

Using Elm

SYNOPSIS

This section describes the elm mail interface which may be substituted for "mailx" for handling mail on some UNIX systems. Please make sure that elm is installed on your system before trying it.

WARNING: Cal Poly is migrating all email use to OpenMail mail services during the 1998-1999 Academic Year. As a result all support for the product described in this chapter will be limited or dropped when the migration has been completed.

DESCRIPTION OF ELM	Elm is a menu based mail program for users. It can be used instead of "mail" (/usr/ucb/mail) or "mailx" on HP-UX (/usr/bin/mailx on HP-UX) for handling mail. Elm is often easier to use than mail, because it is menu driven and handles replies and forwarding in a more direct way.
HOW DO I INVOKE THE PROGRAM?	<p>Elm is invoked in the same way as the "mail" program. To process mail that is waiting, at the UNIX prompt issue the command</p> <pre>% elm<CR></pre> <p>To send mail to a specific user, at the UNIX prompt issue the command</p> <pre>% elm userid<CR></pre> <p>Of course, you can also send mail from within the elm program, using the "m" command. This is a menu option.</p> <p>To send a prepared file to a specific user, from the UNIX prompt issue the command</p> <pre>% elm userid < filename<CR></pre> <p>If you want to include a subject line,</p> <pre>% elm -s "subject line" userid < filename<CR></pre> <p>To process a mail file (elm uses the term "folder") that you have previously saved,</p> <pre>% elm -f filename<CR></pre> <p>e.g.,</p> <pre>% elm -f Mail/received<CR></pre> <p>or, alternatively, start elm and use the "c" command to change to the folder of your choice.</p>
THE FIRST TIME YOU USE ELM	<p>The first time you start up elm, you will see this message:</p> <pre>This version of elm requires the use of a .elm directory in your home directory to store your elmrc and alias files. Shall I create the directory .elm for you and set it up (y/n) ?</pre> <p>Type y or just press <RETURN>.</p>
THE MAIN ELM MENU	When elm starts, mail headers will be listed at the top of the screen. You can move up or down through this list using "j" for down, "k" for up. The arrow keys also

work on some terminals. If you have more than 10 messages in a mail folder, you may display the next page of headings with "+", or the previous page with "-".

The highlighted header is the current message. To see this message, press <RETURN>. After viewing a message, you can return to the list of headers by typing "i" (for index), see the next message by "n", or issue any other elm command.

ELM COMMANDS

Elm commands are issued by a single character. You should not press <RETURN> after typing a command letter or character.

A brief list of commands is shown at the bottom of the main menu screen. For a complete list, type "?", then another "?" at the next prompt.

ELM USES VI

One of the features of elm is that it uses the vi editor automatically, when you want to create or reply to a mail message. This means you will need at least a rudimentary understanding of vi to make good use of elm. For more information on vi, see the User Guides which cover that editor.

HOW DO I QUIT THE PROGRAM?

Quitting is a menu option, "q". Before you quit, if you have marked any messages for deletion you will be asked if you want to

```
Delete messages? (y/n) n
```

The default is "n" for no, so type "y" if you do want to delete them.

You will also be asked whether you want to

```
Move read messages to "received" folder? (y/n) n
```

Here the default is also "n", which leaves messages where they are. You will be able to reread them or delete them the next time you use elm. If you do want to save messages in your Mail/received folder, type "y" for yes. This is not recommended unless you are an experienced elm user and know how to find them again (see the Section entitled "HOW DO I INVOKE THE PROGRAM" above).

HOW DO I PRINT MAIL?

A. PRINTING MAIL ON CENTRAL UNIX AND ITS SUNS

To print to the high-speed lineprinter located in the Computer Center, you must first put a line into your .elm/elmrcc file that tells UNIX where to put your output. In the .elm/elmrcc file, enter a line such as

```
print = lp -J ii_BOXnn %s
                                for Central UNIX
```

or

```
print = lp -Jii_BOXnn %s
                                for ITS Suns
```

where ii are your initials and nn is a number for one of the boxes (11-46, faculty 81-89) at the end of the hallway on the ground floor in Building 14. (The %s stands for the temporary filename that elm will use, and MUST be included just as above.) For example,

```
print = lp -J ME_BOX42 %s
```

B. PRINTING MAIL ON OTHER UNIX SYSTEMS

On most other UNIX systems, mail messages may be printed without any modification to the `.elm/elmr` file.

IS THERE ON-LINE
HELP? HOW DO I
INVOKE IT?

Help is a menu option in elm, "?". For a general list of commands, at the next prompt enter another "?". If you want help on a specific command, enter its character.

OTHER
DOCUMENTATION?

