

# The MailTask

Overview document

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A MailTask sends an e-mail. The parameters, such as recipient address, subject, and body, can either be provided as a task parameter or extracted from an XML document.

## 1. Task Parameters

The following parameters must be provided:

- **server:** the SMTP server URI
- **from:** you@yourhost.com
- **to:** friend@mail.com
- **cc:** other-friends@mail.com
- **subject:** Hello World!
- **body:** How are you?

### 1.1. Getting the mail data from an XML source

Additionally, you can pass a `uri` parameter to the MailTask:

- **uri:** the URI to get the XML file from

If this parameter is present, the task tries to fetch an XML document from the URI. If the parameter `uri` starts with a `http://` or `ftp://` prefix, the absolute URI is used. If not, the URI is interpreted as relative to the local publication.

A complete XML document could look like this:

```
<mail:mail xmlns:mail="http://apache.org/cocoon/lenya/mail/1.0">
  <mail:server>mail.yourhost.com</mail:server>
  <mail:from>you@yourhost.com</mail:from>
  <mail:to>friend@mail.com</mail:to>
  <mail:cc>other-friends@mail.com</mail:cc>
  <mail:subject>Hello Friends!</mail:subject>
  <mail:body>How are you?</mail:body>
</mail:mail>
```

All child elements of `<mail:mail>` are optional. If the `uri` task parameter is provided, the XML document is fetched from the URI and the parameters are extracted.

Task parameters have a higher priority than elements of the document. This makes it possible to access one complete XML file from different MailTasks and override the recipient address or other values.

## 2. Declaring and Using the MailTask

In tasks.xconf, a typical mail task looks like follows:

```
<task id="send-newsletter" class="org.lenya.cms.mail.MailTask">
  <label>Send Newsletter</label>
  <parameter name="server" value="mail.example.com"/>
  <parameter name="from" value="info@example.com"/>
  <parameter name="to" value="newsletter-subscribers@example.com"/>
  <parameter name="uri" value="/authoring/newsletter/mail.xml"/>
</task>
```

The actual newsletter is received from the URI that is interpreted relatively to the publication URI. The task can be invoked in a sitemap pipeline:

```
<map:action name="task" src="org.lenya.cms.cocoon.acting.TaskAction"/>
```

```
...  
<map:match pattern="newsletter/send">  
  <map:act type="task">  
    <map:parameter name="task-id" value="send-newsletter"/>  
    <map:redirect-to uri="report-success.html" session="true"/>  
  </map:act>  
  <map:redirect-to uri="report-failure.html" session="true"/>  
</map:match>
```