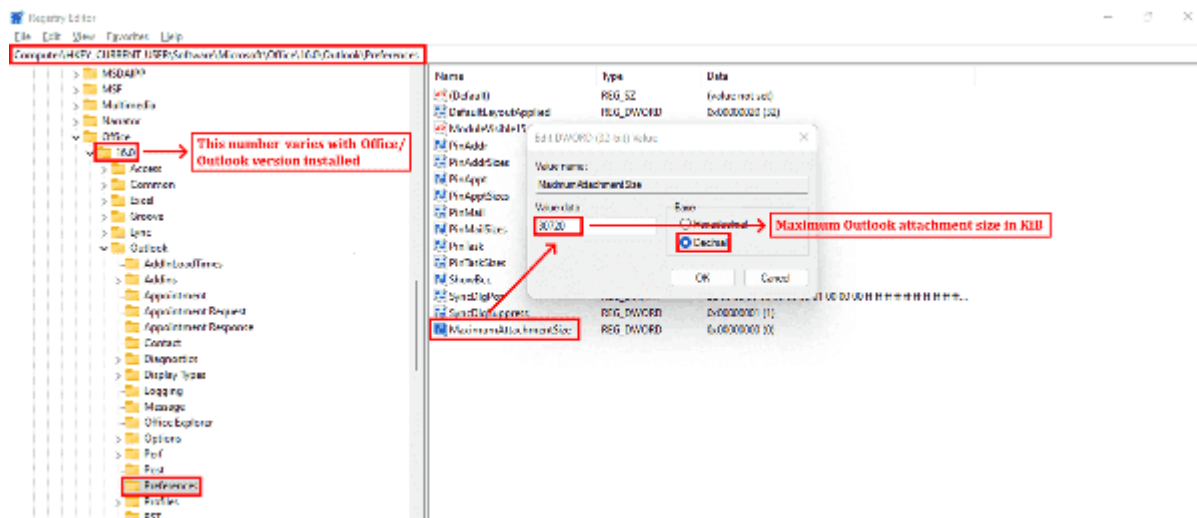
You don't need to create the registry value under both subkeys. Creating it under either one of these works just fine.

After navigating to the registry subkey, create a new value (or modify if it already exists) with the following information:

- **Value Name:** MaximumAttachmentSize
- **Value Type:** DWORD (32 bit)
- **Value Data:** 30720 (any integer value)

You can type any number in **Value Data** to specify the maximum attachment size in KB (30720 in our example, denotes 30 MB). Setting it to **0** disables Outlook's built-in attachment size limit, allowing you to attach file(s) of any size.

However, doing so seems impractical, since all mail servers are configured with a maximum supported message size. The following screenshot shows how to create the *MaximumAttachmentSize* **DWORD** value using the registry editor GUI tool:



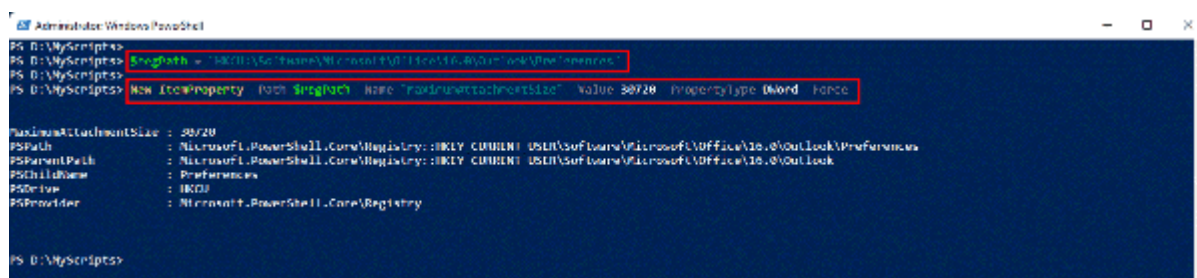
Creating the MaximumAttachmentSize registry value using the regedit GUI

Now close the registry editor, and you're done. If you love doing things with PowerShell, see the next section.

### Increase attachment size limit using PowerShell [^](#)

Since the *HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER* and *HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE* registry hives are mapped under the *HKCU* and *HKLM* PS drives, respectively, we can simply use the *New-ItemProperty* cmdlet to create the required registry value. To create the *MaximumAttachmentSize* registry value with PowerShell, fire up a PowerShell console, and type the following commands:

```
$regPath = "HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Preferences"
New-ItemProperty -Path $regPath -Name "MaximumAttachmentSize" -Value 30720 -PropertyType DWord -Force
```

