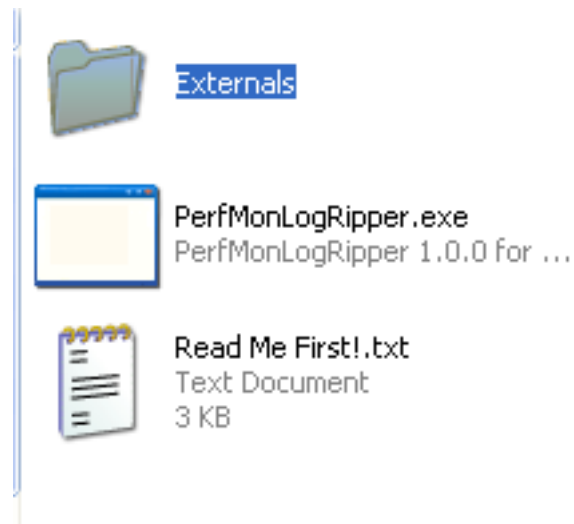


Using Log Ripper to Extract and Zip Perfmon Logs

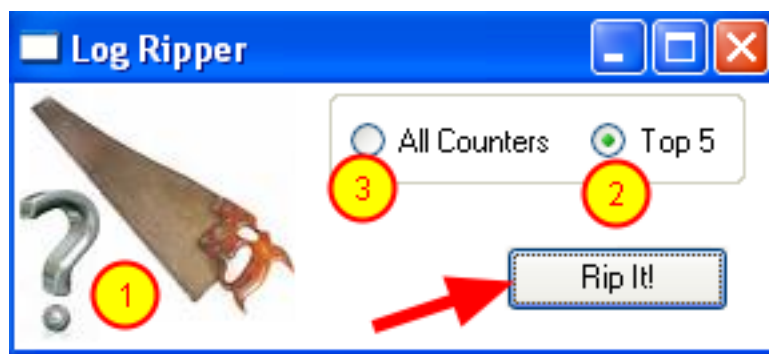
This is a simple step by step lesson for using Perfmon Log Ripper to extract performance data from a Windows Perfmon binary file to a comma delimited text format that is easy to use in Excel or other reporting tools. The tool also reduces the size of the file to just the elements needed to right-size a new SAN, and zips a copy of the output for you to email to your storage architect.

Open the folder "PerfmonLogRipper"



Leave the application in the same directory as the "Externals" folder. If you want to have it handy elsewhere just make an alias of the application (.exe)

