



Reading email data with Node.js



Akinremi olumide · Follow

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Have you ever thought of reading the data of your emails and making decisions like marking it as read or do whatever you choose? Perhaps you are working on a project that requires you to read users emails and then save the data to your database.

Enough of the talking, let's get to work.....

First, open a connection to the email server using a protocol (SMTP, IMAP, POP) to read email(s) from the email service. The email service can be Gmail, yahoo, outlook. e.t.c.

This tutorial uses Imap to read emails and will be using two packages to get the magic started.

imap this helps us connect to the email server and retrieve emails as a stream

mailparser we are going to use this to parse the stream data into a readable format.

The first step is to run the following command to set up a project and install the necessary packages.

```
mkdir imap-client
npm init -y
touch index.js
yarn add imap mailparser
```

Secondly, we need to add our email credentials in our index.js file.

```
const Imap = require('imap');
const {simpleParser} = require('mailparser');
const imapConfig = {
  user: 'youremail@gmail.com',
  password: 'secret',
  host: 'imap.gmail.com',
  port: 993,
  tls: true,
};
```

Next, we write a script in the index.js file to read the email and then parse it to get the sender, subject and body.

```
const imap = new Imap(imapConfig);
```

```

imap.once('ready', () => {
  imap.openBox('INBOX', false, () => {
    imap.search(['UNSEEN', ['SINCE', new Date()]], (err, results) => {
      const f = imap.fetch(results, {bodies: ''});
      f.on('message', msg => {
        msg.on('body', stream => {
          simpleParser(stream, async (err, parsed) => {
            console.log(parsed);
          });
        });
      });
      msg.once('attributes', attrs => {
        const {uid} = attrs;
        imap.addFlags(uid, ['\\Seen'], () => {
          console.log('Marked as read!');
        });
      });
      f.once('error', ex => {
        return Promise.reject(ex);
      });
      f.once('end', () => {
        console.log('Done fetching all messages!');
        imap.end();
      });
    });
  });
});

```

Lastly run

```
node index.js
```

. . .

Let's do a bit of explanation.

```
imap.search(['UNSEEN', ['SINCE', new Date()]], (err, results) => {}
```

The above function goes through your mailbox and gets all the unseen/unread email for today. You have the liberty of changing the date filter to whatever date you want. Also, you can change the 'SINCE' attribute to 'BEFORE', 'ON'. e.t.c.

You can change the 'UNSEEN' attribute to something like 'ALL', 'NEW'. e.t.c.

```
simpleParser(stream, async (err, parsed) => {}
```

The simpleParser function returns a parsed data which contains details of the received email like (from, subject, textAsHtml, text) e.t.c.

```
imap.addFlags(uid, ['\\Seen'], () => {}
```

You can also decide to add a flag to the read email like marking it as seen, read.

That's All!!! and don't forget to turn on less secure app for gmail

The entire course code can be viewed here

<https://github.com/Akinmyde/email-reader>

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References

imap

node-imap is an IMAP client module for node.js. This module does not perform any magic such as auto-decoding of...

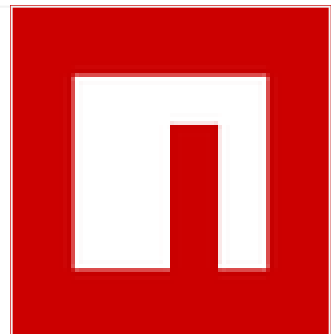
www.npmjs.com



mailparser

Advanced email parser for Node.js. Everything is handled as a stream which should make it able to parse even very large...

www.npmjs.com

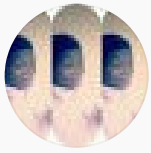


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
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
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2	002-2018	Individual	McCormick	Kelly	3780	Cuba	637261767	7897 Keller Extensions New Philip, NC 04146	ington@example	8E8RD81		
3	003-2018	Individual	Richmond	William	3959	China(HK)	637843202	12611 Wells Station Linnmouth, NE 0814	lyph@example	442.623.778		
4	004-2018	Individual	Nash	Katherine	9544	China(HK)	1953-03-22	Unit 0818 Box 5959 DPD AE 72762	lyph@example	8E8RD81		
5	005-2018	Entity	Vargas	Alexander J. Moore and G	9299	China(Mariland)	2003-03-12	80838250	mes@example	13701677.811		
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8	008-2018	Entity	Burke	Jessica	5833	Citizen	1951-12-26	270407862	5003 Bauer Rd East Elizabeth, W. 42669	u0Q@example	470-350-7931	
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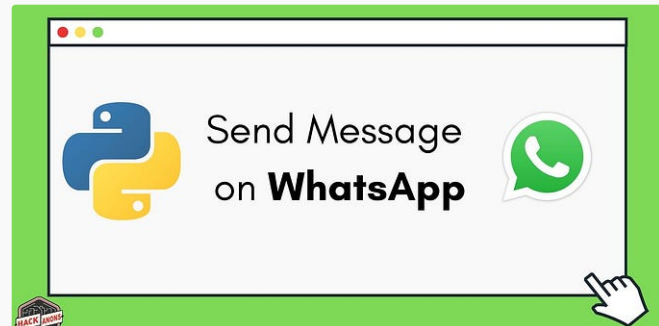
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