

HTML Email In Drupal The Easy Way!



Dennis Jarecke

Cleveland Drupal Users Group

October 15, 2014

Drupal

Demonstration Module

hook_menu calls PHP function which populates parameters and calls *drupal_mail()*. This is a great way to test email in dev or even in production! I call the module *easy_html_email_demo*.

Code available at: <https://github.com/tetmo113/easyhtmlmaildemo>

Demo in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .



How Basic Email Works

- ❖ `drupal_mail()`
 - Populates `$message` provides `$message['subject']=` and `$message['body']=array()`.
 - Calls `hook_mail()` for your module.
 - Your `hook_mail` populates `$message['subject']` and `$message['body']`.
 - Calls `hook_mail_alter()`
 - Calls `drupal_mail_system()`
 - Instantiates and returns an object of class `DefaultMailSystem`
 - Formats message via `DefaultMailSystem->format()`
 - Sends message via `DefaultMailSystem->mail()`
 - Will post to log if there is a problem!
 - `DefaultMailSystem` uses PHP `mail()` function.



drupal_mail() Return Value

The \$message array structure containing all details of the message. If already sent (\$send = TRUE), then the 'result' element will contain the success indicator of the e-mail, failure being already written to the watchdog. (Success means nothing more than the message being accepted at php-level, which still doesn't guarantee it to be delivered.)

Quoted from https://api.drupal.org/api/drupal/includes!mail.inc/function/drupal_mail/7



5 Minutes to HTML Email

Mark the time . . .

Demo in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .



5 Minutes To HTML Email - The Details

- ❖ Install *mailsystem* and *htmlmail* modules.
- ❖ Come up with the keys you are going to use for this module. I chose htmltest.
- ❖ Add the key to hook_mail.
- ❖ Configure mailsystem module to pair the htmltest key with this module. Also configure them to use the HTMLMailSystem class.
- ❖ Configure the htmlmail module as follows: Step 2 - "No theme" and Step 3 - "Full HTML". This last one is important - don't remember why I needed this. Sorry.



How it works

- ❖ More detail on `drupal_mail_system()`
 - It will look for a class attached to each module-key pair.
 - It will instantiate and return an object of that class instead of the `DefaultMailSystem` class.
- ❖ We used the `mailsystem` module to attach the `sixsync_html_email_demo-htmltest` pair to the `HTMLMailSystem` class. Use this module to connect any module-key pair to any mail class.
- ❖ `drupal_mail()` now formats with `HTMLMailSystem->format()`



Automatic Theming

- ❖ Install the *Echo* module
 - There is no configuration to this module. Isn't that easy!
 - There is only one function *echo_themed_page()* which you don't directly use. The module *htmlmail* uses it.
- ❖ So how to use it?
 - Method 1: Add \$message['theme'] to *hook_mail()*.
 - Method 2: Select your theme from step 2 in HTMLMail module configuration.

Demo in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .



Automatic Theming (cont'd)

That looks ugly! How to fix it?

- ❖ Set step 3 in *htmlmail* module configuration to unfiltered.

Demo in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .



Tidbits

- ❑ Make sure each line in your message is done as `$message['body'][]`.
- ❑ Can get value of params with debug flag in configuration of *htmlmail* module.
- ❑ *Emogrifier* module: convert stylesheets to inline style rules to display on mobile devices and webmail.
- ❑ *Transliteration* module: Convert non-ASCII text to US-ASCII equivalents. This prevents Microsoft smart-quotes from appearing as question-marks in Mozilla Thunderbird.



Tidbits

- ❑ *Pathologic* module: Converts relative URLs to absolute URLs so clickable links work as intended.
- ❑ Use an email service that will create an email template for you (MailChimp???) and copy and paste.
- ❑ You can use *Rules* to send an email: <http://webwash.net/tutorials/how-send-html-emails-drupal-7-using-rules>
- ❑ *Mail Mime* module: Provides a text/plain alternative to text/html emails, and automatically converts image references to inline image attachments.



Links

- ❑ https://api.drupal.org/api/drupal/includes!mail.inc/function/drupal_mail/7
- ❑ <https://www.drupal.org/project/htmlmail>
- ❑ <https://www.drupal.org/project/mailexpress>
- ❑ <https://www.drupal.org/project/echo>
- ❑ <https://groups.drupal.org/mail>
- ❑ <http://thesiteslinger.com/blog/10-tips-for-designing-html-emails/>
- ❑ <http://templates.mailchimp.com/>