Additional documentation on elm is located on Central UNIX in `/usr/local/share/lib/elm`. Files with a `.guid` or `.guide` suffix use UNIX text formatting. To print them on the lineprinter, they should first be filtered. At the central UNIX prompt, enter the command

```
% tbl guidename tmac.n | nroff | lp -J ii_BOXnn<CR>  
on Central UNIX
```

or

```
% tbl guidename tmac.n | nroff | lp -Jii_BOXnn<CR>  
on the ITS Suns
```

where, as above, *ii* are your initials and *nn* is a box number, for example,

```
% tbl Users.guide tmac.n | nroff | lp -J PR_BOX73<CR>
```

ELMRC —
CUSTOMIZING ELM

The `.elm` subdirectory in your home directory is the location of the `elmr` file. If you do not already have a `.elm` subdirectory, it will be automatically created the first time you invoke elm. If you do not already have an `elmr` file within the `.elm` subdirectory, you can create it using the vi editor. For information on the commands that can be included in `elmr`, and for a sample `elmr` file, see the `elmr-info` and `elmr.samp` files in `/usr/local/lib/elm` on central UNIX.

If you intend to print mail on central UNIX, you must have a "print" definition in your `elmr` file (see 2above). Here are some other items you might consider putting into your `elmr` file (comment lines begin with #):

```
signature = ~/address  
# The contents of a file called "address" (or any name you  
# prefer) located in your home directory will automatically be  
# appended to any message you send.
```

```
sortby = received  
# The default is to sort by "reverse-received." If you want  
# messages listed in date order, this does so.
```

```
weed = ON  
weedout = "To:" "Via:"  
# Together, these two lines eliminate the given headers from  
# your mail messages. This may make mail easier to read.
```

```
userlevel = 1  
# Changes the command listing in the elm menu; recommended  
# after you are familiar with the beginner's elm commands.
```

CREATING MAIL ALIASES

At the elm main menu, press "a" to go to the alias menu. There, you will be given an opportunity to make an alias, list an alias, etc. When you make an alias using this method, you will be asked to enter three items:

Enter alias name: *tom*<CR> This is the word you want to use as an alias.

Enter full name for tom: *Thomas Dickinson*<CR>
This is the person or group's real name.

Enter address for tom: *tdickins@mordecai*<CR>
The email address where mail should be sent.
If you are entering a group alias, you can enter several names here, separated by commas.

When you are finished, press "r" to update your alias list and return to the main menu.

MAKING ELM ALIASES FROM A .MAILRC FILE

Elm provides an awk script for creating an `.elm/aliases.text` file from aliases listed in a `.mailrc` file. This is for people who have formerly been using the "mail" program and want to transfer their aliases to elm. To create the `aliases.text` file on central UNIX, issue these two commands:

```
% awk -f /usr/local/lib/elm/utills/mailrc.awk < ~/.mailrc >  
~/.elm/aliases.text<CR> On most UNIX Systems.
```

```
% awk -f /usr/local/share/lib/elm/utills/mailrc.awk < ~/.mailrc >  
~/.elm/aliases.text<CR> On HP-UX
```

```
% newalias<CR>
```

The above commands assume that your `.mailrc` file is in your home directory and that you have not yet created any other aliases using elm. The new file that is created, `aliases.text`, is in the form,

```
alias = user name = email address
```

Since your `.mailrc` file does not provide the second field (real name of the user or group), you may want to edit `aliases.text` with the vi editor to include "real" names for your alias addresses. After you edit `aliases.text`, run "`newalias`" again.

The `aliases.text` file may be edited at any time. Just remember, each time you modify this file, you must then run the command

```
% newalias<CR>
```

to update elm's aliases.

OTHER USEFUL ELM FEATURES

Elm includes a filter program which allows you to handle mail depending on its subject, sender, number of lines, how it's addressed, etc. You can have elm delete, forward, file, save, etc., mail depending on conditions that you specify. For more information, see `/usr/local/share/lib/elm/Filter.guide` on Central UNIX.

Elm also allows you to create forms, to be filled in by the recipient. To find out how to use this feature, see `/usr/local/lib/elm/Form.guide` on central UNIX.

FOR UNIX "MAIL"
USERS
ONLY...DIFFERENCES
FROM "MAIL"

Users who have been using "mail" (mailx on HP-UX) should be aware of a few important differences in the way elm works.

Elm does not use the .mailrc file for customizing your mail environment. Instead, you can create (if you do not already have one) an elmrc file (note no preceding ".") which must be located in your .elm directory. A .elm directory will be created (if you do not already have one) in your home directory the first time you use elm. See below for more on the elmrc file.

Mail aliases are not entered into the elmrc file (as they are entered into the .mailrc file for use in the "mail" program). For more information on adding aliases, see below. If you already have a set of aliases you are using in "mail", and want to use them with elm, see 1 below.

Received mail does not go into an "mbox" file in your home directory. Instead, mail you have received, read, and stored is put, by default, in a file called "received" in your Mail directory (this Mail directory will be created by elm automatically if you don't already have one.) Thus, to process mail which you have already read and stored in the default folder, from your home directory use the command

```
% elm -f Mail/received<CR>
```

or, if you are already at the elm Command: prompt, "c" to change to a different folder, "=received" for the name of the folder you want. The "=" before "received" means you are using a file in the Mail subdirectory.

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NOTES