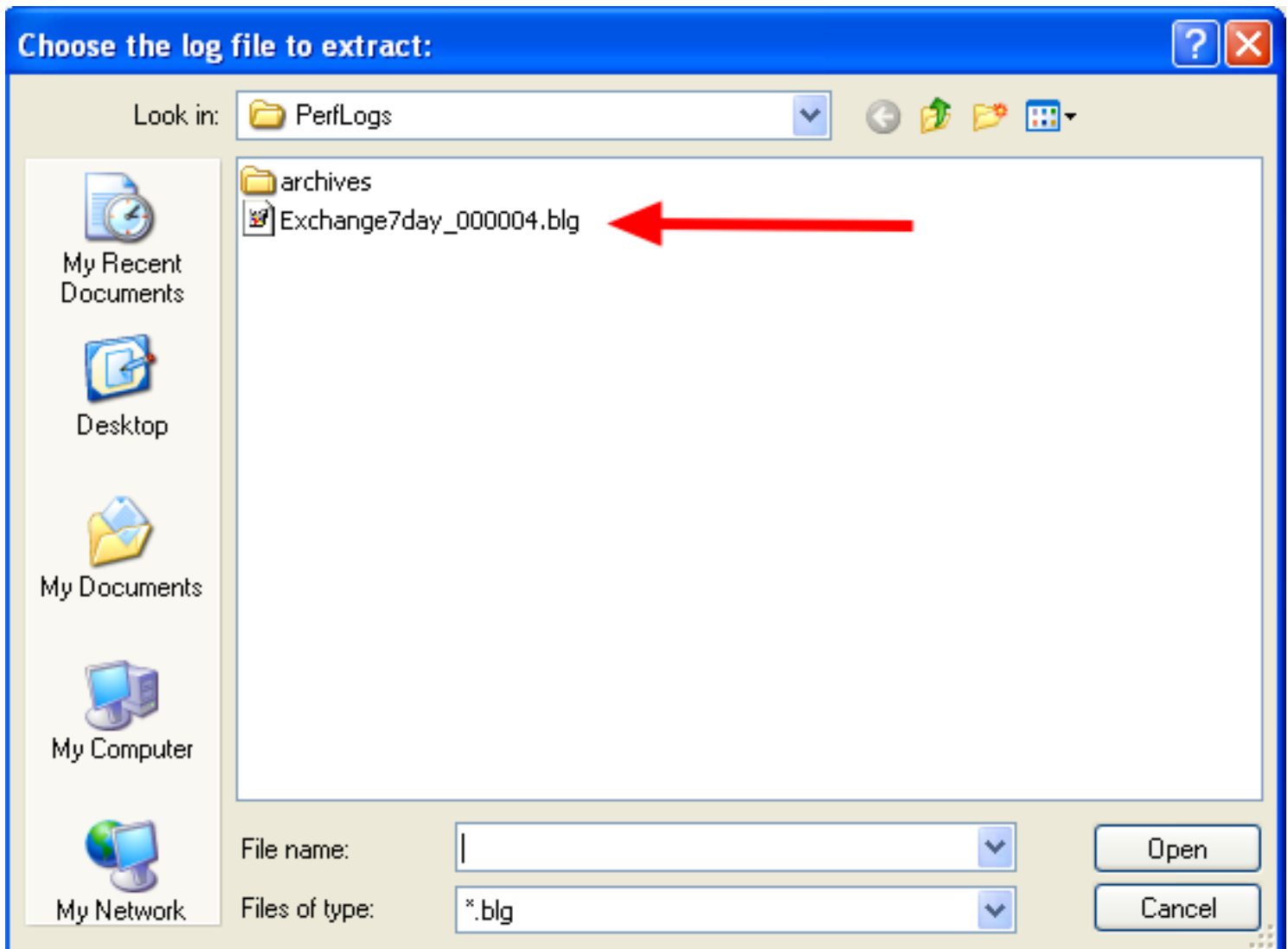
Log Ripper Screen



Log Ripper is a bare bones application with only four action items from a single window. Help is available by clicking on the question mark (1). The majority of time you will be using the "Top 5" setting (2). This will extract the five most useful items for right-sizing a SAN for performance. Those items are Physical Disk reads, writes, write bytes, read bytes, and transfers (IO). Occasionally you may need to look at other metrics if you are trying to troubleshoot performance issues. In that case you would use the "All Counters" setting (3).

This lesson is geared towards gathering and formatting the info needed for obtaining a new SAN, so just leave "Top 5" selected and click the "Rip It!" button.

