



Campus Mailing Lists

'powered by'
Sympa



Overview

- Sympa
 - Current Version
 - Features Highlights
 - Notable Questions
 - Data Source examples
 - Service roadmap
 - References

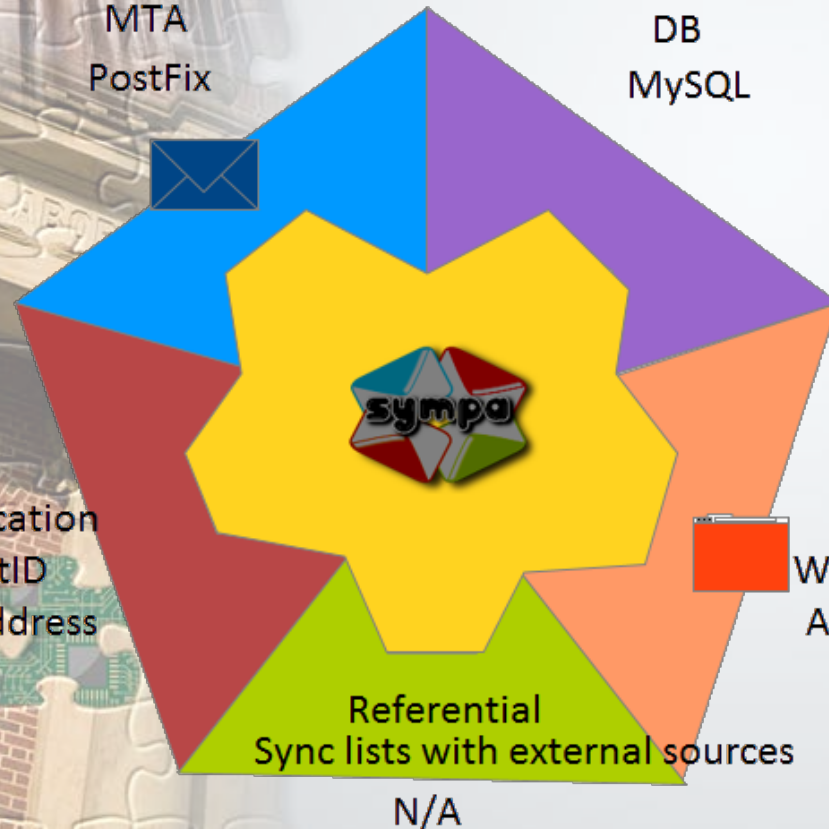


Sympa – v6.1.23



MTA
PostFix

DB
MySQL



- Perl based
- Supported by Renater



- <https://www.renater.fr/>
- CRU (Network of Universities Committee)



Sympa Features

6.1.15 – 6.1.23



- Confidential lists(v6.1.17)
 - Lists with all possible restrictions (restricted subscriptions, archives, listing, etc...)
- i18n options for parameters and subscriber options (v6.1.18)
- DMARC workaround (v6.1.22)
- Additional DKIM options (v6.1.23)

Sympa Features

- Feature Highlights
 - Email interface
 - Web interface
 - Archive
 - Shared documents
 - Unsubscribe footer
 - DMARC
- Feature Road Map
 - DKIM
 - SOAP



Subscriber – email interface



- email address for commands
 - lists@lists.illinois.edu
 - Commands in the subject or the body (not both!)
 - Multiple commands in body, one command per line
 - Sympa will ignore the message if the subject AND body contain data
- Example
 - To: lists@lists.illinois.edu
 - Subject: (command) listName
 - e.g. subscribe listName
 - unsubscribe listName

Subscriber – email commands



To: lists@lists.illinois.edu

Subject: (command)

- Basic Commands
 - Subject: Help - server responds with a list of all commands
 - Subject: LISTS -server responds with the open list names
 - Subject: INFO listName - server responds with list descriptions provide by the list owner
 - Etc, etc, etc.... Send the Help command for the complete list of email commands
- The complete list of email commands for subscribers & owners
 - <http://www.sympa.org/manual/sympa-commands>

