Searching with mailpie

Jeff Epler <jepler@unpythonic.net>

Table of Contents

The script `mailpie-search` is used for searching. `mailpie-search --help` shows a summary of commandline arguments.

Mailpie uses the swish-e full-text indexer. Most of the ways to search using swish-e are supported. However, there are a few differences in commandline syntax which are discussed below.

Words and phrases

To search for messages containing the word "quartz":

```
$ mailpie-search quartz
```

To search for messages containing the phrase "blue ox":

```
$ mailpie-search "blue ox"
```

In mailpie-search, arguments with embedded whitespace are taken to be phrases. This differs from swish, where an extra level of quotes are required to do phrase searches:

```
$ swish-e -w '"blue ox"'
```

In Headers

To search for messages with the subject "quartz" in the subject line:

```
$ mailpie-search subject=quartz
```

To search for messages with the phrase "blue ox" in the subject line:

```
$ mailpie-search subject="blue ox"
```

The following message headers can searched using the `name=term` syntax: *subject from to cc bcc list-id*

The entire message headers (not just the ones shown above) can be searched using `header=term`.

Multiple terms

To search for messages containing the word "quartz" and the phrase "blue ox":

```
$ mailpie-search quartz "blue ox"
```

To search for messages containing the word "quartz" or the phrase "blue ox":

```
$ mailpie-search quartz or "blue ox"
```

To search for messages containing the word "lotus" and either the word "quartz" or the phrase "blue ox"

```
$ mailpie-search lotus [ quartz or "blue ox" ]
```

Date ranges

To search for messages sent after April 1 and containing the word "lotus":

```
$ mailpie-search --after="april 1" lotus
```

To search for messages sent more than 90 days ago and containing the word "lotus":

```
$ mailpie-search --before="90 days ago" lotus
```

For a description of the syntax for dates, read the documentation for date(1):

```
$ info coreutils date
```

`--before=` and `--after` use the Date header which is controlled by the sender. There is no guarantee that this date is accurate, and even if it is accurate it reflects the time when the message was composed or sent, not the time when it was received.

`--before=` and `--after=` are always "and"ed with the given search terms. At least one other term must be used with `--before=` and `--after=`.