NAME

mailx, mail, Mail – interactive message processing system

SYNOPSIS

mailx [**–BdeHiInNURvV~**] [**–f** [*file* | *+folder*]] [**–T** *file*] [**–u** *user*]
mailx [**–BdFintUv~**] [**–b** *bcc*] [**–c** *cc*] [**–h** *number*] [**–r** *address*] [**–s** *subject*] *recipient* . . .

/usr/ucb/mail . . .

/usr/ucb/Mail . . .

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

The mail utilities listed above provide a comfortable, flexible environment for sending and receiving mail messages electronically. The **OPTIONS** and **USAGE** documented below for **mailx** also apply to **/usr/ucb/mail** and **/usr/ucb/Mail**, except where noted.

When reading mail, **mailx** provides commands to facilitate saving, deleting, and responding to messages. When sending mail, **mailx** allows editing, reviewing and other modification of the message as it is entered.

Incoming mail is stored in a standard file for each user, called the **mailbox** for that user. When **mailx** is called to read messages, the **mailbox** is the default place to find them. As messages are read, they are marked to be moved to a secondary file for storage, unless specific action is taken, so that the messages need not be seen again. This secondary file is called the **mbox** and is normally located in the user's **HOME** directory (see **MBOX** in **ENVIRONMENT** for a description of this file). Messages can be saved in other secondary files named by the user. Messages remain in a secondary file until forcibly removed.

The user can access a secondary file by using the **–f** option of the **mailx** command. Messages in the secondary file can then be read or otherwise processed using the same **Commands** as in the primary **mailbox**. This gives rise within these pages to the notion of a current **mailbox**.

XPG4

mailx conforms to the XPG4 specification (see **xpg4**(5)). Incompatibilities exist between the Solaris and XPG4 behavior with respect to the command pairs **r**eply/**R**eply and **fo**llowup/**Fo**llowup and the default values for a number of internal variables. See the **Commands** and **Internal Variables** subsections below.

To obtain XPG4 behavior, specify the **–n** option on the command line. See **OPTIONS** and **USAGE** below.

OPTIONS

On the command line options start with a dash (–). Any other arguments are taken to be destinations (recipients). If no recipients are specified, **mailx** attempts to read messages from the **mailbox**.

–B Do not buffer standard input or standard output.

–b *bcc* Set the blind carbon copy list to *bcc*. *bcc* should be enclosed in quotes if it contains more than one name.

–c *cc* Set the carbon copy list to *cc*. *cc* should be enclosed in quotes if it contains more than one name.

–d Turn on debugging output. (Neither particularly interesting nor recommended.)

–e Test for the presence of mail. **mailx** prints nothing and exits with a successful return code if there is mail to read.

–F Record the message in a file named after the first recipient. Overrides the **record** variable, if set (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

–f [*file*] Read messages from *file* instead of **mailbox**. If no *file* is specified, the **mbox** is used.

–f [**+***folder*] Use the file *folder* in the folder directory (same as the **fold**er command). The name of this directory is listed in the **folder** variable.

–H Print header summary only.

–h *number* The number of network "hops" made so far. This is provided for network software to avoid infinite delivery loops. This option and its argument are passed to the delivery program.

–I Include the newsgroup and article-id header lines when printing mail messages. This option requires the –**f** option to be specified.

–i Ignore interrupts. See also **ignore** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

–N Do not print initial header summary.

–n Do not initialize from the system default **mailx.rc** or **Mail.rc** file. When this is specified, XPG4 behavior results. See **USAGE**.

–r *address* Use *address* as the return address when invoking the delivery program. All tilde commands are disabled. This option and its argument is passed to the delivery program.

–s *subject* Set the Subject header field to *subject*. *subject* should be enclosed in quotes if it contains embedded white space.

–T *file* Message-id and article-id header lines are recorded in *file* after the message is read. This option also sets the **–I** option.

–t Scan the input for **To:**, **Cc:**, and **Bcc:** fields. Any recipients on the command line will be ignored.

–U Convert UUCP-style addresses to internet standards. Overrides the **conv** environment variable.

–u *user* Read *user*'s **mailbox**. This is only effective if *user*'s **mailbox** is not read protected.

–V Print the **mailx** version number and exit.

–v Pass the –**v** flag to **sendmail**(1M).

–˜ Interpret tilde escapes in the input even if not reading from a tty.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

recipient Addressee of message.

USAGE

Starting Mail

At startup time, **mailx** executes the system startup file **/etc/mail/mailx.rc**. If invoked as **mail** or **Mail**, the system startup file **/etc/mail/Mail.rc** is used instead.

