

# Stand and Deliver

Fetchmail - procmail story  
by  
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## Topics

- Goals and benefits
- What is fetchmail
- What is procmail
- Integration
- SPAM issues



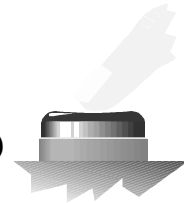


## Goals and Benefits

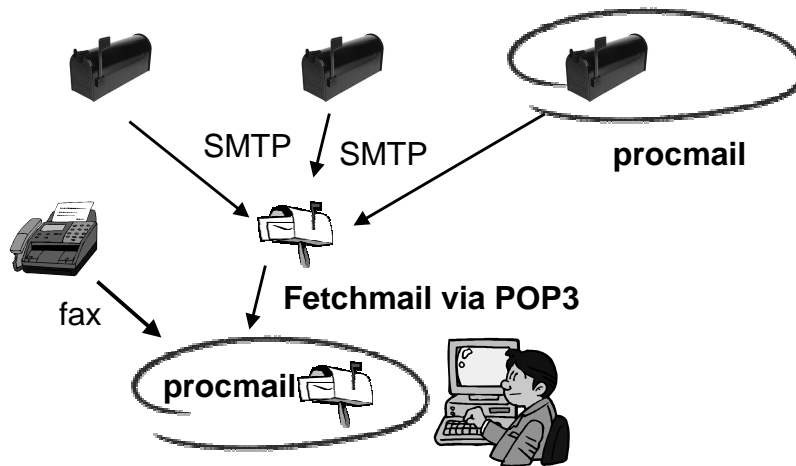
- Automate mail collections from several sources via POP3 (or IMAP)
- Automatically move mails to the right mail folders
- Auto-forwarding and other issues
- Filter mail (move to /dev/null)
- SPAM fighting

## Benefits of fetchmail/procmail

- Save lots of time of manual filtering
- Do not waste time on SPAM
- Keep your mail folders organized
- Keep most important mails in system folder
- Auto-responding to mails possible
  - vacation
  - Anti-spam (maybe not too wise to do)



## Solution to what?



## What is fetchmail

- Solution to the remote mail retrieval problem for Unix machines
  - works across PPP, SLIP, TCP/IP
  - POP[23], IMAP protocols support
- Incoming mail is fed into local SMTP listener
  - forward, aliasing, filtering
- Single/multi-user capabilities

## Howto fetchmail

- FAQ: <http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/fetchmail>
- What does it take?
  - Download, compile, install
  - create `$HOME/.fetchmailrc` file
    - `poll isp.domain.name protocol pop3`
    - `username userX password secretX`
- Crontab entry for fetchmail every  $n$  mins.  
Or put a fetchmail into your ppp-on script.

## What is procmail

- Procmail is a mail processing utility
- Procmail can be used as MDA instead of sendmail
  - sendmail is the MTA
  - sendmail uses procmail as MDA with all the benefits of procmail (e.g. at ISPs)
- Procmail can do anything with mails!

## Howto procmail

- Home: <http://www.procmail.org>
- Latest version is 3.12
  - procmail -v
- Compilation is easy (check README and INSTALL first)
- Procmail recipes are a pain...



## Procmail recipes?



- Your .procmailrc file contains recipes...
- Check procmail man pages to start
  - procmail: basic description
  - procmailrc: format of .procmailrc file
  - procmailex: several working examples
- Use the Procmail FAQ
  - <http://www.iki.fi/era/procmail/mini-faq.html>

## What does it take ?

- A `.forward`:  
“|IFS=' '&&exec /usr/local/bin/procmail -f-||exit 75#x”  
or
- MDA from sendmail:  
Mlocal, P=/usr/local/bin/procmail, F=lsSDFMhPfn,  
S=10, R=20, A=procmail -Y -a \$h -d \$u
- A `.procmailrc` file

## `.procmailrc`

```
# Sample .procmailrc assignments
PATH=/bin:/usr/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/local/bin
SHELL=/bin/sh
# MAILDIR contains the mail folders
MAILDIR=$HOME/nsmail
DEFAULT=/var/spool/mail/gdha
# Procmail dir (useful for pm scripts)
PMDIR=$HOME/.procmail
LOGFILE=$PMDIR/log
VERBOSE=yes
```

## Recipe definition

:0 [flags] [: [lock-file] ]

zero or more conditions

one action line

- *flags* are explained in procmailrc man page
- A condition starts with \*
  - \* ^(*From|Cc|To*).\**linux*
- Action can be anything
  - *linux*

## Some examples

- # move all promo mail to specific folder  
:0:  
\* ^From.\**promo@ex.chs.be*  
*chs-promo*
- # delete my Fax reports (boring anyway)  
:0  
\* ^From.\**Fax*  
*/dev/null*

## Examples (cnt'd)

- # Move incoming faxes to fax-folder  
:0:FaxReceived.lock  
\* ^From.\*root  
\* ^Subject:.\*fax  
FaxReceived
- Lesson 1:
  - Never use the same name for lock-file and mail folder

## Examples (cnt'd)

- # Auto forward messages  
:0 # no lock necessary  
\* ^From.\*(friend1|friend2)  
! gratien.dhaese@ota.be
- :0: # Nested block  
\* ^From.\*my\_wife  
{  
:0 c  
! gdha@it3.be  
:0  
| gzip >>my\_wife-archive.gz  
}



## Netscape Mail

- /var/spool/mail permission
  - drwxrwsr-x original (on Linux)
  - drwsrwxrwt permission needed (sticky bit) for the lock file
- Do not use /var/spool/mail/\$USER as a folder
- Don't link ~/nsmail/Inbox to /var/spool/mail/\$USER

## SPAM issues

- There exists pre-configured pm.rc files
- Build your own recipes
- Better to do it at ISP side
- Sendmail can do it too
- Don't waste too much time on it
  - practice it when needed