Enable Instant Synchronization of Inbox Message Deletes From Thunderbird to Exchange
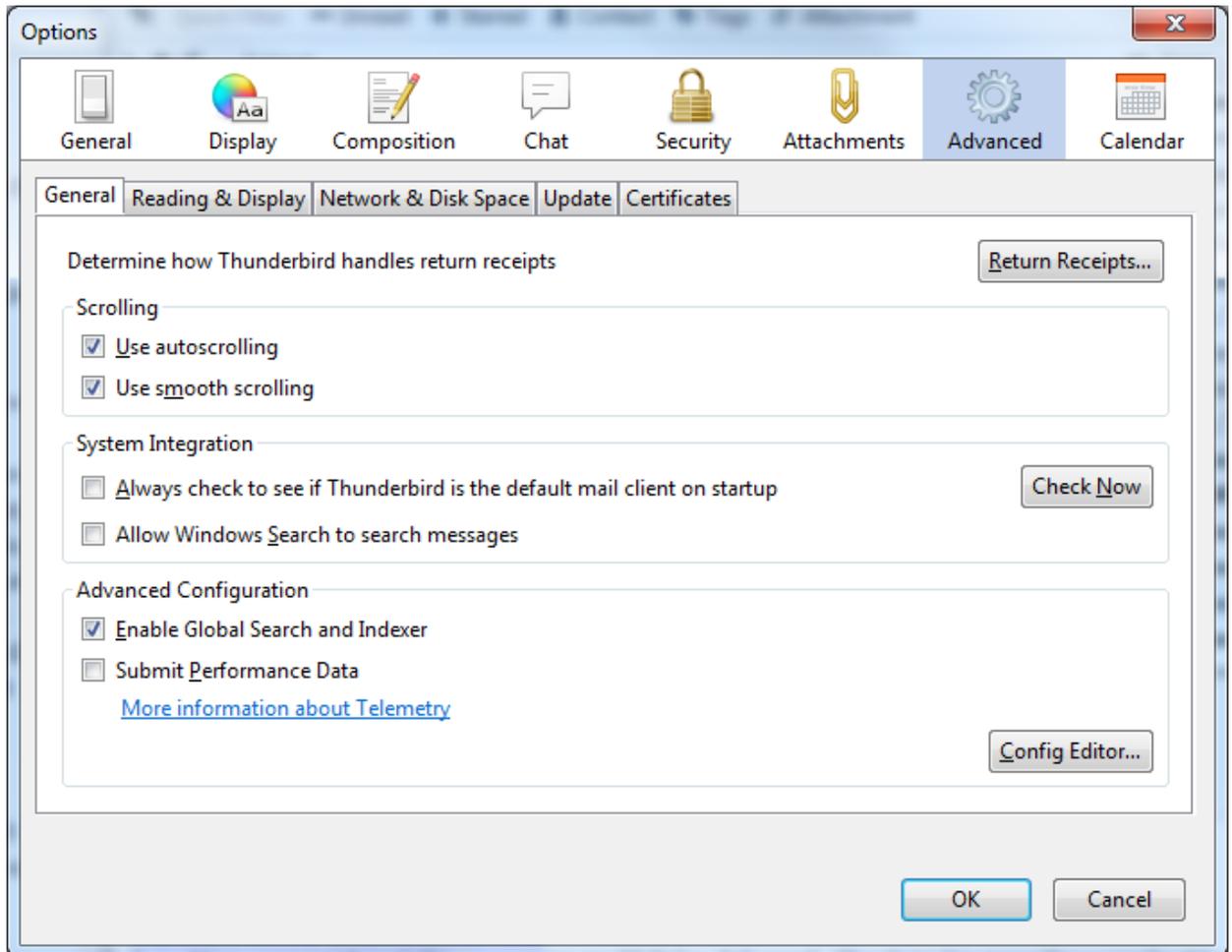
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When you delete a message from a mailbox folder in Thunderbird, it synchronizes that change to your Exchange mailbox. This is true for all folders except the Inbox. By default, when you hard delete or soft delete a message from the Inbox within Thunderbird, the message is removed from your Thunderbird view, but is not deleted from your mailbox