The system startup file sets up initial display options and alias lists and assigns values to some **mailx** internal variables. These variables are flags and valued parameters which are set and cleared using the **se**t and **uns**et commands. See **mailx Internal Variables**.

With the following exceptions, regular commands are legal inside startup files: **!**, **C**opy, **e**dit, **fo**llowup, **F**ollowup, **ho**ld, **m**ail, **pre**serve, **r**eply, **R**eply, **sh**ell, and **v**isual. An error in the startup file causes the remaining lines in the file to be ignored.

After executing the system startup file, **mailx** executes the optional personal startup file **$HOME/.mailrc**, wherein the user can override the values of the internal variables as set by the system startup file.

If the −**n** option is specified, however, **mailx** does not execute the system startup file, and the command behavior is XPG4-compliant.

To execute the system startup file and still retain XPG4-compliant behavior, add the following commands to the private startup file and execute **mailx** without specifying the −**n** option:

```
unset appenddeadletter
set replyall
set pipeignore
```

When reading mail, **mailx** is in *command mode*. A header summary of the first several messages is displayed, followed by a prompt indicating **mailx** can accept regular commands (see **Commands** below). When sending mail, **mailx** is in *input mode*. If no subject is specified on the command line, and the **asksub** variable is set, a prompt for the subject is printed.

As the message is typed, **mailx** reads the message and stores it in a temporary file. Commands may be entered by beginning a line with the tilde (˜) escape character followed by a single command letter and optional arguments. See **Tilde Escapes** for a summary of these commands.

Reading Mail

Each message is assigned a sequential number, and there is at any time the notion of a current message, marked by a right angle bracket (>) in the header summary. Many commands take an optional list of messages (*message-list*) to operate on. In most cases, the current message is set to the highest-numbered message in the list after the command is finished executing.

The default for *message-list* is the current message. A *message-list* is a list of message identifiers separated by spaces, which may include:

n	Message number *n*.
.	The current message.
^	The first undeleted message.
$	The last message.
*	All messages.
+	The next undeleted message.
−	The previous undeleted message.
n−m	An inclusive range of message numbers.
user	All messages from *user*.
/string	All messages with *string* in the Subject line (case ignored).
:*c*	All messages of type *c*, where *c* is one of:

d	deleted messages
n	new messages
o	old messages
r	read messages
u	unread messages

Note that the context of the command determines whether this type of message specification makes sense.

Other arguments are usually arbitrary strings whose usage depends on the command involved. Filenames, where expected, are expanded using the normal shell conventions (see **sh**(1)). Special characters are recognized by certain commands and are documented with the commands below.

Sending Mail

Recipients listed on the command line may be of three types: login names, shell commands, or alias groups. Login names may be any network address, including mixed network addressing. If mail is found to be undeliverable, an attempt is made to return it to the sender's **mailbox**. If the recipient name begins with a pipe symbol (|), the rest of the name is taken to be a shell command to pipe the message through. This provides an automatic interface with any program that reads the standard input, such as **lp**(1) for recording outgoing mail on paper. Alias groups are set by the **a**lias command (see **Commands** below) or in a system startup file (for example, **$HOME/.mailrc**). Aliases are lists of recipients of any type.

Forwarding Mail

To forward a specific message, include it in a message to the desired recipients with the **~f** or **~m** tilde escapes. See **Tilde Escapes** below. To forward mail automatically, add a comma-separated list of addresses for additional recipients to the **.forward** file in your home directory. This is different from the format of the **alias** command, which takes a space-separated list instead. Note: forwarding addresses must be valid, or the messages will "bounce." You cannot, for instance, reroute your mail to a new host by forwarding it to your new address if it is not yet listed in the NIS aliases domain.

Commands

Regular commands are of the form

[*command*] [*message-list*] [*arguments*]

In *input mode*, commands are recognized by the escape character, **tilde(˜)**, and lines not treated as commands are taken as input for the message.

If no command is specified in *command mode*, **n**ext is assumed.

The following is a complete list of **mailx** commands:

!*shell-command* Escape to the shell. See **SHELL** in **ENVIRONMENT**.

*comment* **NULL** command (comment). Useful in **mailrc** files.

= Print the current message number.

? Prints a summary of commands.

alias *alias name* . . .
group *alias name* . . . Declare an alias for the given names. The names are substituted when *alias* is used as a recipient. Useful in the **mailrc** file. With no arguments, the command displays the list of defined aliases.

alternates *name* . . . Declare a list of alternate names for your login. When responding to a message, these names are removed from the list of recipients for the response. With no arguments, print the current list of alternate names. See also **allnet** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

cd [*directory*]
chdir [*directory*] Change directory. If *directory* is not specified, **$HOME** is used.

copy [*file*]
copy [*message-list*] *file* Copy messages to the file without marking the messages as saved. Otherwise equivalent to the **s**ave command.

