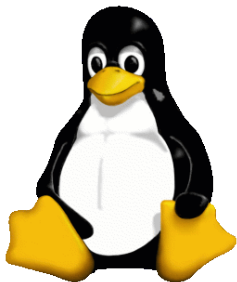# Intro to Mutt

Tyler Manson

LUG @ the University of Illinois in Urbana Champiagn

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What is Mutt?

- Mutt is an email client - it lets you read your email.
- It does IMAP.

Why do I want Mutt

- Because GUIs suck?
- I want to use "insert editor here" to write my emails!
  1. Ed - the standard editor!
  2. Vim
  3. Emacs
  4. Sublime
  5. Nano
  6. Anything else you can set $EDITOR in bash to
- Really good native PGP support.
- Way more flexibility than traditional webmail.
  - POP, imap, whatever the hell you want to run.

Decomposing the "Checking your email" problem

- Webmail way: "I go to g.illinois.edu and then I log in to access my email, then I read my email, then I compose an email to someone else in the browser, and then I send it" (basically all-in-one approach from an end-user's perspective)

- 1337 H@xx0r Way: "I use mpop/offlineimap to access my email, I use mutt/thunderbird to read my email, then I use msmtp to send my email"

- Two different approaches, latter is more flexible in that you can swap components, but requires more work than former.
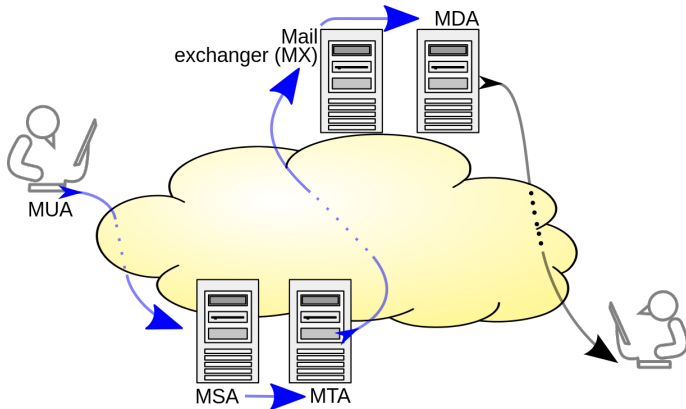
Vocab

Figure: STMP Transfer Model Illustrated. Now with 20% more cloud!

Vocab Cont.

- If you can get through this I will reward you with an adorable picture of a cat, and a Demo.
- Mail User Agent - read (Mutt)
- Mail Submission Agent - send to google's servers (msmtp or mutt)
- Mail Transfer Agent - Google's server, sends email (Postfix, Sendmail)
- Mail Exchanger - MX records? Load balancer to your MDA? Idk, never seen that terminology before.
- Mail Delivery Agent - Recieves email from the wider internet. (Postfix)
- POP3 Client - Downloads email from a server to your local computer (and deletes email off the server)
- IMAP Client - Synchronizes email from a server to your local computer

Figure: Mutt? No, I am a cat.

Demo

- fetch: email command show zshrc
- read: show a little bit of what mutt looks like
- send: demonstrate sending an email

I want this! How can I haz setup!

- Mutt by itself has an imap client built in
  - Simplest to configure.
  - this means you can read your email, stored on google's servers without ever having actually downloaded the actual contents of the email.
  - Slow.
  - Can't read email on your laptop without internet.
- Better solution: Use offlineimap or mpop or similar software to download emails to your local computer, store in plaintext on your local disk, and then point mutt at the copies on your local disk
  - added features: You can grep, awk, vim, sed, your emails if you store them in plaintext
  - if you use pop, the emails stay on your personal computer instead of a remote server, and LE has to get a warrant to get their hands on your communications instead of simply bullying google for them

Install/Configuration

- Install through package manager.
- Google config walkthroughs.
- I will provide a walkthrough here, but these setups get pretty customized pretty fast
- Configs on Github
- That's all folks!