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Outlook Quick Steps: One-click shortcuts

by Annik Stahl, on October 24, 2011 | 0 Comments | **0 Shares**

Question: How many mouse clicks and keyboard finger tappings does it take to categorize an email message, move it to a folder, add a follow-up flag, reply to it, and create a meeting request about it?

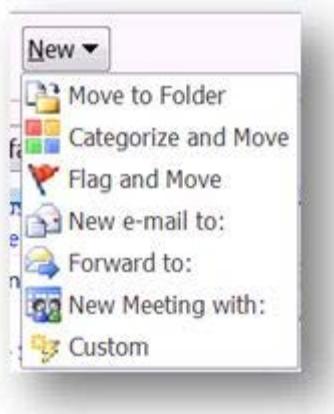
Answer: One, if you're using a Quick Step.

Quick Steps, new in Outlook 2010, is a feature that applies multiple actions at once to an email message. I like to think of Quick Steps as rules that I apply when I want to (rather than setting something up in Rules that is usually applied automatically). Frankly, I like the control that Quick Steps allow me because I'm looking at each mail that comes in and, with one click, I can have it take any number of actions. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

First off, there are some pre-made, self-explanatory Quick Steps such as **Move to:**, **Team Email**, and **Reply & Delete**.

For me, those are great starting places but I am all about customization; my needs are different from your needs, yours are different from your grandma's, and hers are different from her twin sister's needs

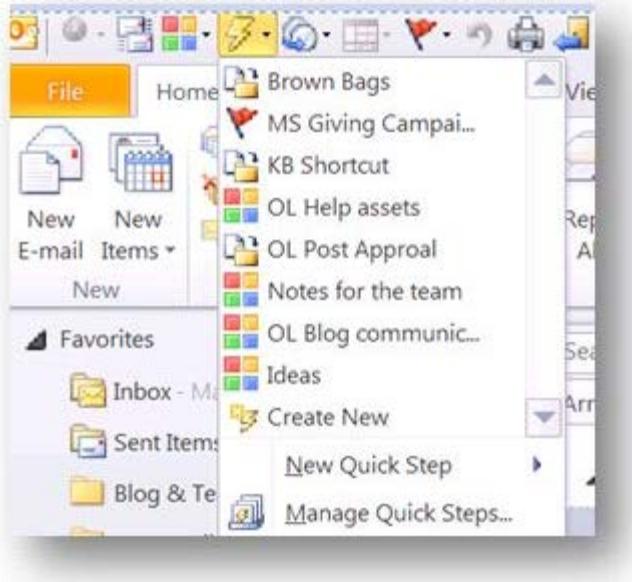




(love those techie grannies). There are a few ways you can go about creating your own Quick Steps. You can:

- Change an existing, pre-made Quick Step.
- Create a new one that starts you off with an action (see image to the left).
- Start from scratch and create a Custom Quick Step.

What I've done is create my own "Quick Steps gallery" of actions that I take most often. Then I added it to my Quick Access Toolbar, like I've done here:



I'm always tweaking this gallery because I'm always undertaking new projects, working with new people, and well, I tend to get bored with the same-old thing

and like to see how many actions I can cram into one mouse-click... I'd like to know how many actions **YOU** can cram into one mouse click (and you have to name each one).

Want to know more?

- Read about how you can [automate common or repetitive tasks with Quick Steps](#).
- Take a look at [Outlook MVP Dian Poremsky's blog post that explains Quick Steps](#).

Are you not yet convinced that using Quick Steps is a must? Create them *and* use them and you'll never lose a message, miss a meeting, or forget to follow up on anything ever again. You, my friend, will be (or already are) a model of consistency, competence, and class (not to mention efficiency, effectiveness, and equilibrium).

— *Annik*

More info on Quick Steps:

[Introducing Quick Steps](#)

[My Favorite Feature: Quick Steps](#)

[Outlook 2010 can save your hide: Use Quick Steps \(Crabby's Daily Tip\)](#)

[Cut the email drudge work with Outlook Quick Steps: MVP #9 on Office 2010](#)

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