Copy [*message-list*] Save the specified messages in a file whose name is derived from the author of the message to be saved, without marking the messages as saved. Otherwise equivalent to the **S**ave command.

delete [*message-list*] Delete messages from the **mailbox**. If **autoprint** is set, the next message after the last one deleted is printed (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

discard [*header-field*. . .]
ignore [*header-field*. . .] Suppress printing of the specified header fields when displaying messages on the screen. Examples of header fields to ignore are **Status** and **Received**. The fields are included when the message is saved, unless the **alwaysignore** variable is set. The **Mo**re, **Pa**ge, **P**rint, and **T**ype commands override this command. If no header is specified, the current list of header fields being ignored is printed. See also the **undi**scard and **unig**nore commands.

dp [*message-list*]
dt [*message-list*] Delete the specified messages from the **mailbox** and print the next message after the last one deleted. Roughly equivalent to a **d**elete command followed by a **p**rint command.

echo *string* . . . Echo the given strings (like **echo**(1)).

edit [*message-list*] Edit the given messages. Each message is placed in a temporary file and the program named by the **EDITOR** variable is invoked to edit it. (see **ENVIRONMENT**). Default editor is **ed**(1).

exit
xit Exit from **mailx**, without changing the **mailbox**. No messages are saved in the **mbox** (see also **q**uit).

field [*message-list*] header-file
Display the value of the header field in the specified message.

file [*file*]
folder [*file*] Quit from the current file of messages and read in the specified file. Several special characters are recognized when used as file names:

%	the current **mailbox**.
%*user*	the **mailbox** for *user*.
#	the previous mail file.
&	the current **mbox**.
+*file*	The named file in the *folder* directory (listed in the **folder** variable).

With no arguments, print the name of the current mail file, and the number of messages and characters it contains.

folders Print the names of the files in the directory set by the **folder** variable (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

Followup [*message*] Respond to a message, recording the response in a file whose name is derived from the author of the message. Overrides the **record** variable, if set. If the **replyall** variable is set, the actions of **Fo**llowup and **fo**llowup are reversed. (XPG4 specifies that the **fo**llowup and **Fo**llowup actions are reversed by default, and that the **flipr** variable is the XPG4 equivalent of the Solaris **replyall** variable.) See also the **f**ollowup, **S**ave, and **C**opy commands and **outfolder** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

followup [*message-list*]
Respond to the first message in the *message-list*, sending the message to the author of each message in the *message-list*. The subject line is taken from the first message and the response is recorded in a file whose name is derived from the author of the first message. If the **replyall** variable is set, the actions of **fo**llowup and **Fo**llowup are reversed. (XPG4 specifies that the **fo**llowup and **Fo**llowup actions are reversed by default, and that the **flipr** variable is the XPG4 equivalent of the Solaris **replyall** variable.) See also the **Fo**llowup, **S**ave, and **C**opy commands and **outfolder** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

from [*message-list*] Print the header summary for the specified messages. If no messages are specified, print the header summary for the current message.

group *alias name* . . .
alias *alias name* . . . Declare an alias for the given names. The names are substituted when *alias* is used as a recipient. Useful in the **mailrc** file.

headers [*message*] Print the page of headers which includes the message specified. The **screen** variable sets the number of headers per page (see **mailx Internal Variables**). See also the **z** command.

help Print a summary of commands.

hold [*message-list*]
preserve [*message-list*] Hold the specified messages in the **mailbox**.

if **s** | **r** | **t**
mail-commands
else
mail-commands
endif Conditional execution, where *s* executes following *mail-commands*, up to an **el**se or **en**dif, if the program is in *send* mode, *r* causes the *mail-commands* to be executed only in *receive* mode, and **t** causes the *mail-commands* to be executed only if **mailx** is being run from a terminal. Useful in the **mailrc** file.

inc Incorporate messages that arrive while you are reading the system mailbox. The new messages are added to the message list in the current **mail** session. This command does not commit changes made during the session, and prior messages are not renumbered.

ignore [*header-field* . . .]
discard [*header-field* . . .]
Suppress printing of the specified header fields when displaying messages on the screen. Examples of header fields to ignore are **Status** and **Cc**. All fields are included when the message is saved. The **Mo**re, **Pa**ge, **P**rint and **T**ype commands override this command. If no header is specified, the current list of header fields being ignored is printed. See also the **undi**scard and **unig**nore commands.

list Print all commands available. No explanation is given.

load [*message*] *file*
The specified message is replaced by the message in the named file. *file* should contain a single mail message including mail headers (as saved by the **s**ave command).

mail *recipient* . . . Mail a message to the specified recipients.