Locate your Perfmon Log File



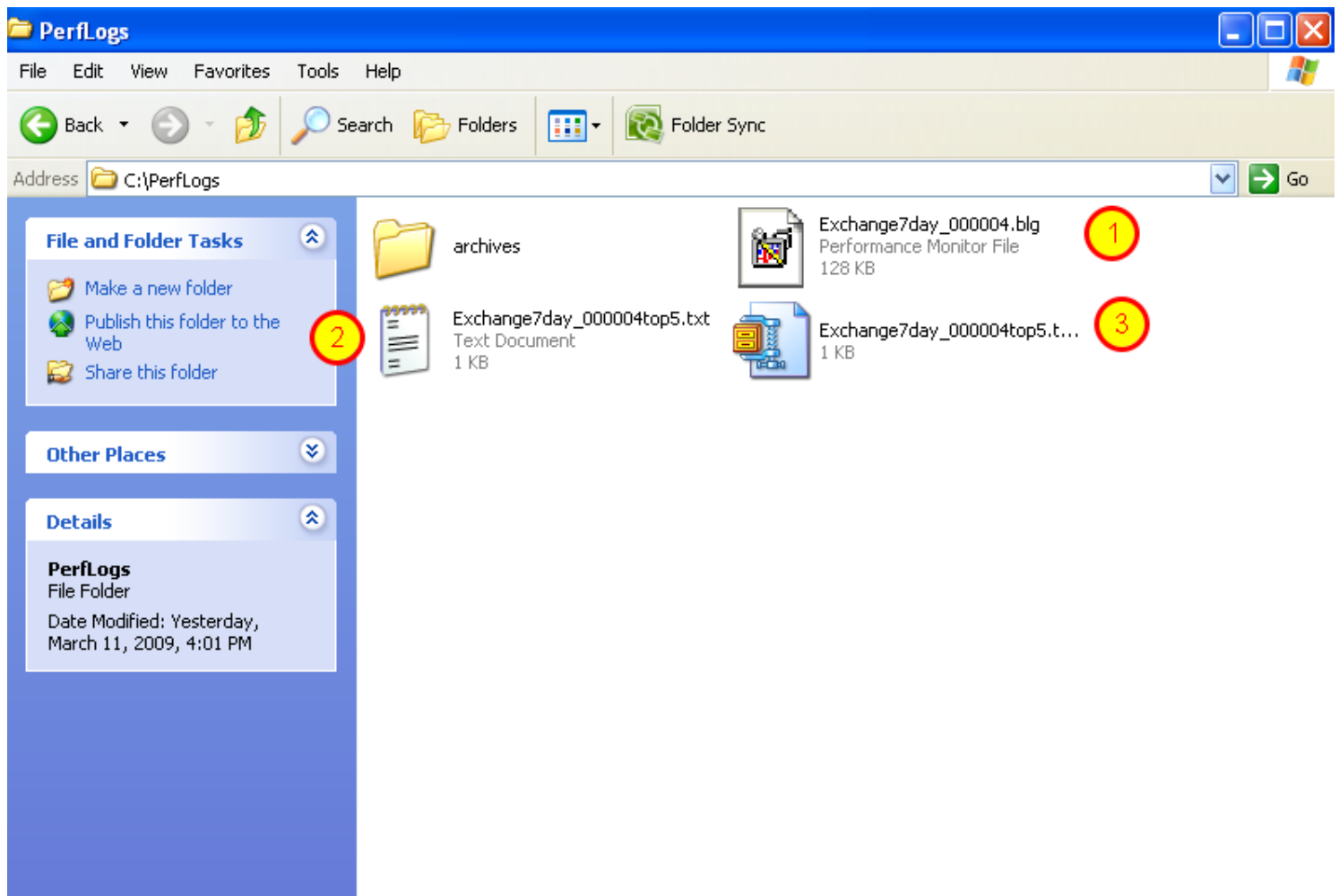
Navigate to the directory where you set your log files to be written. Here we see a file named "Exchange7day_000000.blg" that we created to collect data on all physical disk activity, once every 60 seconds, for seven days. Highlight the file and click open, or simply double click the file to begin ripping your log.

Done in Seconds



Once you have selected your file, Log Ripper will pull out just the data you need from the binary log file. You'll know that the process has completed once the "Working..." message is replaced with a message saying "Done in x seconds."

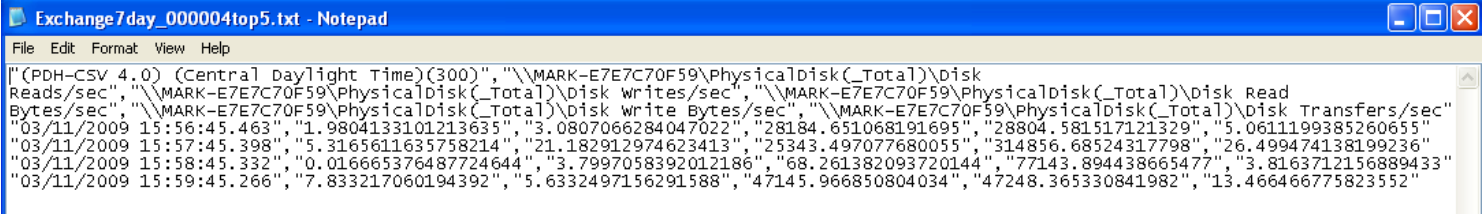
The finished product



Now when you look into the log directory you will see the original binary log file (1); the comma separated file saved as a .txt - in case you want to open it with Notepad or another text editor instead of

Excel; a copy of the text file zipped and ready to email to your storage architect (3).

