

Using Procmail for Fun and Profit

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Abstract

The purpose of this talk is to provide a cursory overview of what procmail is, what it can do for you, how to use it, and how it's initially configured.

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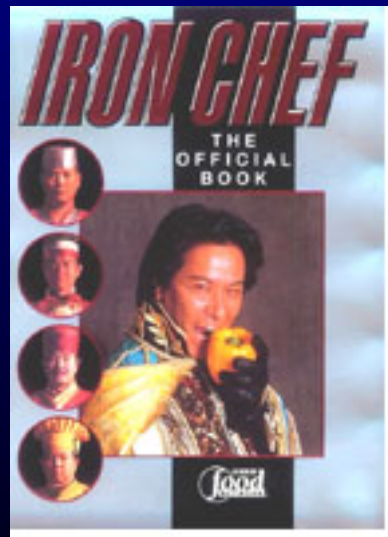
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- Stick mail in different mailboxes, or pass it to other programs (like vacation)
- Slice, dice, mince, mangle, and munge mail (with the help of additional programs.)



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Why would I want procmail?**

- It's near trivial to move procmail rules from one system to another.
- Procmail can be a lot more powerful (Think things like Perl for similar functionality)
- There are countless numbers of procmail "recipes" on the web to do pretty much anything.

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4. Procmail acts on your message based on the contents of your `.procmailrc` file.

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Now let's play with procmail...

Simple .procmailrc file

```
:0:  
* ^From.*sendsmelotsofspam.com  
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- :0: Means we're starting a new rule
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- ^ Beginning of the line
- .* Any collection of characters (on the line we're checking)
- Mail/spamcollection is where mail will go if the conditions on the "*" line are met

Slightly different .procmailrc file

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```
:0:
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* ^Subject.*A Flamefest Getting Rather Annoying  
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net  
/dev/null
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- Both “*” lines must match the second rule for the mail to end up in the netherworld.

A more real .procmailrc file

```
DEFAULT=$HOME/mbox
:0:
* ^Subject.*A Flamefest Getting Rather Annoying
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net
/dev/null

# Suncoast Lug
:0:
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net
slug/
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- If none of the rules in the file match, the mail ends up in \$DEFAULT

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```

- If none of the rules in the file match, the mail ends up in \$DEFAULT
- `procmail` stops searching when it finds a matching rule

An even more nifty .procmailrc file

```
DEFAULT=$HOME /mbox
:0:
* ^Subject.*A Flamefest Getting Rather Annoying
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net
/dev/null
:0 c
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net
* ^Subject.*Microsoft Rots
!billg@microsoft.com
# Suncoast Lug
:0:
* ^TOslug@.*nks.net
slug/
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- The “c” after the :0 tells `procmail` to continue, even if the rule matches

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```

- The “c” after the :0 tells `procmail` to continue, even if the rule matches
- The “!” is a directive to send mail to the following address

Configuring fetchmail



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- Use `fetchmailconf!`
- *Or, just monkey with the configuration file yourself*

Configure your Mail server (MTA)



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- This varies greatly from one MTA to the next
- Your Linux distribution probably has already configured it for you, or use it's configuration tool

Tell your MTA to forward to `procmail`

- Create a `.forward` file in your home directory containing:

```
``|exec /usr/bin/procmail``
```

(*with* the quotes if you're using sendmail)

Thank You!

Additional Information

- Procmail Resources
 - ★ Procmail Homepage: <http://www.procmail.org/>
 - ★ SLUG procmail information:
<http://www.suncoastlug.org/faq.html#procmail>
 - ★ The `procmail(1)` manpage. ¹
 - ★ Procmail “Mini-FAQ”:
<http://mirror.ncsa.uiuc.edu/procmail-faq/mini-faq.html>
 - ★ Procmail mail list archive:
<http://www.rosat.mpe-garching.mpg.de/mailing-lists/procmail/>
- Fetchmail Resources
 - ★ Fetchmail homepage: <http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/fetchmail/>
 - ★ Fetchmail man page. ²

¹Type “`man procmail`” from a shell prompt to view. (without the quotes)

²“`man fetchmail`”

Additional Information (cont.)

- Misc Links
 - ★ Suncoast Linux User's Group Homepage: <http://www.suncoastlug.org/>
 - ★ My Homepage: <http://www.younicks.org/matt/>