Mail *recipient* Mail a message to the specified recipients, and record it in a file whose name is derived from the author of the message. Overrides the **record** variable, if set. See also the **Save** and **Copy** commands and **outfolder** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

mbox [*message-list*] Arrange for the given messages to end up in the standard **mbox** save file when **mailx** terminates normally. See **MBOX** in **ENVIRONMENT** for a description of this file. See also the **ex**it and **q**uit commands.

more [*message-list*]
page [*message-list*] Print the specified messages. If **crt** is set, the messages longer than the number of lines specified by the **crt** variable are paged through the command specified by the **PAGER** variable. The default command is **pg**(1) or if the **bsdcompat** variable is set, the default is **more**(1). See **ENVIRONMENT**. Same as the **p**rint and **t**ype commands.

More [*message-list*]
Page [*message-list*] Print the specified messages on the screen, including all header fields. Overrides suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command. Same as the **P**rint and **T**ype commands.

new [*message-list*]
New [*message-list*]
unread [*message-list*]
Unread [*message-list*]
Take a message list and mark each message as *not* having been read.

next [*message*] Go to the next message matching *message*. If message is not supplied, this command finds the next message that was not deleted or saved. A *message-list* may be specified, but in this case the first valid message in the list is the only one used. This is useful for jumping to the next message from a specific user, since the name would be taken as a command in the absence of a real command. See the discussion of *message-list* above for a description of possible message specifications.

pipe [*message-list*] [*shell-command*]
| [*message-list*] [*shell-command*]
Pipe the message through the given *shell-command*. The message is treated as if it were read. If no arguments are given, the current message is piped through the command specified by the value of the **cmd** variable. If the **page** variable is set, a form feed character is inserted after each message (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

preserve [*message-list*]
hold [*message-list*] Preserve the specified messages in the **mailbox**.

print [*message-list*]
type [*message-list*] Print the specified messages. If **crt** is set, the messages longer than the number of lines specified by the **crt** variable are paged through the command specified by the **PAGER** variable. The default command is **pg**(1) or if the **bsdcompat** variable is set, the default is

more(1). See **ENVIRONMENT**. Same as the **mo**re and **pa**ge commands.

Print [*message-list*]
Type [*message-list*]
Print the specified messages on the screen, including all header fields. Overrides suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command. Same as the **Mo**re and **Pa**ge commands.

put [*file*]
put [*message-list*] *file*
Save the specified message in the given file. Use the same conventions as the **p**rint command for which header fields are ignored.

Put [*file*]
Put [*message-list*] *file*
Save the specified message in the given file. Overrides suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command.

quit
Exit from **mailx**, storing messages that were read in **mbox** and unread messages in the **mailbox**. Messages that have been explicitly saved in a file are deleted unless the **keepsave** variable is set.

reply [*message-list*]
respond [*message-list*]
replysender [*message-list*]
Send a response to the author of each message in the *message-list*. The subject line is taken from the first message. If **record** is set to a file, a copy of the reply is added to that file. If the **replyall** variable is set, the actions of **R**eply/**R**espond and **r**eply/**r**espond are reversed. (XPG4 specifies that the actions of **R**eply/**R**espond and **r**eply/**r**espond are reversed by default, and that the **flipr** variable is the XPG4 equivalent of the Solaris **replyall** variable.) The **replys**ender command is not affected by the **replyall** variable, but sends each reply only to the sender of each message.

Reply [*message*]
Respond [*message*]
replyall [*message*]
Reply to the specified message, including all other recipients of that message. If the variable **record** is set to a file, a copy of the reply added to that file. If the **replyall** variable is set, the actions of **R**eply/**R**espond and **r**eply/**r**espond are reversed. (XPG4 specifies that the actions of **R**eply/**R**espond and **r**eply/**r**espond are reversed by default, and that the **flipr** variable is the XPG4 equivalent of the Solaris **replyall** variable.) The **replya**ll command is not affected by the **replyall** variable, but always sends the reply to all recipients of the message.

retain
Add the list of header fields named to the *retained list*. Only the header fields in the retain list are shown on your terminal when you print a message. All other header fields are suppressed. The set of retained fields specified by the **ret**ain command overrides any list of ignored fields specified by the **ig**nore command. The

Type and **P**rint commands can be used to print a message in its entirety. If **ret**ain is executed with no arguments, it lists the current set of retained fields.

