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MailInContrib for TWiki

Add content to TWiki topics via e-mail

Introduction

Mails for twiki can be pulled out of mail folders using POP3 , IMAP , or anything else supported by CPAN:Email::Folder .

The implementation is very simple; a script called `mailincron` is run every so often (usually by `cron` or an equivalent offline job scheduler). The script trawls the mail folders you specify and grabs messages that it recognises as being for the TWiki.

For example, your wayward child might send a mail like this from an internet cafe in Thailand:

```
To: twiki@mum_and_dad.org.uk
From: gapper@isp.co.uk
Subject: Travels.DailyDiary: cashless

*Phuket*: I've run out of money!
```

The message lands in your email folder at your ISP. Once an hour, a cron job runs the `mailincron` script, which scans the folder. If it finds any messages that have nothing but a correctly formatted TWiki Web.TopicName in the subject line, that topic is appended to (created) with the plain text of the email. The Web must exist, though the topic will be created if necessary. Both web and topic *must* be specified.

In our example, the web exists, and so does the topic, so the following text gets appended to Travels.DailyDiary:

Phuket: I've run out of money!

-- Prodigal Son <gapper@isp.co.uk> 10 Jul 2005 08:35:11 -0900

Attachments to the mail get treated as attachments by TWiki, and attached to the target topic.

Note that `mailincron` will only process messages that have arrived since the last time it ran. So if there was an error adding a mail, it won't attempt to add it again even if it is still in the inbox.

--++ Where the mail gets added

The target topic for a mail is normally specified in the `Subject:` of the mail. You just put Web.Topic as the first thing on the subject line, optionally followed by a colon and other subject text. Alternatively you can configure the module to examine the `To:` field in the mail and get the topic name from there instead.

- If a topic is specified, but doesn't exist, it will be created.
- If there is no web name specified, then you can configure a default web to accept those mails.
- If a non-existant web is specified, then it is an error.

You can also define a 'spambox' for each mail folder. A spambox is a topic that will take all messages that do *not* have a valid topic.

The module can use special HTML comments in the topic to decide where to insert new emails within the text.

If it sees the comment `<!--MAIL-->` it will insert the incoming mail immediately **below** the comment. `MAIL` is rather ike a TWikiVariable; you can give it parameters. For example, `<!--MAIL{where="below"}-->`. The following options are available:

- `where` - can be `above`, `below` (relative to the comment) `top`, `bottom` (of the topic)
- `template` set to the name of one of the templates in MailInContribTemplate to change the formatting of comments. The default format is "below" format.

If there is no such comment in the topic, then it just appends it to the end. If there is more than one, only the first is recognised.

Any attachments in the mail get added to the target topic as TWiki attachments. Attachments are also listed immediately below the mail body in the topic.

How the contributor is identified

The user identity is used for access control checks on the target topic, so you can use TWiki access controls to protect target topics.

You can configure the module to look at the `From:` entry in the email, and if a registered user has set that email (see ChangeEmailAddress), then they are identified as the contributor. Note that there is a security risk here, as the `From:` address in e-mail can easily be spoofed.

You can also optionally set a default user for an inbox, so if the user can't be identified from the mail, it will fall back to the default.

Installation

You do not need to install anything in the browser to use this extension. The following instructions are for the administrator who installs the extension on the server where TWiki is running.

Like many other TWiki extensions, this module is shipped with a fully automatic installer script written using the BuildContrib.

- If you have TWiki 4.2 or later, you can install from the `configure` interface (Go to Plugins->Find More Extensions)
  - ♦ See the installation supplement   on TWiki.org for more information.
- If you have any problems, then you can still install manually from the command-line:
  1. Download one of the `.zip` or `.tgz` archives
  2. Unpack the archive in the root directory of your TWiki installation.
  3. Run the installer script (`perl <module>_installer`)
  4. Run `configure` and enable the module, if it is a plugin.
  5. Repeat for any missing dependencies.
- If you are **still** having problems, then instead of running the installer script:
  1. Make sure that the file permissions allow the webserver user to access all files.
  2. Check in any installed files that have existing `,v` files in your existing install (take care **not** to lock the files when you check in)
  3. Manually edit LocalSite.cfg to set any configuration variables.