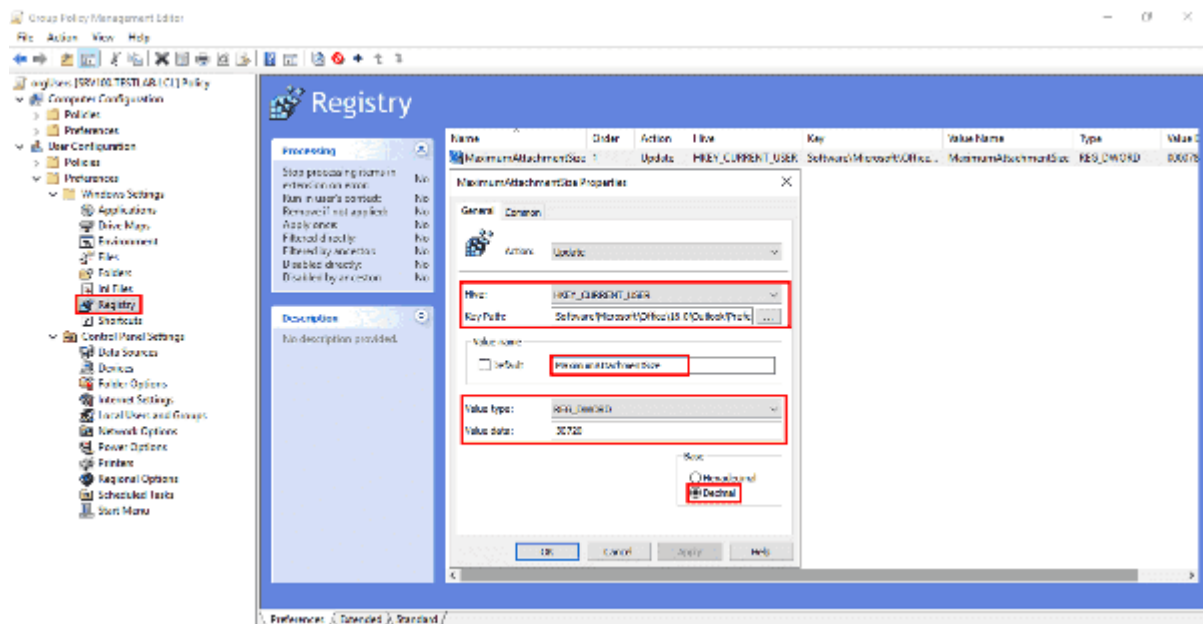


Creating the MaximumAttachmentSize registry value using PowerShell

Make sure you adjust the *\$regPath* variable as per your Office version and the *-Value* parameter to match your preferred attachment size limit.

### Increase Outlook attachment size limit with Group Policy

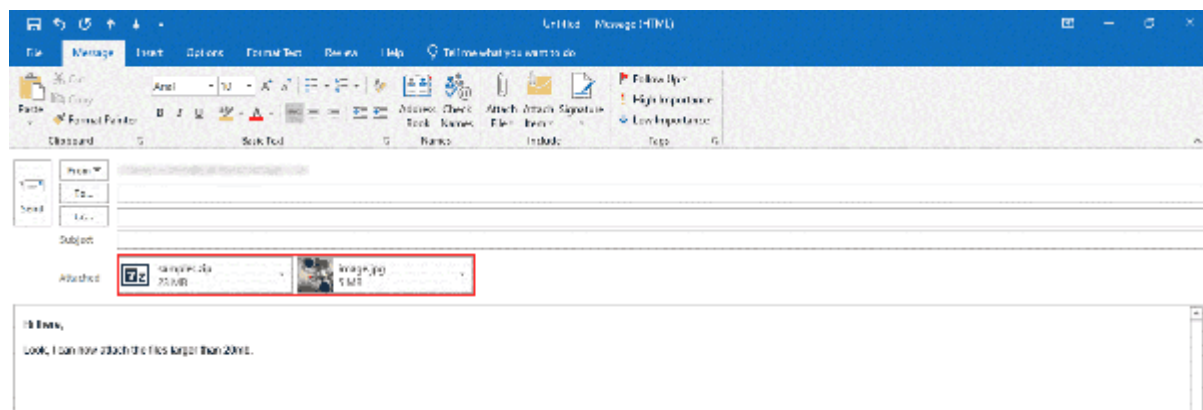
If the 20 MB limit of Outlook doesn't suit your organization's needs, you can create the aforementioned registry value using a GPO, as shown in the following screenshot:



Creating the MaximumAttachmentSize registry value using Group Policy

### Verifying the Outlook attachment size limit

Now reopen Outlook and try to attach the files again to make sure the new attachment size limit is working as expected. The following screenshot shows that I could attach files larger than 20 MB after creating the said registry value:



Attaching files larger than 20 MB after setting the MaximumAttachmentSize registry value

### Conclusion

Keep in mind that this guide will help you increase the attachment size limit in the Outlook client only. The ability of a mail server to send such big emails totally depends upon its configuration, which is usually controlled by the mail server admin. Even if you set your mail server to support large attachments, the final email delivery to the intended recipient is decided by the recipient's mail server in the end. If the destination mail server doesn't support it, you will get a non-delivery report (NDR) letting you know why your message wasn't delivered.