Save [*message-list*]
: Save the specified messages in a file whose name is derived from the author of the first message. The name of the file is taken to be the author's name with all network addressing stripped off. See also the **C**opy, **fo**llowup, and **F**ollowup commands and **outfolder** in **mailx Internal Variables**.

save [*file*]
save [*message-list*] *file*
: Save the specified messages in the given file. The file is created if it does not exist. The file defaults to **mbox**. The message is deleted from the **mailbox** when **mailx** terminates unless **keepsave** is set (see also **mailx Internal Variables** and the **ex**it and **q**uit commands).

set
set *variable*
set *variable*=*string*
set *variable*=*number*
: Define a *variable*. To assign a *value* to *variable*, separate the variable name from the value by an \`=´ (there must be no space before or after the \`=´). A variable may be given a null, string, or numeric *value*. To embed SPACE characters within a *value* enclose it in quotes.

  With no arguments, **se**t displays all defined variables and any values they might have. See **mailx Internal Variables** for a description of all predefined **mail** variables.

shell
: Invoke an interactive shell. See also **SHELL** in **ENVIRONMENT**.

size [*message-list*]
: Print the size in characters of the specified messages.

source *file*
: Read commands from the given file and return to command mode.

top [*message-list*]
: Print the top few lines of the specified messages. If the **toplines** variable is set, it is taken as the number of lines to print (see **mailx Internal Variables**). The default is 5.

touch [*message-list*]
: Touch the specified messages. If any message in *message-list* is not specifically saved in a file, it is placed in the **mbox**, or the file specified in the **MBOX** environment variable, upon normal termination. See **ex**it and **q**uit.

Type [*message-list*]
Print [*message-list*]
: Print the specified messages on the screen, including all header fields. Overrides suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command.

type [*message-list*]
print [*message-list*]
: Print the specified messages. If **crt** is set, the messages longer than the number of lines specified by the **crt** variable are paged through the command specified by the **PAGER** variable. The default

command is **pg**(1) See **ENVIRONMENT**.

unalias [*alias*] . . .
ungroup [*alias*] . . . Remove the definitions of the specified aliases.

undelete [*message-list*] Restore the specified deleted messages. Will only restore messages deleted in the current mail session. If **autoprint** is set, the last message of those restored is printed (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

undiscard [*header-field* . . .]
unignore [*header-field* . . .]
Remove the specified header fields from the list being ignored. If no header fields are specified, all header fields are removed from the list being ignored.

unretain [*header-field* . . .]
Remove the specified header fields from the list being retained. If no header fields are specified, all header fields are removed from the list being retained.

unread [*message-list*]
Unread [*message-list*]
Same as the **ne**w command.

unset *variable* . . . Erase the specified variables. If the variable was imported from the environment (that is, an environment variable or exported shell variable), it cannot be unset from within **mailx**.

version Print the current version and release date of the **mailx** utility.

visual [*message-list*] Edit the given messages with a screen editor. Each messages is placed in a temporary file and the program named by the **VISUAL** variable is invoked to edit it. (see **ENVIRONMENT**). Note that the default visual editor is **vi**.

write [*message-list*] *file* Write the given messages on the specified file, minus the header and trailing blank line. Otherwise equivalent to the **s**ave command.

xit
exit Exit from **mailx**, without changing the **mailbox**. No messages are saved in the **mbox** (see also **q**uit).

z[**+** | **−**] Scroll the header display forward or backward one screen–full. The number of headers displayed is set by the **screen** variable (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

Tilde Escapes

The following tilde escape commands can be used when composing mail to send. These may be entered only from *input mode*, by beginning a line with the tilde escape character (˜). See **escape** in **mailx Internal Variables** for changing this special character. The escape character can be entered as text by typing it twice.

~!*shell-command* Escape to the shell. If present, run *shell-command*.

~. Simulate end of file (terminate message input).

~:*mail-command*
~_ *mail-command* Perform the command-level request. Valid only when sending a message while reading mail.

~? Print a summary of tilde escapes.

~A Insert the autograph string **Sign** into the message (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

~a Insert the autograph string **sign** into the message (see **mailx Internal Variables**).

~b *name* ... Add the *name*s to the blind carbon copy (**Bcc**) list. This is like the carbon copy (**Cc**) list, except that the names in the **Bcc** list are not shown in the header of the mail message.

~c *name* ... Add the *name*s to the carbon copy (**Cc**) list.

~d Read in the **dead-letter** file. See **DEAD** in **ENVIRONMENT** for a description of this file.

~e Invoke the editor on the partial message. See also **EDITOR** in **ENVIRONMENT**.