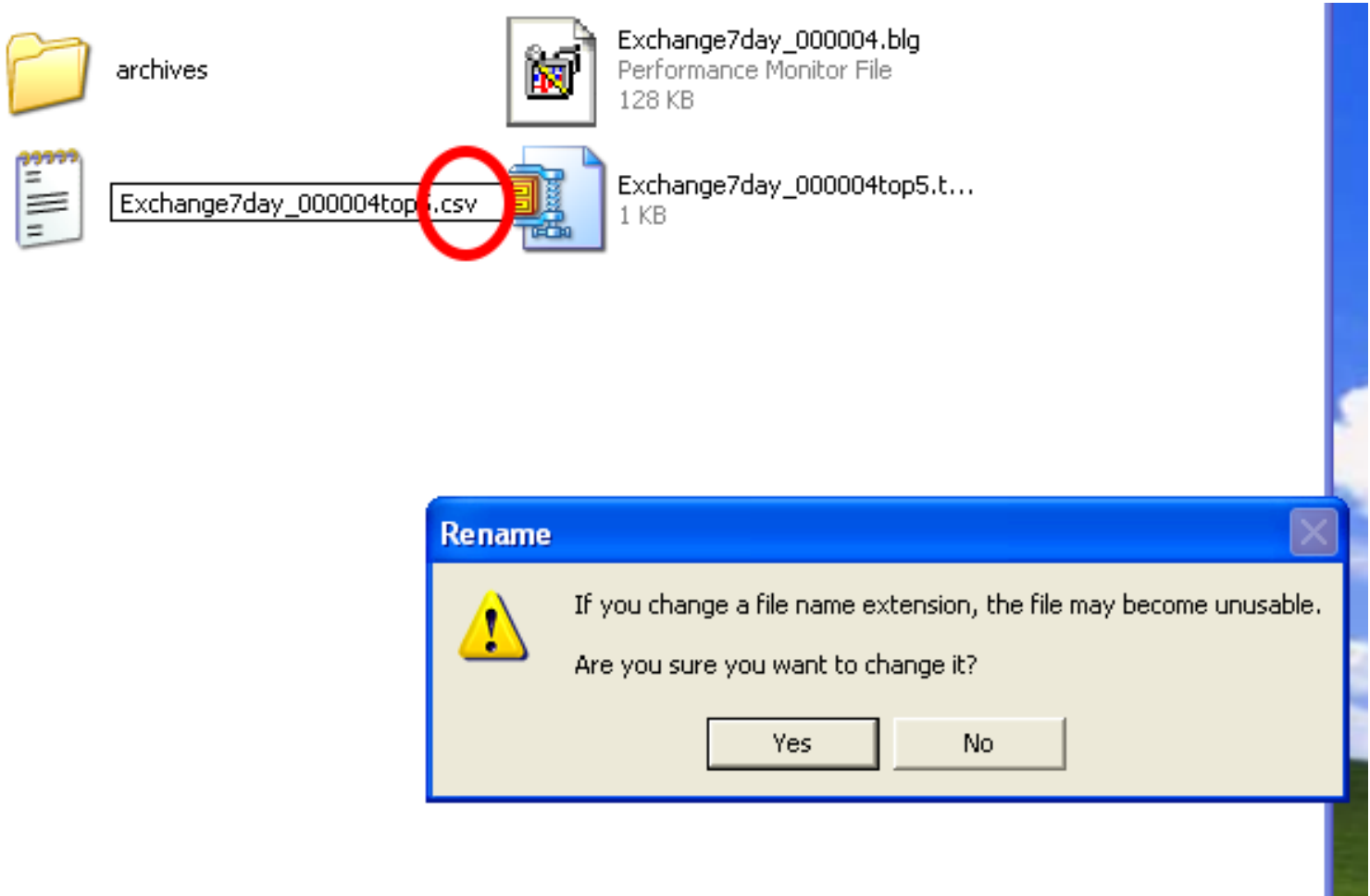
Opening the Text File with Notepad



```
File Edit Format View Help
["(PDH-CSV 4.0) (Central Daylight Time)(300)", "\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk
Reads/sec", "\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk writes/sec", "\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk Read
Bytes/sec", "\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk write Bytes/sec", "\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk Transfers/sec"
"03/11/2009 15:56:45.463", "1.9804133101213635", "3.0807066284047022", "28184.651068191695", "28804.581517121329", "5.0611199385260655"
"03/11/2009 15:57:45.398", "5.3165611635758214", "21.182912974623413", "25343.497077680055", "314856.68524317798", "26.499474138199236"
"03/11/2009 15:58:45.332", "0.016665376487724644", "3.7997058392012186", "68.261382093720144", "77143.894438665477", "3.8163712156889433"
"03/11/2009 15:59:45.266", "7.833217060194392", "5.6332497156291588", "47145.966850804034", "47248.365330841982", "13.466466775823552"
```

