

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents ..... 1

Task: Check for mail / print names of those who have sent mail ..... 2

Task: Read mail ..... 2

Task: Compose mail ..... 2

Task: Mail a whole text file ..... 3

See also: ..... 3

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

## Linux and UNIX Mail Command to send and receive mail

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <[vivek@nixcraft.com](mailto:vivek@nixcraft.com)>

[1]

**Q.** Hey vivek, I need to know how to read and send mail from command line. I'm using Debian Linux. Also can you tell me how do I print names of those who have sent mail?

**A.** Sending and receiving mail from command line is quite command under UNIX or Linux operating system. You need to use following commands:

a) **mail**: send and receive mail

b) **from**: print names of those who have sent mail

c) **mutt**: Mutt is a small but very powerful text based program for reading electronic mail under UNIX operating systems, including support color terminals, MIME, and a threaded sorting mode.

d) **pine**: Yet another text based program for reading electronic mail under UNIX operating systems. Originally written for inexperienced users, Pine's basic features are generally very easy to use.

### Task: Check for mail / print names of those who have sent mail

The from utility prints out the mail header lines from the invoker's mailbox.

```
$ from
```

### Task: Read mail

Mail is an intelligent mail processing system:

```
$ mail
```

In normal usage mail is given no arguments and checks your mail out of the post office, then prints out a one line header of each message found. The current message is initially the first message (numbered 1) and can be printed using the print command (which can be abbreviated 'p'). You can move among the messages much as you move between lines in ed, with the commands '+' and '-' moving backwards and forwards, and simple numbers.

After examining a message you can delete message by typing **d**

You can reply message by typing **r**

The message can be undeleted **u** by giving its number, or the mail session can be aborted by giving the exit **x** command.

### Task: Compose mail

Use following format:

```
mail -s <subject> <mailaddress>
```

For example write mail to boss@yahoo.com:

```
$ mail - "Hello" boss@yahoo.com
```

You are then expected to type in your message, followed by an 'control-D' at the beginning of a line. To stop simply type dot (.):

Output:

```
Hi,  
  
This is a test  
.  
Cc:
```

**Task: Mail a whole text file**

Mail a whole text file called demo.txt to boss@yahoo.com:

```
$mail -s "Report 05/06/07" boss@yahoo.com < demo.txt
```

You can also type mutt or pine to read and send mail:

```
$ mutt
```

OR

```
$ pine
```

**See also:**

[Howto send mail with attachment](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

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