

NAME

postsuper – Postfix superintendent

SYNOPSIS

```
postsuper [-psSv] [-c config_dir] [-d queue_id]
           [-h queue_id] [-H queue_id]
           [-r queue_id] [directory ...]
```

DESCRIPTION

The **postsuper**(1) command does maintenance jobs on the Postfix queue. Use of the command is restricted to the superuser. See the **postqueue**(1) command for unprivileged queue operations such as listing or flushing the mail queue.

By default, **postsuper**(1) performs the operations requested with the **-s** and **-p** command-line options on all Postfix queue directories – this includes the **incoming**, **active** and **deferred** directories with mail files and the **bounce**, **defer**, **trace** and **flush** directories with log files.

Options:

-c *config_dir*

The **main.cf** configuration file is in the named directory instead of the default configuration directory. See also the MAIL_CONFIG environment setting below.

-d *queue_id*

Delete one message with the named queue ID from the named mail queue(s) (default: **hold**, **incoming**, **active** and **deferred**).

If a *queue_id* of **-** is specified, the program reads queue IDs from standard input. For example, to delete all mail with exactly one recipient **user@example.com**:

```
mailq | tail +2 | grep -v '^*' | awk 'BEGIN { RS = "" }
# $7=sender, $8=recipient1, $9=recipient2
{ if ($8 == "user@example.com" && $9 == "")
  print $1 }
'| tr -d '*!' | postsuper -d -
```

Specify **"-d ALL"** to remove all messages; for example, specify **"-d ALL deferred"** to delete all mail in the **deferred** queue. As a safety measure, the word **ALL** must be specified in upper case.

Warning: Postfix queue IDs are reused (always with Postfix <= 2.8; and with Postfix >= 2.9 when `enable_long_queue_ids=no`). There is a very small possibility that postsuper deletes the wrong message file when it is executed while the Postfix mail system is delivering mail.

The scenario is as follows:

- 1) The Postfix queue manager deletes the message that **postsuper**(1) is asked to delete, because Postfix is finished with the message (it is delivered, or it is returned to the sender).
- 2) New mail arrives, and the new message is given the same queue ID as the message that **postsuper**(1) is supposed to delete. The probability for reusing a deleted queue ID is about 1 in 2**15 (the number of different microsecond values that the system clock can distinguish within a second).
- 3) **postsuper**(1) deletes the new message, instead of the old message that it should have deleted.

-h *queue_id*

Put mail "on hold" so that no attempt is made to deliver it. Move one message with the named queue ID from the named mail queue(s) (default: **incoming**, **active** and **deferred**) to the **hold** queue.

If a *queue_id* of - is specified, the program reads queue IDs from standard input.

Specify "**-h ALL**" to hold all messages; for example, specify "**-h ALL deferred**" to hold all mail in the **deferred** queue. As a safety measure, the word **ALL** must be specified in upper case.

Note: while mail is "on hold" it will not expire when its time in the queue exceeds the **maximal_queue_lifetime** or **bounce_queue_lifetime** setting. It becomes subject to expiration after it is released from "hold".

This feature is available in Postfix 2.0 and later.

-H *queue_id*

Release mail that was put "on hold". Move one message with the named queue ID from the named mail queue(s) (default: **hold**) to the **deferred** queue.

If a *queue_id* of - is specified, the program reads queue IDs from standard input.

Note: specify "**postsuper -r**" to release mail that was kept on hold for a significant fraction of **\$maximal_queue_lifetime** or **\$bounce_queue_lifetime**, or longer.

Specify "**-H ALL**" to release all mail that is "on hold". As a safety measure, the word **ALL** must be specified in upper case.

This feature is available in Postfix 2.0 and later.

-p Purge old temporary files that are left over after system or software crashes.

-r *queue_id*

Requeue the message with the named queue ID from the named mail queue(s) (default: **hold**, **incoming**, **active** and **deferred**). To requeue multiple messages, specify multiple **-r** command-line options.

