

Mailing Lists Plus



Ayitey Bulley
bulley@ghana.com

Workshop Agenda

- Introduction to Mailing Lists
 - Installing Majordomo
 - Creating & Managing Lists
 - Managing Majordomo with Majorcool
 - Creating web-enabled mailing-list archives
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Introduction to Mailing Lists

- Really Basic Lists (the quick & dirty way)
 - address books
 - MTA aliases
- Mailing List Management Software (MLM)
 - [The Mailing List Software Inventory](#)
 - <http://listes.cru.fr/sympa/robots.html>

Address books

- Advantages
 - Quick to implement.
 - Requires no interaction with any outside agent (listmaster, MLM software, etc.).
- Disadvantages
 - It can quickly become a pain to keep updated.
 - Users replying to a message may end up talking to many more people than they intended to.
 - Control over list participation.
 - Does not scale well.

MTA Aliases

- Needs system administrators intervention
- Painful to maintain
- Not very sophisticated



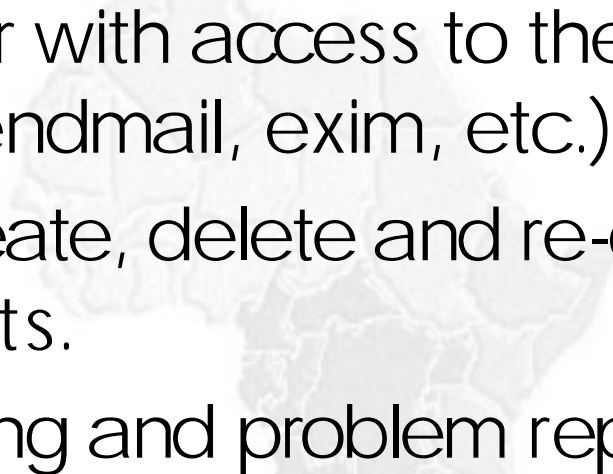
Mailing List Management Software (MLM)

- Automatically process subscription requests
 - Support moderated lists
 - Distribute messages as digests
 - Archive list messages, digests
 - Provide some help in handling bounced messages
 - Prevent mail loops
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Mailing List Management Software (MLM)

- When choosing an MLM you need to remember that the software must allow at least three layers of list management:
 - List Master
 - List Owners
 - List Members

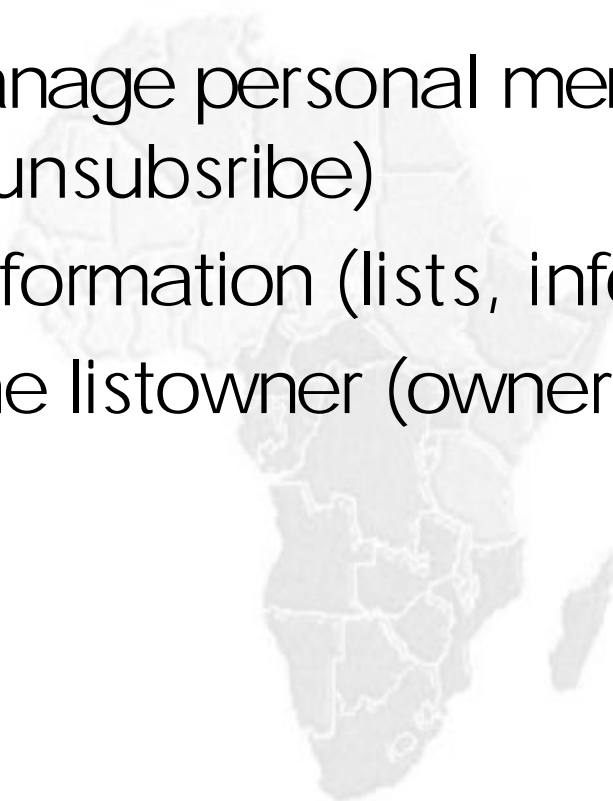
List Master

- Trusted user with access to the central mailer software (sendmail, exim, etc.).
 - Ability to create, delete and re-configure individual lists.
 - Error handling and problem reporting.
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List Owners

- Ability to manage user membership (subscribe/unsubscribe)
 - Ability to configure list options and Information.
 - Support of archives or digests
 - Access control for lists (open, closed, moderated, etc.)
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List Members

- Ability to manage personal membership (subscribe, unsubscribe)
 - Access to information (lists, info, who, which)
 - Access to the listowner (owner-listname@)
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Supporting List Owners and End-users

- This requires: listmaster@ & owner-listname@
- Good Documentation
 - Joining a Mailing List at the UO
 - Managing a Majorodomo List
- Training
 - Managing a Majordomo List
- Communication
 - A list for list owners
 - stock text for respond to common problems
 - pointers to documents in every listmaster email message (.signature file or message_footer)

Test Drive Exercise

- Join a majordomo list
 - sendmail to `majordomo@afnog.org` with
“subscribe afnog <your@email.address>”



Majordomo Installation

- Before installing majordomo you will need:
 - root access
 - perl
 - exim or sendmail
 - gnu c compiler (gcc) or some other version of cc
 - complete paths to perl, sendmail or exim and gcc
- Installing majordomo consists of two main parts:
 - root tasks
 - tasks for majordomo user (majordom)

Installing Majordomo - root tasks

- Create a user/group to own majordomo.
- Make changes to sendmail or exim
 - add majordomo to list of Trusted users
 - add an entry for the *majordomo.aliases* file (optional)
- Create the *majordomo.aliases* file.
 - create empty files
 - set permissions on files
 - edit to add new list aliases to file

Installing Majordomo - root tasks (contd.)

- Install the majordomo software.
 - uncompress files in a temporary working directory.
 - edit the Makefile defining
 - paths to Perl interpreter and C compiler.
 - the majordomo home directory.
 - location of the manual pages.
 - user and group the majordomo will run under.
 - permissions for the various files and directories.

Installing Majordomo - root tasks (contd.)

- Create a *majordomo.cf* file and edit it.
 - copy the *sample.cf* file to *majordomo.cf*
 - edit the *majordomo.cf* file and set the ff. variables
 - \$whereami What machine am I on?
 - \$whoami Who do users send requests to me as?
 - \$whoami_owner Who is the owner of the above, for problems?
 - \$homedir Where can I find my extra .pl files?
 - \$listdir Where are the mailing lists?
 - \$log Where do I write my log?
 - \$sendmail_command Where the sendmail program resides.
 - \$mailer What program and args do I use to send mail to the lists?
 - \$bounce_mailer What program and args do I use to send administrative messages?

Installing Majordomo - root tasks (contd.)

- Run make as needed
 - *make wrapper*
 - *make install*
 - *make install-wrapper*
- **STOP!**
 - at this stage the *log* file and the *lists* and *digests* directories have not yet been created, though they have been named in the *majordomo.cf* file.
- Change login id to majordomo user
 - `su majordom`

Installing Majordomo - majordom tasks

- Finish the installation by completing the ff. Tasks as the majordomo user.
 - create the *log* file, and the *lists* & *digests* directories.
 - run the config-test.
 - Test it further by creating a test list and sending mail to majordomo.

Managing Majordomo

- Majorcool is a web-based interface to help in managing the majordomo mailing-list server



Mailing List Archives

- MHonArc is a product used to create web based access to mailing list archives.



Mailing List - Practical Exercises

