

## How To Automatically Add A Disclaimer To Outgoing Emails With alterMIME (Postfix On Debian Etch)

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# How To Automatically Add A Disclaimer To Outgoing Emails With alterMIME (Postfix On Debian Etch)

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This tutorial shows how to install and use [alterMIME](#). alterMIME is a tool that can automatically add a disclaimer to emails. In this article I will explain how to install it as a Postfix filter on Debian Etch.

I do not issue any guarantee that this will work for you!

## 1 Preliminary Note

I'm assuming that Postfix is already installed and fully functional - I will not explain how to set up Postfix and configure email accounts in this tutorial.

## 2 Installing alterMIME

alterMIME can be installed as follows:

```
apt-get install altermime
```

Next we create the user *filter* with the home directory */var/spool/filter* filter - alterMIME will be run as that user:

```
useradd -r -c "Postfix Filters" -d /var/spool/filter filter
```

```
mkdir /var/spool/filter
```

```
chown filter:filter /var/spool/filter  
  
chmod 750 /var/spool/filter
```

Afterwards we create the script `/etc/postfix/disclaimer` which executes alterMIME. Debian's alterMIME package comes with a sample script that we can simply copy to `/etc/postfix/disclaimer`:

```
cp /usr/share/doc/altermime/examples/postfix_filter.sh /etc/postfix/disclaimer  
  
chgrp filter /etc/postfix/disclaimer  
  
chmod 750 /etc/postfix/disclaimer
```

Now the problem with this script is that it doesn't distinguish between incoming and outgoing emails - it simply adds a disclaimer to all mails. Typically you want disclaimers only for outgoing emails, and even then not for all sender addresses. Therefore I've modified the `/etc/postfix/disclaimer` script a little bit - we'll come to that in a minute.

Right now, we create the file `/etc/postfix/disclaimer_addresses` which holds all sender email addresses (one per line) for which alterMIME should add a disclaimer:

```
vi /etc/postfix/disclaimer_addresses
```

```
falko@example.com  
joe@example.org  
tom@example.net
```

Now we open `/etc/postfix/disclaimer` and modify it as follows (I have marked the parts that I've changed):

```
vi /etc/postfix/disclaimer
```

```
#!/bin/sh
# Localize these.
INSPECT_DIR=/var/spool/filter
SENDMAIL=/usr/sbin/sendmail

##### Changed From Original Script #####
DISCLAIMER_ADDRESSES=/etc/postfix/disclaimer_addresses
##### Changed From Original Script END #####

# Exit codes from <sys/exits.h>
EX_TEMPFAIL=75
EX_UNAVAILABLE=69

# Clean up when done or when aborting.
trap "rm -f in.$$" 0 1 2 3 15

# Start processing.
cd $INSPECT_DIR || { echo $INSPECT_DIR does not exist; exit
$EX_TEMPFAIL; }

cat >in.$$ || { echo Cannot save mail to file; exit $EX_TEMPFAIL; }

##### Changed From Original Script #####
# obtain From address
from_address=`grep -m 1 "From:" in.$$ | cut -d "<" -f 2 | cut -d ">" -f 1`

if [ `grep -wi ^${from_address}$ ${DISCLAIMER_ADDRESSES}` ]; then
    /usr/bin/altermime --input=in.$$ \
        --disclaimer=/etc/postfix/disclaimer.txt \
```

```
--disclaimer-html=/etc/postfix/disclaimer.txt \  
--xheader="X-Copyrighted-Material: Please visit http://www.company.com/privacy.htm" || \  
{ echo Message content rejected; exit $EX_UNAVAILABLE; }  
fi  
##### Changed From Original Script END #####  
  
$SENDMAIL "$@" <in.$$  
  
exit $?
```

Next we need the text file `/etc/postfix/disclaimer.txt` which holds our disclaimer text. Debian's alterMIME package comes with a sample text that we can use for now (of course, you can modify it if you like):

```
cp /usr/share/doc/altermime/examples/disclaimer.txt /etc/postfix/disclaimer.txt
```

Finally we have to tell Postfix that it should use the `/etc/postfix/disclaimer` script to add disclaimers to outgoing emails. Open `/etc/postfix/master.cf` and add `-o content_filter=dfilt:` to the `smtp` line:

```
vi /etc/postfix/master.cf
```

```
#  
# Postfix master process configuration file. For details on the format  
# of the file, see the master(5) manual page (command: "man 5 master").  
#  
# =====  
# service type private unpriv chroot wakeup maxproc command + args  
#          (yes) (yes) (yes) (never) (100)  
# =====  
smtp      inet  n       -       -       -       smtpd
```

```
-o content_filter=dfilt:  
[...]
```

At the end of the same file, add the following two lines:

```
[...]  
dfilt unix - n n - - pipe  
flags=Rq user=filter argv=/etc/postfix/disclaimer -f ${sender} -- ${recipient}
```

Restart Postfix afterwards:

```
/etc/init.d/postfix restart
```

That's it! Now a disclaimer should be added to outgoing emails sent from the addresses listed in `/etc/postfix/disclaimer_addresses`.

### 3 Links

- alterMIME: <http://pldaniels.com/altermime>
- Postfix: <http://www.postfix.org>
- Debian: <http://www.debian.org>