

Using *pine* to send and receive e-mail

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Abstract

Describes a simple application for sending and receiving electronic mail.

This publication is available in Web form¹ and also as a PDF document². Please forward any comments to **tcc-doc@nmt.edu**.

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1. Definitions

You can use the Tech Computer Center machines to exchange electronic messages (*e-mail*) with anyone who has Internet access. Your Internet address is your account name, with these characters tacked onto it:

`@mailhost.nmt.edu`

For example, if your user name is **bob**, your address is **bob@mailhost.nmt.edu** anywhere on the Internet.

A *mailer* or *mail program* is the program that you use to send and receive e-mail. There are a number of mail utilities, but the *pine* mailer is specifically designed for the novice user. If you don't care for *pine*, check out the manual pages for *mail* or *mush*.

2. Sending mail

When you send a mail, it is necessary to tag it with a *subject line* so that the recipient will know what it is about. Once you start having to sort through a hundred messages a day, you will appreciate the need for meaningful subject lines!

Here are a few examples of good subject lines:

¹ <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/pine/>

² <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/pine/pine.pdf>

```
Subject: Need conference proceedings
Subject: Another irate customer
Subject: Lunch Thursday?
```

To send your mail:

1. At the Unix prompt, type:

```
pine address
```

where the *address* is the Internet e-mail address of the person you're sending it to. To mail to multiple recipients, just type all the addresses separated by spaces:

```
pine bob@nmt.edu aeinstein@princeton.edu joe@softex.com
```

2. Compose your message using the Pine composer.

The Pine composer is a small text editor that you can use to write your mail message. Your position will start on the **To:** line of the message, which should contain the address or addresses. Use cursor-down (*control-N*, abbreviated as **^N**) to move the cursor down to the line that says "Subject : " and type in the subject of your mail.

Next, use **^N** to move the cursor just below the line that says ----- Message text -----, and type your message. The lines at the bottom of the screen show the commands that you can type. You can type **^G** anytime for online help.

3. Type **^X** to send the message.

It will prompt you Send message? [y] : to confirm; press the return key to complete the send. If you decide not to send it after all, type **^C** at any time in the composer.

4. Type **Q** to exit *pine*.

3. Reading your mail

1. At the Unix prompt, type:

```
pine
```

2. Type **I** to go to the index of messages.

3. Dispose of junk mail.

You can use the cursor keys **n** and **p** to move the highlighted bar up and down the list of messages. Type **v** to view each message (see below for commands to be used while viewing a file). Type **d** if you want to delete it (throw it away).

4. To save messages:

Move the highlight bar to the message you want to save. Type **e** (for "export"), then type a file name. Your message will be saved in that file.

5. To reply to a message:

Type **r** (for "reply"). It will ask you if you want to include the original message; type **y** if you do, otherwise type **n**.

6. Type **q** to exit *pine*.

4. Viewing your file

While viewing your file (see above, step 3) you can use these commands:

Table 1. File viewing commands

i	Go back to the index screen
(space)	Go to the next page (if any)
-	Go back to the previous page
r	Reply to this message
f	Forward this message
e	Export the text of this message to a file
q	Quit Pine
d	Delete this message
u	Undelete this message (undoes d)

5. Pine composer commands

In addition to the commands shown below, the arrow keys on your keyboard might also be usable in moving the cursor around; it depends on your exact setup.

Table 2. Pine composer commands

^X	Send this message
^C	Cancel sending this message
^G	Get help
^P	Cursor up to Previous line
^N	Cursor down to Next line
^F	Cursor Forward to next character
^B	Cursor Backward to previous character
^A	Cursor to beginning of line
^E	Cursor to end of line
^L	Rewrite the screen (use if it's messed up)
^J	Justify a paragraph
^W	Where is (search for a string)
^D	Delete one character
^K	Delete a whole line
^U	Undo line deletion or paragraph justification
^R	Read an entire file into the current message
^V	Go to the next page
^Y	Go to the previous page
(control-spacebar)	Go to the next word

6. Sending an attached file

You can send any file, even an image file, using Pine. Make sure that the recipient has Pine or some other mailer that allows “MIME attachments.”

1. Compose your message normally.

Use the same procedure as in Sending mail, above, but stop short of step 3—that is, don't type **^X** to send the message.

2. Type **^J** (Attach).

Pine will prompt you with the message “File to attach:”. Type the name of the file you want to send. Then Pine will prompt you with the message “Attachment comment:”; type a few words describing the file you are attaching.

3. Type **^X** to send the message.

The remaining steps are just like normal.

7. Receiving an attached file

If someone sends you a mail message with an attached file, the line “Parts/attachments” will appear in the mail header. To save an attachment:

1. Read the message as usual.

See Reading your mail, above.

2. Type **>** (view attachments).

Then use the cursor keys to move the highlighted line to the attachment you want to save.

3. Type **S** to save the attachment.

Pine will prompt you with the message “Copy attachment to file in home directory:”. Type a file name and the attachment will be saved in a file by that name.