~f [*message-list*] Forward the specified message, or the current message being read. Valid only when sending a message while reading mail. The messages are inserted into the message without alteration (as opposed to the **~m** escape).

~F [*message-list*] Forward the specified message, or the current message being read, including all header fields. Overrides the suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command.

~h Prompt for **Subject** line and **To**, **Cc**, and **Bcc** lists. If the field is displayed with an initial value, it may be edited as if you had just typed it.

~i *variable* Insert the value of the named variable into the text of the message. For example, **~A** is equivalent to \`**~i Sign**.´ Environment variables set and exported in the shell are also accessible by **~i**.

~m [*message-list*] Insert the listed messages, or the current message being read into the letter. Valid only when sending a message while reading mail. The text of the message is shifted to the right, and the string contained in the **indentprefix** variable is inserted as the leftmost characters of each line. If **indentprefix** is not set, a TAB character is inserted into each line.

~M [*message-list*] Insert the listed messages, or the current message being read, including the header fields, into the letter. Valid only when sending a message while reading mail. The text of the message is shifted to the right, and the string contained in the **indentprefix** variable is inserted as the leftmost characters of each line. If **indentprefix** is not set, a TAB character is inserted into each line. Overrides the suppression of fields by the **ig**nore command.

˜p Print the message being entered.

˜q Quit from input mode by simulating an interrupt. If the body of the message is not null, the partial message is saved in **dead-letter**. See **DEAD** in **ENVIRONMENT** for a description of this file.

˜R Mark message for return receipt.

˜r *file*
˜< *file*
˜< ! *shell-command*
Read in the specified file. If the argument begins with an exclamation point (!), the rest of the string is taken as an arbitrary shell command and is executed, with the standard output inserted into the message.

˜s *string* . . . Set the subject line to *string*.

˜t *name* . . . Add the given *name*s to the To list.

˜v Invoke a preferred screen editor on the partial message. The default visual editor is **vi**(1). See also **VISUAL** in **ENVIRONMENT**.

˜w *file* Write the message into the given file, without the header.

˜x Exit as with **˜q** except the message is not saved in **dead-letter**.

˜| *shell-command*
Pipe the body of the message through the given *shell-command*. If the *shell-command* returns a successful exit status, the output of the command replaces the message.

mailx Internal Variables

The following variables are internal **mailx** variables. They may be imported from the execution environment or set using the **se**t command at any time. The **uns**et command may be used to erase variables. The default values correspond to the Solaris values. Where they differ, the XPG4 default values will be noted.

allnet All network names whose last component (login name) match are treated as identical. This causes the *message-list* message specifications to behave similarly. Disabled by default. See also the **alt**ernates command and the **metoo** variable.

alwaysignore Ignore header fields with **ig**nore everywhere, not just during **p**rint or **t**ype. Affects the **s**ave, **S**ave, **c**opy, **C**opy, **to**p, **pi**pe, and **w**rite commands, and the **˜m** and **˜f** tilde escapes. Enabled by default.

append Upon termination, append messages to the end of the **mbox** file instead of prepending them. Although disabled by default, **append** is set in the global startup file (which can be suppressed with the –**n** command line option).

appenddeadletter
Append to the deadletter file rather than overwrite it. Although disabled

by default, **appenddeadletter** is set in the global startup file (which can be suppressed with the −**n** command line option).

askbcc Prompt for the **Bcc** list after the **Subject** is entered if it is not specified on the command line with the −**b** option. Disabled by default.

askcc Prompt for the **Cc** list after the **Subject** is entered if it is not specified on the command line with the −**c** option. Disabled by default.

asksub Prompt for subject if it is not specified on the command line with the −**s** option. Enabled by default.

autoinc Automatically incorporate new messages into the current session as they arrive. This has an affect similar to issuing the **inc** command every time the command prompt is displayed. Disabled by default, but **autoinc** is set in the default system startup file for **mailx**; it is not set for **/usr/ucb/mail** or **/usr/ucb/Mail**.

autoprint Enable automatic printing of messages after **d**elete and **u**ndelete commands. Disabled by default.

bang Enable the special-casing of exclamation points (!) in shell escape command lines as in **vi**(1). Disabled by default.

bsdcompat Set automatically if **mailx** is invoked as **mail** or **Mail**. Causes **mailx** to use **/etc/mail/Mail.rc** as the system startup file. Changes the default pager to **more**(1).

cmd=*shell-command*
Set the default command for the **pi**pe command. No default value.

conv=*conversion* Convert **uucp** addresses to the specified address style, which can be either:

internet This requires a mail delivery program conforming to the RFC822 standard for electronic mail addressing.

optimize Remove loops in **uucp**(1C) address paths (typically generated by the **r**eply command). No rerouting is performed; **mail** has no knowledge of UUCP routes or connections.

