

4.5.3 What module should I use to help with generating HTML?

You can find a collection of useful links on the [Web Programming wiki page](#).

4.5.4 How do I send mail from a Python script?

Use the standard library module `smtplib`.

Here's a very simple interactive mail sender that uses it. This method will work on any host that supports an SMTP listener.

```
import sys, smtplib

fromaddr = input("From: ")
toaddrs = input("To: ").split(',')
print("Enter message, end with ^D:")
msg = ''
while True:
    line = sys.stdin.readline()
    if not line:
        break
    msg += line

# The actual mail send
server = smtplib.SMTP('localhost')
server.sendmail(fromaddr, toaddrs, msg)
server.quit()
```

A Unix-only alternative uses `sendmail`. The location of the `sendmail` program varies between systems; sometimes it is `/usr/lib/sendmail`, sometimes `/usr/sbin/sendmail`. The `sendmail` manual page will help you out. Here's some sample code:

```
import os

SENDMAIL = "/usr/sbin/sendmail" # sendmail location
p = os.popen("%s -t -i" % SENDMAIL, "w")
p.write("To: receiver@example.com\n")
p.write("Subject: test\n")
p.write("\n") # blank line separating headers from body
p.write("Some text\n")
p.write("some more text\n")
sts = p.close()
if sts != 0:
    print("Sendmail exit status", sts)
```

4.5.5 How do I avoid blocking in the `connect()` method of a socket?

The `select` module is commonly used to help with asynchronous I/O on sockets.

To prevent the TCP connect from blocking, you can set the socket to non-blocking mode. Then when you do the `socket.connect()`, you will either connect immediately (unlikely) or get an exception that contains the error number as `.errno`. `errno.EINPROGRESS` indicates that the connection is in progress, but hasn't finished yet. Different OSes will return different values, so you're going to have to check what's returned on your system.

You can use the `socket.connect_ex()` method to avoid creating an exception. It will just return the `errno` value. To poll, you can call `socket.connect_ex()` again later – 0 or `errno.EISCONN` indicate that you're connected – or you can pass this socket to `select.select()` to check if it's writable.

Note: The `asyncio` module provides a general purpose single-threaded and concurrent asynchronous library,