on the server until Thunderbird is closed. This can cause some confusion, particularly if you have multiple computers configured to connect to your mailbox.
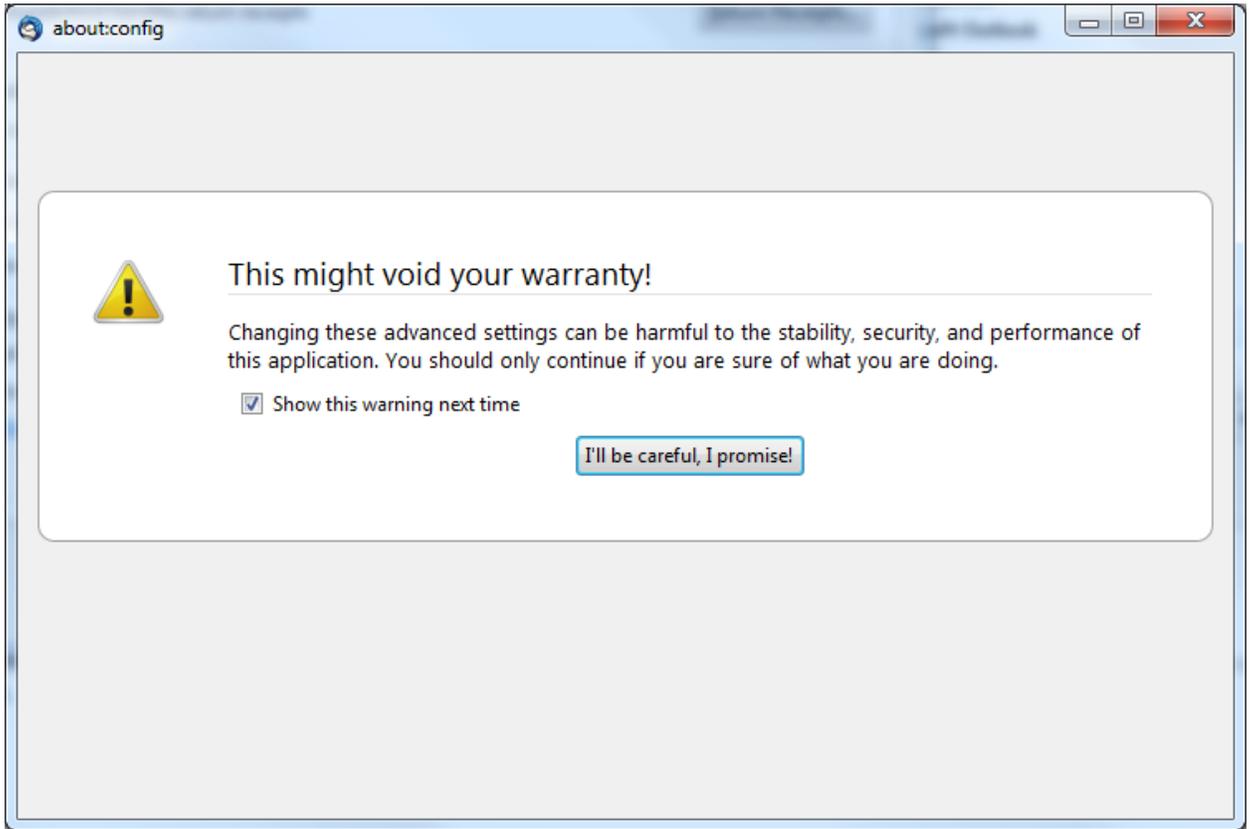
The following instructions describe how to enable Thunderbird to issue the expunge command on the server as soon as you issue a local delete command within Thunderbird. Please not that if you have multiple copies of Thunderbird running simultaneously on different computers, you must make this change on each instance.