Conversion is disabled by default. See also **sendmail**(1M) and the −**U** command-line option.

crt[**=***number*] Pipe messages having more than *number* lines through the command specified by the value of the **PAGER** variable (**pg**(1) or **more**(1) by default). If *number* is not specified, the current window size is used. Disabled by default.

debug Enable verbose diagnostics for debugging. Messages are not delivered. Disabled by default.

dot Take a period on a line by itself, or EOF during input from a terminal as end-of-file. Disabled by default, but **dot** is set in the global startup file (which can be suppressed with the −**n** command line option).

flipr Reverse the effect of the **fo**llowup/**Fo**llowup and **r**eply/**R**eply command pairs. If both **flipr** and **replyall** are set, the effect is as if neither was set.

escape=*c* Substitute *c* for the ˜ escape character. Takes effect with next message sent.

folder=*directory* The directory for saving standard mail files. User-specified file names beginning with a plus (+) are expanded by preceding the file name with this directory name to obtain the real file name. If *directory* does not start with a slash (/), **$HOME** is prepended to it. There is no default for the **folder** variable. See also **outfolder** below.

header Enable printing of the header summary when entering **mailx**. Enabled by default.

hold Preserve all messages that are read in the **mailbox** instead of putting them in the standard **mbox** save file. Disabled by default.

ignore Ignore interrupts while entering messages. Handy for noisy dial-up lines. Disabled by default.

ignoreeof Ignore end-of-file during message input. Input must be terminated by a period (.) on a line by itself or by the **˜.** command. See also **dot** above. Disabled by default.

indentprefix=*string*
When **indentprefix** is set, *string* is used to mark indented lines from messages included with **˜m**. The default is a TAB character.

keep When the **mailbox** is empty, truncate it to zero length instead of removing it. Disabled by default.

iprompt=*string* The specified prompt string is displayed before each line on input is requested when sending a message.

keepsave Keep messages that have been saved in other files in the **mailbox** instead of deleting them. Disabled by default.

makeremote When replying to all recipients of a message, if an address does not include a machine name, it is assumed to be relative to the sender of the message. Normally not needed when dealing with hosts that support RFC822.

metoo If your login appears as a recipient, do not delete it from the list. Disabled by default.

mustbang Force all mail addresses to be in bang format.

onehop When responding to a message that was originally sent to several recipients, the other recipient addresses are normally forced to be relative to the originating author's machine for the response. This flag disables alteration of the recipients' addresses, improving efficiency in a network where all machines can send directly to all other machines (that is, one hop away). Disabled by default.

outfolder Locate the files used to record outgoing messages in the directory specified by the **folder** variable unless the path name is absolute. Disabled by default. See **folder** above and the **S**ave, **C**opy, **fo**llowup, and **F**ollowup commands.

page Used with the **pi**pe command to insert a form feed after each message sent through the pipe. Disabled by default.

pipeignore Omit ignored header when outputting to the **pipe** command. Although disabled by default, **pipeignore** is set in the global startup file (which can be suppressed with the –**n** command line option). **unset**. The XPG4 default is **set**.

postmark Your "real name" to be included in the From line of messages you send. By default this is derived from the comment field in your **passwd**(4) file entry.

prompt=*string* Set the *command mode* prompt to *string*. Default is “**?** ”, unless the **bsdcompat** variable is set, then the default is “**&**”.

quiet Refrain from printing the opening message and version when entering **mailx**. Disabled by default.

record=*file* Record all outgoing mail in *file*. Disabled by default. See also **outfolder** above.

replyall Reverse the effect of the **r**eply and **R**eply and **fo**llowup and **Fo**llowup commands. Although set by default, **replayall** is unset in the global startup file (which can be suppressed with the –**n** command line option). See **flipr**.

save Enable saving of messages in **dead-letter** on interrupt or delivery error. See **DEAD** for a description of this file. Enabled by default.

screen=*number* Sets the number of lines in a screen-full of headers for the **h**eaders command. *number* must be a positive number.