Note: The CPAN `Email` modules uses **many** pluggable modules to support different folder types. It's impossible to cover all the options here; all we can suggest is that you try running the script from the command-line and resolve missing modules as you find them.

- Set up cron (or equivalent) jobs to run `mailincron`. You must `cd` to the TWiki bin directory, and invoke the sript from there (this is so `mailincron` can read `setlib.cfg`)

Because of the security issues involved (passwords for the mailboxes etc.) configuration uses variables set in your `LocalSite.cfg`. The easiest way to set them is using `configure`.

The `mailincron` script takes one optional parameter, `debug`, which takes a boolean value e.g. `debug=1`. If you pass anything other than 0 or the empty string in `debug`, the script will scan the mail folders, describe what it would have done, and exit, without modifying any folders, the TWiki, or sending any mails.

To run the script you need to set up a cron job. For example, to transfer mail into the TWiki once every hour you might write:

```
0 * * * * cd /home/twiki/bin && ../tools/mailincron 2&>1 >> /home/twiki/logs/mailincron.log
```

You *must* run the script from the bin directory. Make sure that the cron is run by a user with the permissions needed to read and write the TWiki data directory.

This is a brand-new development, not related in any to the original TWiki:Plugins/MailInAddon . Due acknowledgement is made to those early pioneers for the idea. 😊

Contrib Info

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- Evolved Media

Author:	TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie (http://c-dot.co.uk)		
Copyright:	© 2005-2010 TWiki:TWiki/TWikiContributor		
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License)		
Dependencies:	**Name**	**Version**	**Description**
	TWiki::Plugins	>=1.1	This module requires TWiki-4
	Time::ParseDate	>=2003.0211	Required. Available from the CPAN:Time::ParseDate archive.
	Error	>=0.15	Required. Available from the CPAN:Error archive.
	Email::Folder	>=0.84	Required. Available from the CPAN:Email::Folder archive.
	Email::FolderType::Net	>=1.02	Required. Available from the CPAN:Email::FolderType::Net archive.
	Email::MIME	>=1.82	Required. Available from the CPAN:Email::MIME archive.
	Email::Delete	>=1.02	Optional, recommended. Available from the CPAN:Email::Delete archive.
Version:	18822 (2010-05-26)		
Change History:			
2010-05-26	TWikibug:Item6433 - doc improvements		
1 Aug 2008	Bugs:Item5450: minor doc fix		
8 Sep 2007	Bugs:Item4575 various ideas from Dev topic, tested against 4.2.0		
12412	Fixed Bugs:Item3334 by removing dependency on FuncUsersContrib		
10239	Added support for listing attachments in-line with the mail		
10182	Fixed parser failures on multipart MIME messages		

10111	Fixed problem with spaces in attachment names
9427	Added Email::Delete::POP3 and Email::Delete::IMAP implementations, and solved a curious problem with IMAP folders, where the MIME parser couldn't parse messages coming from them.
8969	TWikibug:Item1665 - TWikibug:Item1666 : Now configurable to accept mail only from registered users. Automatically maps the user and signs the contribution. Also configurable to parse the topic from the To: line. Also improved error reporting and recovery.
7205	TWikibug:Item788 - updated CPAN dependencies for MailInContrib
7196	TWikibug:Item784 - Added POP3 support for delete. Don't understand why it was working before; though I suspect it must have been using MailDir
6993	TWikibug:Item143 - Cairo compatibility in MailInContrib
5980	TWikibug:Item181 - added dependendcy on Error for Cairo installs; split contributions using a blank line to stop them crushing together
5961	TWikibug:Item181 - minor formatting issue fixed
5960	TWikibug:Item181 - new version, supports DEVELOP and Cairo, and adds support for attachments (you can now mail attachments to topics)
31 July 2005	1.001 Back-ported to Cairo, added spambox (work generously supported by the Evolved Media)
10 Mar 2005	1.000 Initial version
Home:	TWiki:Plugins/MailInContrib
Feedback:	TWiki:Plugins/MailInContribDev
Appraisal:	http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/MailInContribAppraisal

Related Topics: MailInContribTemplate, TWikiPreferences

This topic: TWiki > MailInContrib
Topic revision: r0 - 2010-04-25 - TWikiContributor