
Why Sending Interview Tasks as Attachments Is Outdated (And What to Do Instead)

Sending interview tasks as email attachments has become the default, but in my experience it is an outdated way to share work that can carry real commercial value.

When I have been asked to complete interview tasks, I have usually been expected to email the finished work back as an attachment. That might sound normal, but the more I thought about it, the more outdated it felt.

I have been asked to do work like full website audits, strategy recommendations, and detailed presentations. Once that kind of work is packaged up as a file and emailed over, I lose all control of it immediately.

The problem with attachments

When I send a file as an attachment:

- It can be forwarded instantly
- It can be downloaded and reused
- I lose all visibility

There is no:

- Access control
- Expiry
- Tracking

That is what makes the process feel behind the times. I am expected to share valuable work in one of the least controlled ways possible and then simply trust that it will be handled properly.

Modern expectations for document sharing

In most professional environments, sensitive documents are not shared as open files anymore. Businesses use:

- Secure portals

- Controlled access systems
- Audit logs

That shift reflects a broader understanding that important documents should not just be sent out into the world with no controls attached.

Why candidates are left behind

What stands out to me is the gap in expectations. Businesses protect their own assets, but candidates are still expected to:

- Email work directly
- Trust the process blindly

I do not think that makes sense anymore, especially when interview tasks can include original ideas, strategic thinking, and work that could easily be reused.

The better alternative

Instead of attachments, I think candidates should be using:

- View-only links
- Access-controlled environments
- Expiring documents

That still allows you to be professional and cooperative, but it gives you more control over how your work is accessed.

TaskLock as the solution

TaskLock is built specifically for this use case. It allows me to:

- Upload my task as a protected PDF
- Share a controlled viewing link
- Track access events

Conclusion

Attachments are convenient, but for valuable interview work they are no longer appropriate. In my view, candidates need a safer and more modern way to share what they create.

Protect your work with TaskLock