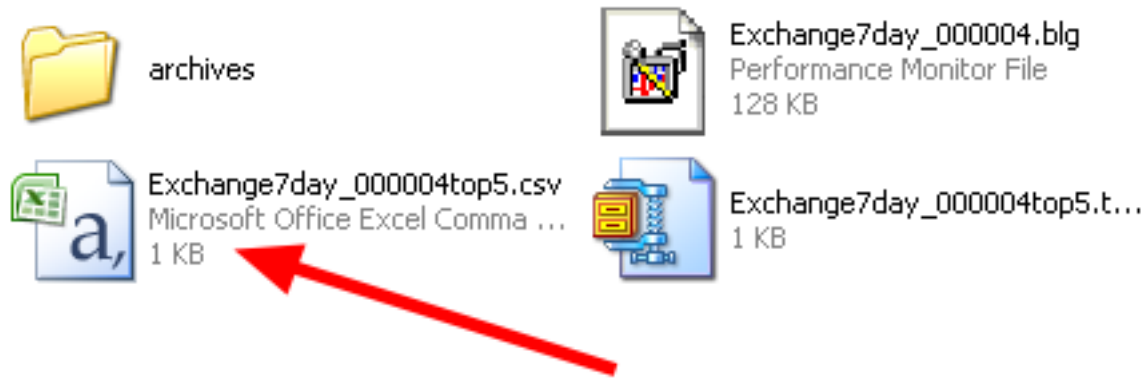
If you open your file with Notepad you can see the metrics (first line) and the actual measurements below.

Changing the File Extension to Open with Excel



Just change the extension from ".txt" to ".csv" and ignore the system warning (Just click "Yes").

Now the file is ready to open with Excel



Double click to open the file with Excel (or right click and choose "Open with...->Excel). Changing the extension lets Excel know how to handle the file internally so it will be formatted correctly when you open it. Since Excel formats things the way it likes, *please don't alter the zipped version of the file you just ripped*, we'll use other tools for processing that file.

