



Formatting email with muttprint

Pretty Mail

When you send an email message to the printer, the result is often an untidy tangle of headers and codes with the real message somewhere inside. Try muttprint, a handy application for managing the mess in email messages.

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Muttprint [1] is a Perl script that removes headers and assures a printed email message is nicely formatted before sending it to the printer. muttprint supports any mail client that produces ASCII output and includes headers, including the mutt mail client. muttprint also supports the following applications: *exmh*, *Gnus*, *Pine*, *Sylpheed*, *XFMail*.

The muttprint project homepage has a *tar.gz* archive, a RPM package, and links to other packages. If you are running Debian, for example, make sure you are *root*, and type `apt-get install muttprint muttprint-manual` in a console window to install both the program and the documentation. (This doesn't work for RPM-based apt unless your repository contains the muttprint RPMs.)

Installation Requirements

muttprint needs version 5 of the Perl scripting language and the LaTeX layout system, which is included with most Linux distributions. If you add Perl or LaTeX during the muttprint install to resolve dependencies, make sure they

are correctly installed before continuing. If you intend to support options such as duplex printing or paper saving, you need either CUPS or the *psselect* and *psnup* programs from the *psutils* package.

Integrating muttprint with mutt

The following example shows how to set up muttprint for use with mutt. If you have a different mail or news client, check out the *manual-en.pdf.gz* file below `/usr/share/doc/muttprint/manual/` for details on the setup for your environment.

Add the following lines to the mutt configuration file, *.muttrc*, in the home directory of each user or to the global `/etc/Muttrc` configuration file:

```
set print_command="muttprint"
set print="yes"
set print_split
```

The first command specifies that you will be using muttprint for printing. The second command disables the prompt before printing, and the third line specifies that multiple messages will be printed separately.

You need the following macros in the `~/muttrc` files or the global `/etc/Muttrc`. The macros will pass the headers to muttprint:

```
macro index p ⌘
"<display-toggle-weed> ⌘
<print-message> ⌘
<display-toggle-weed> ⌘
<exit>"
```

```
macro pager p ⌘
"<display-toggle-weed>⌘
<print-message>⌘
<display-toggle-weed>"
```

When the *p* (for "Print") key is pressed in the index and pager views, the program first switches to the header view, allowing muttprint to select the headers specified in its own configuration file before going on to print.

Configuring muttprint

Reloading the configuration file, or relaunching mutt, will incorporate the changes.

You may wish to consider a few additional configuration options, such as setting the signature or the size of the margin surrounding the header data. These settings are also managed through the global `/etc/Muttrc` or the individual `~/muttrc` files.

The easiest way to create a configuration file first is to copy the `/usr/share/doc/muttprint/sample-muttrc-en` sample file provided with the package. The file includes useful comments. After copying, open the file for editing and customize the configuration to suit your needs (Figure 1).

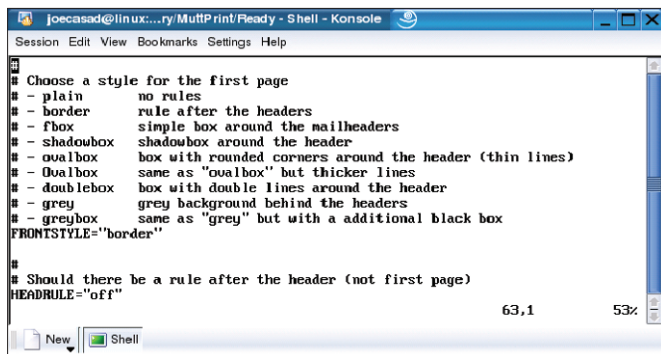


Fig. 1: You can customize the well-documented `~/muttrc` file to suit your needs.

INFO

1] muttprint homepage: <http://muttprint.sourceforge.net/>