Attachment Converter Workshop, iPres 2023

Nishchay Karle, Obi Obetta, Matt Teichman*

August 30, 2023

Welcome to the Attachment Converter Workshop at iPres 2023! In this session, we'll walk you through our new open source application, Attachment Converter, which batch-converts all attachments in an email mailbox to preservation formats.

There are two ways to participate in this workshop. If you're feeling tech-savvy, we would encourage you to install the required software in advance of the workshop and type along with us as we walk through some illustrative examples of the email format. If you aren't feeling tech-savvy, you should be able to just watch and follow along. Either way, we are really looking forward to engaging with your questions and comments as we show you how to use our new tool. If you aren't sure how tech-savvy you're feeling, the question to ask is whether you're comfortable opening the Terminal application on your computer and working at the command prompt.

In the next section, we'll go through how to install the software you'll need if you want to participate in the workshop by typing along on your own machines. If you're planning to simply attend, watch, listen, and ask questions, please feel free to skip that section—you won't need to set anything up on your computer in advance of the workshop.

Advance Preparation

The software you'll need to install for the workshop is slightly different, depending on whether you're working in Windows or macOS. Either way, you will need to have privileges on your machine that allow you to install software, so if you're attending this conference from a work machine, that might be something worth checking in advance.

macOS

If you're on a Mac, you'll need to open a Terminal, then install an open-source package manager, two different kinds of version control software, and the GNU Make build tool. We'll go through those steps next, but if you're on Windows, please skip to the section entitled Windows (Debian WSL).

^{*}teichman@uchicago.edu

open-source package manager

We recommend using Homebrew. If you've never used it before, you'll first need to install XCode Command Line Tools, which you can do by running this command in your Terminal:

\$ xcode-select --install

Then you can install Homebrew by following the instructions here:

https://brew.sh/

Or, equivalently, by typing this command:

\$ /bin/bash -c "\$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"

Windows (Debian WSL)