Sympa Features – Web UI



- i18n Language Control – Per User Acct

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the "University of Illinois Mailing Lists" website. The browser's address bar shows "https://lists-dev.cites.illinois.edu/lists/home". The page has a blue header with the "CITES Mailing Lists" logo and navigation links for "List of lists", "Home", and "Help". On the left side, there is a "Language Selection" dropdown menu with "English" selected. Below it, a "Manage your subscriptions" section shows "test1" and "test1". The main content area is titled "Mailing lists server" and includes a description of the server's capabilities. Below this, there is a section for "Mailing lists categories" with a list of links organized into several categories: News and Media, Computing, Registered Student Organizations, Class Discussions, Research, Campus Departmental Lists, Public Information Lists, and CITES Services and Announcements. An "RSS news" button is located at the bottom right of the content area.

Sympa Web UI



- Subscriber “Per List” Preferences

The screenshot shows the Sympa web interface for a mailing list. The main content area is titled "Your list options" and contains a form with the following fields:

- Name:
- Member since: 28 Oct 2014
- Last update: 28 Oct 2014
- Receiving mode: **standard (direct reception)** (selected)
- Visibility: **listed in the list review page** (selected)

A dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:

- standard (direct reception) (highlighted)
- digest MIME format
- digest plain text format
- html-only mode
- standard (direct reception)
- no mail
- not receiving your own posts
- notice mode
- summary mode
- text-only mode
- urlize mode

Owner defined Options

Your list options

Name:

Member since 16 Oct 2014

Last update: 16 Oct 2014

Receiving mode: standard (direct reception) **HELP**

Visibility:

Owner defined “direct reception”

- Digest (List Owner defined)
- Visibility (membership visibility in “Review members” list)

Sympa Features

Archives



- Owner defined access control
- (Admin) > Edit List Config > Archives
- Web Archive

Web archives (web_archive) Help

access right (access):

quota (quota): Kbytes

Maximum number of month archived (max_month):

access right

closed (closed)

restricted to University of Illinois domains (intranet)

listmaster (listmaster)

by owner (owner)

subscribers only (private)

public (public)

- Email/Text Archive

Text archives (archive) Help

frequency (period):

access right (access):

frequency

daily (day)

monthly (month)

quarterly (quarter)

weekly (week)

yearly (year)

access right

closed (closed)

open (open)

owner (owner)

subscribers only (private)

public (public)

Owner – FAQs

Shared Documents



- Each list has a shared document space available through the web.
 - default, can be deactivated by list Owner
- Owners define access permission scheme
- Each document has access control
 - read, edit, control
- Shared Docs can be used for files over the 10mb email size limit
- All files are stored (renamed) to lower case to prevent name collisions.
 - Shared Docs is NOT case sensitive

Owner – FAQs

Shared Documents - access



- Document access rights
 - Read
 - Open directories
 - View contents
 - Edit
 - Create subdirectories
 - Upload
 - Unzip
 - Edit doc and directory descriptions
 - Delete docs or directories
 - Control
 - List owner and doc contributors define who has read or edit permission
 - Per directory or per doc

Owner – FAQs

Shared Documents - create



- Owner defines read/write permissions
 - (Admin) > Edit List Config > Privileges

Shared documents (shared_doc)

Who can view (d_read):

Who can edit (d_edit):

quota (quota): Kbytes

- Read

- restricted to subscribers (default)
- restricted to list owners (owner)
- restricted to subscribers (private)**
- restricted to subscribers authenticated with user cert (private-https)
- public documents (public)

- Write


- restricted to list owners (default)
- moderated for subscribers (editor)
- restricted to list owners (owner)**
- restricted to subscribers (private)
- restricted to subscribers authenticated with user cert (private-https)
- public documents (public)

- Permissions for root and subdirectories

Owner – FAQs

Shared Documents – create



- Members access  Listing of root folder
- Shared documents (left menu)
 - User Mode (read)
 - Shows contents of shared document space
 - Expert mode (edit)
 - Click [Expert mode] to upload or create directories
 - Create new sub-directory
 - Enter name, click Create.