Alternatively, if a *queue_id* of - is specified, the program reads queue IDs from standard input.

Specify "**-r ALL**" to requeue all messages. As a safety measure, the word **ALL** must be specified in upper case.

A requeued message is moved to the **maildrop** queue, from where it is copied by the **pickup(8)** and **cleanup(8)** daemons to a new queue file. In many respects its handling differs from that of a new local submission.

- The message is not subjected to the **smtpd_milters** or **non_smtpd_milters** settings. When mail has passed through an external content filter, this would produce incorrect results with Milter applications that depend on original SMTP connection state information.
- The message is subjected again to mail address rewriting and substitution. This is useful when rewriting rules or virtual mappings have changed.

The address rewriting context (local or remote) is the same as when the message was received.

- The message is subjected to the same **content_filter** settings (if any) as used for new local mail submissions. This is useful when **content_filter** settings have changed.

Warning: Postfix queue IDs are reused (always with Postfix ≤ 2.8 ; and with Postfix ≥ 2.9 when `enable_long_queue_ids=no`). There is a very small possibility that **postsuper(1)** requeues the wrong message file when it is executed while the Postfix mail system is running, but no harm should be done.

This feature is available in Postfix 1.1 and later.

- s Structure check and structure repair. This should be done once before Postfix startup.
- Rename files whose name does not match the message file inode number. This operation is necessary after restoring a mail queue from a different machine or from backup, when queue files were created with Postfix ≤ 2.8 or with `"enable_long_queue_ids = no"`.
 - Move queue files that are in the wrong place in the file system hierarchy and remove subdirectories that are no longer needed. File position rearrangements are necessary after a change in the **hash_queue_names** and/or **hash_queue_depth** configuration parameters.
 - Rename queue files created with `"enable_long_queue_ids = yes"` to short names, for migration to Postfix ≤ 2.8 . The procedure is as follows:

```
# postfix stop
# postconf enable_long_queue_ids=no
# postsuper
```

Run **postsuper(1)** repeatedly until it stops reporting file name changes.

- S A redundant version of –s that requires that long file names also match the message file inode number. This option exists for testing purposes, and is available with Postfix 2.9 and later.
- v Enable verbose logging for debugging purposes. Multiple –v options make the software increasingly verbose.

DIAGNOSTICS

Problems are reported to the standard error stream and to **syslogd(8)**.

postsuper(1) reports the number of messages deleted with –d, the number of messages requeued with –r, and the number of messages whose queue file name was fixed with –s. The report is written to the standard error stream and to **syslogd(8)**.

ENVIRONMENT

MAIL_CONFIG

Directory with the **main.cf** file.

BUGS

Mail that is not sanitized by Postfix (i.e. mail in the **maildrop** queue) cannot be placed "on hold".

CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS

The following **main.cf** parameters are especially relevant to this program. The text below provides only a parameter summary. See **postconf(5)** for more details including examples.

config_directory (see 'postconf -d' output)

The default location of the Postfix main.cf and master.cf configuration files.

hash_queue_depth (1)

The number of subdirectory levels for queue directories listed with the hash_queue_names parameter.

hash_queue_names (deferred, defer)

The names of queue directories that are split across multiple subdirectory levels.

queue_directory (see 'postconf -d' output)

The location of the Postfix top-level queue directory.

syslog_facility (mail)

The syslog facility of Postfix logging.

syslog_name (see 'postconf -d' output)

The mail system name that is prepended to the process name in syslog records, so that "smtpd" becomes, for example, "postfix/smtpd".

Available in Postfix version 2.9 and later:

enable_long_queue_ids (no)

Enable long, non-repeating, queue IDs (queue file names).

SEE ALSO

sendmail(1), Sendmail-compatible user interface

postqueue(1), unprivileged queue operations

LICENSE

The Secure Mailer license must be distributed with this software.

AUTHOR(S)

Wietse Venema

IBM T.J. Watson Research

P.O. Box 704

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, USA