

**NAME**

pam\_mail – Inform about available mail

**SYNOPSIS**

**pam\_mail.so** [close] [debug] [dir=*maildir*] [empty] [hash=*count*] [noenv] [nopen] [quiet] [standard]

**DESCRIPTION**

The pam\_mail PAM module provides the "you have new mail" service to the user. It can be plugged into any application that has credential or session hooks. It gives a single message indicating the *newness* of any mail it finds in the user's mail folder. This module also sets the PAM environment variable, **MAIL**, to the user's mail directory.

If the mail spool file (be it /var/mail/\$USER or a pathname given with the **dir=** parameter) is a directory then pam\_mail assumes it is in the *Maildir* format.

**OPTIONS****close**

Indicate if the user has any mail also on logout.

**debug**

Print debug information.

**dir=maildir**

Look for the user's mail in an alternative location defined by maildir/<login>. The default location for mail is /var/mail/<login>. Note, if the supplied maildir is prefixed by a '~', the directory is interpreted as indicating a file in the user's home directory.

**empty**

Also print message if user has no mail.

**hash=count**

Mail directory hash depth. For example, a *hashcount* of 2 would make the mail file be /var/spool/mail/u/s/user.

**noenv**

Do not set the **MAIL** environment variable.

**nopen**

Don't print any mail information on login. This flag is useful to get the **MAIL** environment variable set, but to not display any information about it.

**quiet**

Only report when there is new mail.

**standard**

Old style "You have..." format which doesn't show the mail spool being used. This also implies "empty".

**MODULE TYPES PROVIDED**

The **session** and **auth** (on establishment and deletion of credentials) module types are provided.

**RETURN VALUES**

PAM\_BUF\_ERR

Memory buffer error.

PAM\_SERVICE\_ERR

Badly formed arguments.

PAM\_SUCCESS

Success.

PAM\_USER\_UNKNOWN

User not known.

**EXAMPLES**

Add the following line to `/etc/pam.d/login` to indicate that the user has new mail when they login to the system.

```
session optional pam_mail.so standard
```

**SEE ALSO**

**pam.conf(5)**, **pam.d(5)**, **pam(7)**

**AUTHOR**

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