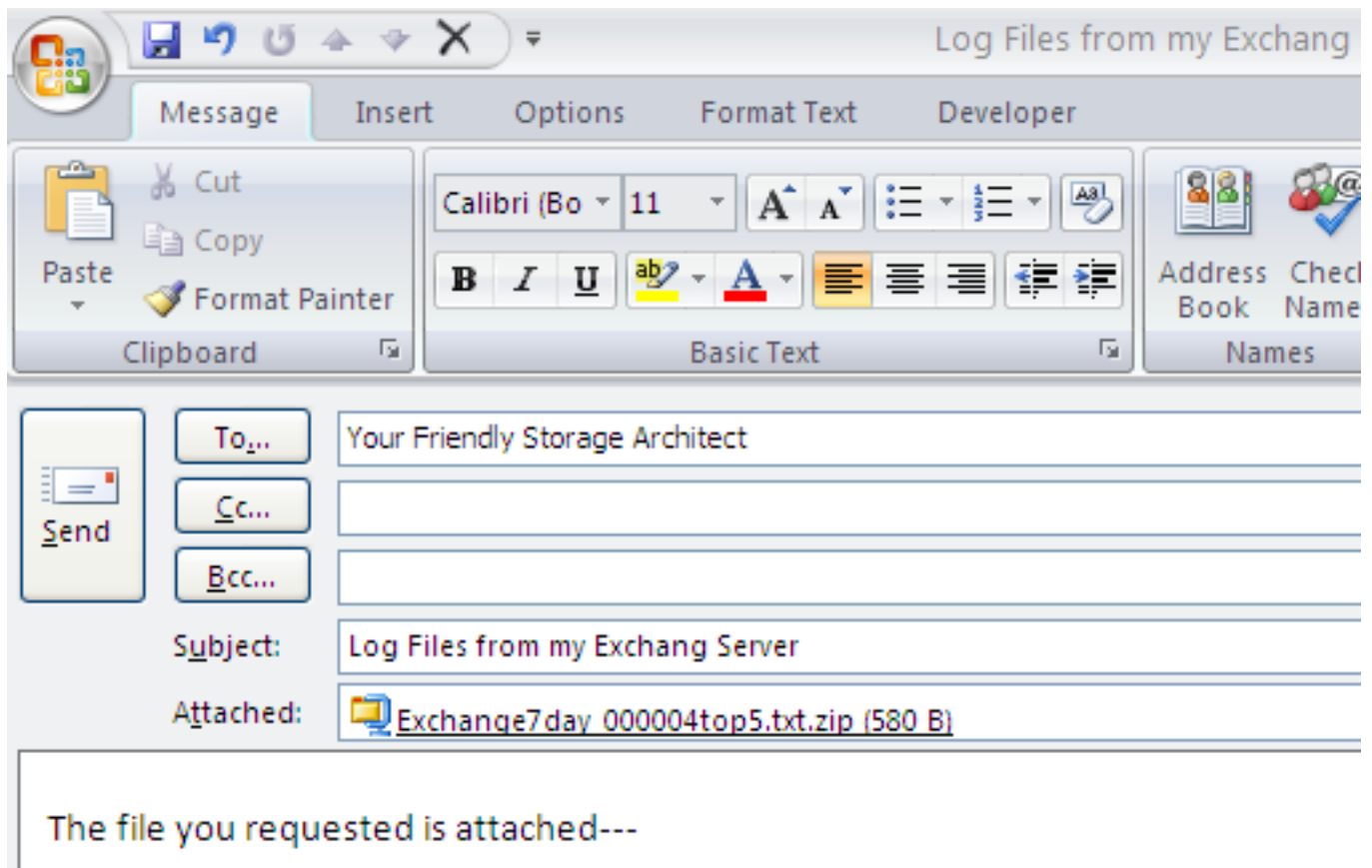
The View from Excel

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the file 'Exchange7day_000004top5.csv' open. The ribbon is set to 'Home'. The spreadsheet shows the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	(PDH-CSV 4.0) (Cent... ylight Time)(300)	\\MARK-E7E7C70F59\PhysicalDisk(Total)\Disk Reads/sec	\\MARK-E	\\MARK-E	\\MARK-E	\\MARK-E7E7C70	
2	56:45.5	1.98041331	3.080707	28184.65	28804.58	5.06112	
3	57:45.4	5.316561164	21.18291	25343.5	314856.7	26.49947	
4	58:45.3	0.016665376	3.799706	68.26138	77143.89	3.816371	
5	59:45.3	7.83321706	5.63325	47145.97	47248.37	13.46647	
6							

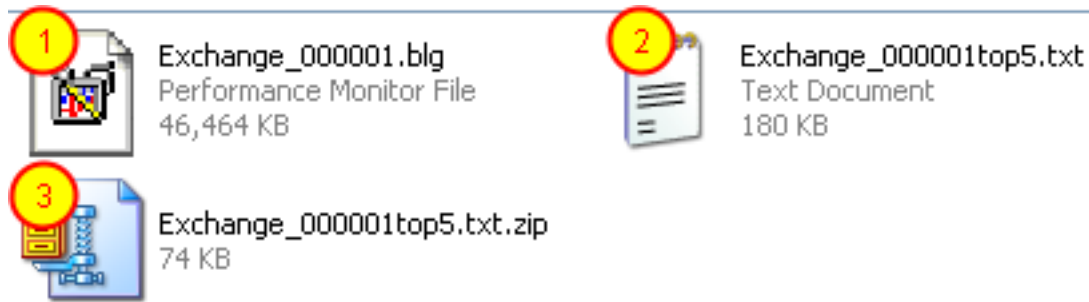
Now when you select the first column, first row (1) you'll see that Excel has formatted the time for its own internal sorting capability and also presents it to you in human readable form (2). As you expand the columns you'll see that each metric is formatted into a nice table. From there you can do all the things that Excel is good at, such as running sums, averages, and of course charting your results.

Final Step: Emailing your Results



Just create a new mail message and attach your zipped file. That's it!

How much space does this save versus attaching the binary log file?



Well, let's say you got carried away and logged every metric including processor and network and so on, every 60 seconds for 24 hours (please don't do that if you are just trying to get numbers for acquiring new storage!). That file would be somewhere around 46 MB in size (1). Not convenient to email, for sure. Now if you rip out just the counters usually needed to spec out new storage ("Top 5"), then Log Ripper will extract out the info and take it from 46 MB down to 180 KB (2). The zipped version it will build you is only 74 KB, small enough to email without getting bounced! How long does Log Ripper take to do that? About 10 seconds for a file that size (4).