1. Open Thunderbird and find the "Advanced" configuration settings.

    a. On a Mac, click on the "Thunderbird" menu and choose "Preferences".

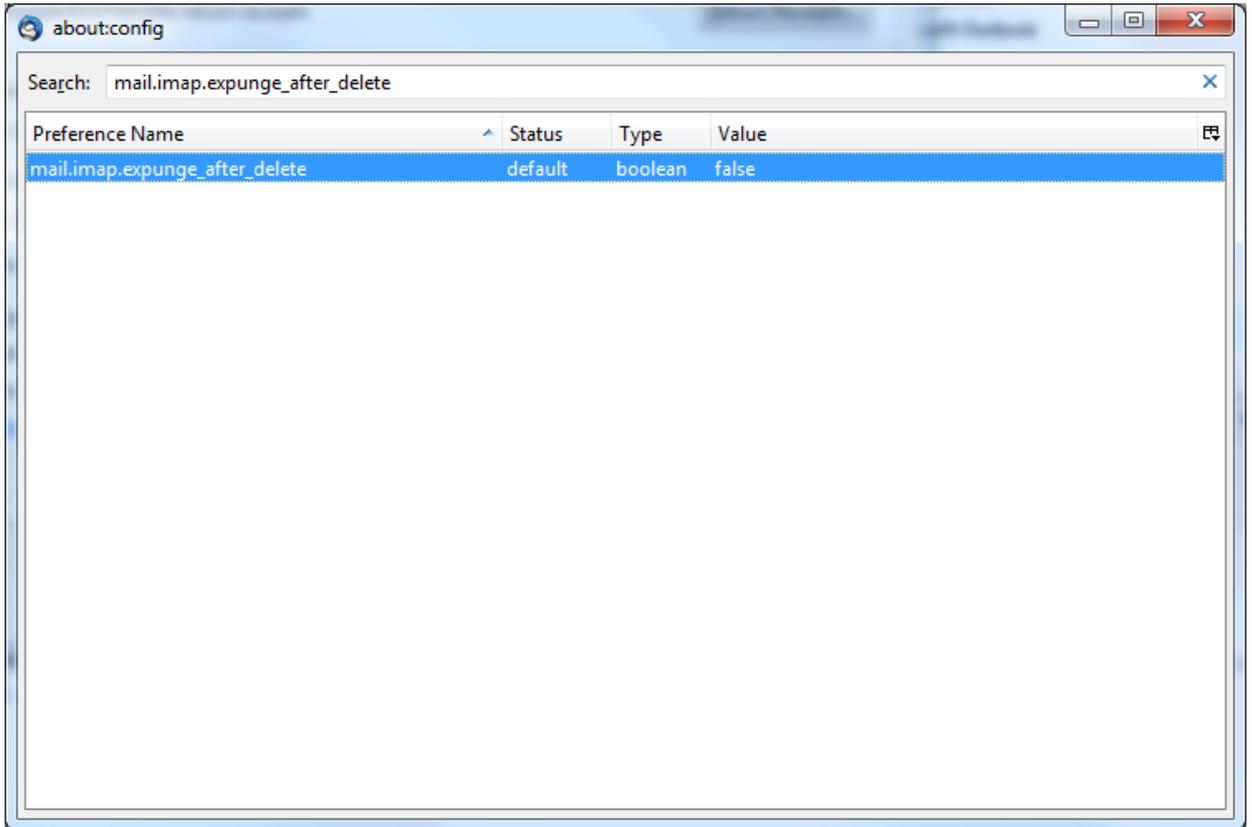   b. On Windows, click on the "Tools" menu and choose "Options".

2. Choose the "Advanced" tab, then click the "Config Editor…" button.

3. Click on the "I'll be careful, I promise!" button.

4. In the Search field, type "mail.imap.expunge_after_delete" Right click on the item that shows up in the list and choose "Toggle" this will turn this option from "False" to "True".

5. Close the window and quit Thunderbird for this to take effect.