Create a new folder inside root folder

Folder name

Owner – FAQs

Shared Documents - create



- Creator or Owner define permissions to sub-folders.
- Change read/edit permissions on folder
 - Select access

Document	Author	Size (Kb)	Last update	Edit	Delete	Access	Properties	Moderation
Topic 1 Files	tmclare@illinois.edu		31 Oct 2014		delete	access	properties	

- Select desired permissions for read / edit access

Read access

public documents

- restricted to subscribers
- restricted to list owners
- restricted to subscribers
- restricted to subscribers authenticated with user cert
- public documents

change access

Edit access

restricted to list owners

- restricted to list owners
- moderated for subscribers
- restricted to list owners
- restricted to subscribers
- restricted to subscribers authenticated with user cert
- public documents

- Select (change access) to save
- A URL to a shared folder is available to **authorized members** via the web
 - https://lists.illinois.edu/lists/d_read/listName/subFolderName
 - E.g. https://lists.illinois.edu/lists/d_read/sympa-owners/

Sympa Features

Custom Footer - Unsubscribe



- Click (Admin) > Customizing > Message footer:
- Add the following message with variables will create an unsubscribe link at the bottom of each message.

To unsubscribe from [%listname%], click or copy and paste this link into a browser:
[%wwsympa_url%]/auto_signoff/[%listname%]/[%user.escaped_email%]

- The result will generate a unique link for each member of the list point them to the unsubscribe option.

To unsubscribe from testList, click or copy and paste this link into a browser:
https://lists-dev.cites.illinois.edu/lists/auto_signoff/testList/tmclaren%40illinois.edu

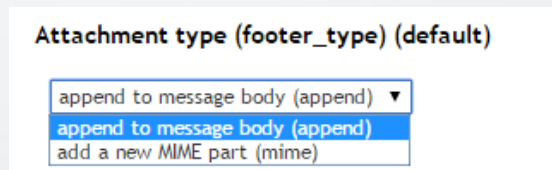
- **Click or copy and paste** is based on a list owners choice of how to attach the footer to the email messages:
 - Append or MIME attachment

Sympa Features

Footer Types



- The list owner can change how the footer is attached to each mail message. (default is MIME)
- Email clients treat appended vs mime differently.
 - Append to Message body
 - Outlook embeds link in message body
 - Gmail & yahoo do not
 - New MIME Part
 - Outlook created an attachment
 - Gmail & Yahoo embed a link in the message body
- Privileged owners setting
 - (Admin) > Edit List Config > Sending/Receiving Setup



Sympa Features

DMARC



- **DMARC** (Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting & Conformance)
 - Yahoo! and AOL increased their DKIM validation
 - "p=reject" for any emails that originate *From* its' domain *to* its' domain in an effort to prevent Domain-to-domain spam.
 - Broke most lists for Yahoo! and AOL users
 - List Config to change From address to:
 - Name, email via List

From: "John Doe [johndoe@illinois.edu](mailto: johndoe@illinois.edu) via [listName@lists.illinois.edu](mailto: listName@lists.illinois.edu) <[listName@lists.illinois.edu](mailto: listName@lists.illinois.edu)>"

Sympa Features

DMARC



- Changing (Admin) > Edit List Config > DKIM

DMARC Protection

Protection modes:
DKIM signature exists
DMARC policy exists
DMARC policy suggests quarantine

Match domain regexp:

New From address:

New From name format:

default

– Default setting generate

From: "John Doe [johndoe@illinois.edu](mailto: johndoe@illinois.edu) via [listName@lists.illinois.edu](mailto: listName@lists.illinois.edu) <[listName@lists.illinois.edu](mailto: listName@lists.illinois.edu)>"

Sympa Features

DKIM - Roadmap



- DKIM (DomainKeys Identified Mail)
 - A cryptographic signature to validate domain names
 - Designed to prevent spoofing, phishing, spam, etc...
- When enabled
 - Sympa will check DKIM status of incoming messages
 - Reject incoming message that fail DKIM check
 - Apply a DKIM signature to outgoing messages
- Currently disabled
 - Possible DKIM policy enforcement on this service and on the Campus Email Relays is currently being reviewed.
 - It's unclear if we need this added level of security (yet)
 - Evaluating feature impact (performance, costs, etc...)