The default is set according to baud rate or window size. With a baud rate less than **1200**, *number* defaults to **5**, if baud rate is exactly **1200**, it defaults to **10**. If you are in a window, *number* defaults to the default window size minus 4. Otherwise, the default is **20**.

sendmail=*shell-command*
Alternate command for delivering messages. Note: in addition to the expected list of recipients, **mail** also passes the –**i** and –**m**, flags to the command. Since these flags are not appropriate to other commands, you may have to use a shell script that strips them from the arguments list before invoking the desired command. Default is **/usr/bin/rmail**.

sendwait Wait for background mailer to finish before returning. Disabled by default.

showname Causes the message header display to show the sender’s real name (if known) rather than their mail address. Disabled by default, but

showname is set in the **/etc/mail/mailx.rc** system startup file for **mailx**.

showto When displaying the header summary and the message is from you, print the recipient's name instead of the author's name.

sign=*string* The variable inserted into the text of a message when the **˜a** (autograph) command is given. No default (see also **˜i** in **Tilde Escapes**).

Sign=*string* The variable inserted into the text of a message when the **˜A** command is given. No default (see also **˜i** in **Tilde Escapes**).

toplines=*number*
The number of lines of header to print with the **to**p command. Default is **5**.

verbose Invoke **sendmail**(1M) with the **–v** flag.

translate The name of a program to translate mail addresses. The program receives mail addresses as arguments. The program produces, on the standard output, lines containing the following data, in this order:

- the postmark for the sender (see the postmark variable)
- translated mail addresses, one per line, corresponding to the program's arguments. Each translated address will replace the corresponding address in the mail message being sent.
- a line containing only "y" or "n". if the line contains "y" the user will be asked to confirm that the message should be sent.

The translate program will be invoked for each mail message to be sent. If the program exits with a non-zero exit status, or fails to produce enough output, the message is not sent.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **mailx**: **HOME**, **LANG**, **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_TIME**, **LC_MESSAGES**, **NLSPATH**, and **TERM**.

DEAD The name of the file in which to save partial letters in case of untimely interrupt. Default is **$HOME/dead.letter**.

EDITOR The command to run when the **e**dit or **˜e** command is used. Default is **ed**(1).

LISTER The command (and options) to use when listing the contents of the **folder** directory. The default is **ls**(1).

MAIL The name of the initial mailbox file to read (in lieu of the standard system mailbox). The default is **/var/mail/***username* .

MAILRC The name of the startup file. Default is **$HOME/.mailrc**.

MAILX_HEAD The specified string is included at the beginning of the body of each message that is sent.

MAILX_TAIL The specified string is included at the end of the body of each message that is sent.

MBOX The name of the file to save messages which have been read. The **exi**t command overrides this function, as does saving the message explicitly in another file. Default is **$HOME/mbox**.

PAGER The command to use as a filter for paginating output. This can also be used to specify the options to be used. Default is **pg**(1), or if the **bsdcompat** variable is set, the default is **more**(1). See **mailx Internal Variables**.

SHELL The name of a preferred command interpreter. Default is **sh**(1).

VISUAL The name of a preferred screen editor. Default is **vi**(1).

EXIT STATUS

When the −**e** option is specified, the following exit values are returned:

0 Mail was found.

>0 Mail was not found or an error occurred.

Otherwise, the following exit values are returned:

0 successful completion; note that this status implies that all messages were *sent*, but it gives no assurances that any of them were actually *delivered*

>0 an error occurred

FILES

$HOME/.mailrc	personal startup file
$HOME/mbox	secondary storage file
$HOME/.Maillock	lock file to prevent multiple writers of system mailbox
/etc/mail/mailx.rc	optional global startup file for **mailx** only
/etc/mail/Mail.rc	BSD compatibility system-wide startup file for **/usr/ucb/mail** and **/usr/ucb/Mail**
/tmp/R[emqsx]∗	temporary files
/usr/share/lib/mailx/mailx.help∗	help message files
/var/mail/∗	post office directory

SEE ALSO

biff(1B), **echo**(1), **ed**(1), **ex**(1), **fmt**(1), **lp**(1), **ls**(1), **mail**(1), **mailcompat**(1), **more**(1), **newaliases**(1), **pg**(1), **sh**(1), **uucp**(1C), **vacation**(1), **vi**(1), **sendmail**(1M), **aliases**(4), **passwd**(4), **environ**(5), **xpg4**(5)

NOTES

Where *shell-command* is shown as valid, arguments are not always allowed. Experimentation is recommended.

Internal variables imported from the execution environment cannot be **uns**et.

The full internet addressing is not fully supported by **mailx**. The new standards need some time to settle down.

Replies do not always generate correct return addresses. Try resending the errant reply with **onehop** set.

mailx does not lock your record file. So, if you use a record file and send two or more messages simultaneously, lines from the messages may be interleaved in the record file.

The format for the **alias** command is a space-separated list of recipients, while the format for an alias in either the **.forward** or **/etc/aliases** is a comma-separated list.

To read mail on a workstation running SunOS 4.*x* when your mail server is running Solaris, first execute the **mailcompat**(1) program.