

Better Mobile Email A solution for laptop users

Presented by
Paul W. Frields
Fedora Engineering Manager, Red Hat

Why? (Problem)

- Laptop user travel around to different networks
- Be productive on a plane
- Normal SMTP servers available at different times (e.g. corporate email server on VPN) – slows down email client
- Not about filtering. BUT DO IT.
- Use favorite tools...



Email client (MUA) - Mutt

- Single tasking
- Terminal based (screen!)
- Highly configurable
- Fast, FAST, FAST. Did I mention fast?



Synchronization - Offline IMAP

- Was slowly maintained, now active again
- Transfers between IMAP, Maildir, MH stores
- Priority is retention tries never to delete when confused
- Allows clever use of Python functions in configuration



SMTP server - Postfix

- Highly secure and easily configurable
- Supports complex routing decisions
- Readable logs and good management tools



Configure Offline MAP

- Set up different accounts and local stores in ~/.offlineimaprc
- Remote IMAP, local Maildir(s)
- Note: GMail has special handling to avoid e.g. [All Mail]



Configure Postfix

- main.cf
 - Sender dependent authN, relay hosts
 - Use soft_bounce for unavailable servers
- master.cf Add a service (port) for additional accounts
- transport, sender_relay per-sender address, relay to appropriate MX
- Also configure SASL, TLS as needed



Configure Mutt

folder-hook to set parameters including SMTP connection

- reply-hook sets From: for replies
- Multiple address providers for querying addresses (e-d-s, corporate, Google, etc.)
- Optional: Wrap Mutt for folder ordering



Configure Network Manager

- NetworkManager dispatcher script manages Postfix based on network changes
 - Uses defer_transport setting to manage available services
 - Check network each time a network goes up or down
 - Drop in /etc/NetworkManager/dispatcher.d/
- Customize based on your preferred networks



Results

- Send email as desired, wherever you are
- Instant response in Mutt, even when offline from one or more servers
- When you connect to the right network again, email is automatically sent



Questions?

http://pfrields.fedorapeople.org/configs/ http://pfrields.fedorapeople.org/presentations/ #DevConfCZ