Sympa Feature SOAP - Roadmap



- Uses same authorization rules as email and web interfaces
- Provides a remote API to a subset of Sympa functions
 - Command-line & trusted application
- Status
 - Testing the interface & Reviewing `sympa.wsdl`

Notable Questions



1. Can anyone copy a list?
 - A. You have to be an owner of the list you are attempting to copy.
2. How do you verify/locate inactive lists?
 - A. A good indication is located at Sympa admin tab, List tab, and Lists sorted by last message date button.
3. Can users subscribe to subset of distributed message?
 - A. Yes. Topics for message categorization (msg_topic).
4. How do you perform multiple user deletions?
 - A. Select the maximum page size and click the toggle selection (<< >>), which will select the entire page length of subscribers. The maximum page size (list of subscribers) is 500.
5. Why am I not able to delete a subscriber(s)?
 - A. Navigate to Edit List Config, Privileges, Who can delete subscribers (del) (default), and verify scenario.

(cont.) Notable Questions



6. Are all moderators required to approve moderated messages?
 - A. No. If the list is moderated, any editor can distribute or reject a message without the knowledge or consent of the other editors/moderators.

7. Is there a deadline for a message moderation?
 - A. Default is 30 days. Editable at Admin, Edit List Config, Miscellaneous, Expiration of un-moderated messages (`clean_delay_queue`mod).

8. Is it possible to send messages to a mailing list without having subscribed to it?
 - A. Yes. However, you need to be subscribed to a list to receive its messages.

9. Can list owners and/or editors configure data sources?
 - A. No; only list masters.

Data sources feature



- Sympa allows the mailing list manager to choose how Sympa loads subscriber and administrative data.
- User information can be stored in a text or relational database, or included from various external sources (list, flat file, result of LDAP or SQL query).
 - ✓ include_list
 - ✓ include_remote_file

Sympa FAQ

Data Source Example – List Inclusion



- (Admin) > Edit List Config > Data sources setup

A screenshot of a web form titled "List inclusion (include_list)". The form has a "HELP" button in the top right corner. It contains three sections for list inclusion, each with a label and a text input field:

- List inclusion 1**: Input field contains "elgar-music-nimrod@lists-"
- List inclusion 2**: Input field contains "intranet@lists-test.cites.il"
- List inclusion 3**: Input field is empty

- Including lists here eliminate duplication of email

Sympa FAQ

Data Source Example - Remote File Inclusion

- (Admin) > Edit List Config > Data sources setup

Remote file inclusion (include_remote_file) (default) HELP

short name for this source:

data location URL:

remote user:

remote password:

default

- Used for auto-populate a user list



Campus Mail list Service Roadmap



- Roadmap
 - SOAP Interface (Test & Doc)
 - Possible DKIM enforcement
 - Service policies review
 - Service requirements project
 - Community driven (need your input)
 - Documentation upgrades

Campus Mail list References



- **Contacts**

- Mail lists users - The List owners for that list
- List Owners - listmgr@illinois.edu for list owner support and general questions
- sympa-owners mail list – community support & archive reference
 - sympa-owners@lists.illinois.edu
- sympa-owners shared docs – reference docs
 - https://lists.illinois.edu/lists/d_read/sympa-owners/

- **References**

- CITES Docs:
 - <http://www.cites.illinois.edu/maillist/index.html>
- Sympa 6.1.23 Reference Manual:
 - http://www.sympa.org/manual_6.1/