

MailSearch 3.0

MailSearch allows you to quickly search through your NeXTMail mailboxes. If you ever wanted to find that message buried somewhere in one of your mailboxes, MailSearch is for you. MailSearch will search through mailboxes and locate messages containing keywords.

Introduction

When you launch MailSearch, you'll get a panel something like this:

If you wanted to search through your Active mailbox for the keyword "apple", all you need to do is type apple in the search text field and type return. MailSearch will search through

your Active mailbox and find all messages with the word "apple" in them. This type of search is case insensitive, so it will also find all the messages with the words "apple", "Apple", "APPLE" and "appLe".

If you wish to view the contents of a particular message, all you need to do is select the message from the message browser and the message will appear in the message viewer below.

If you just wish to list all the messages in a mailbox, you can select that mailbox from the browser and press the "List" button.

Searching Multiple Mailboxes

If you wish to search a different mailbox, you can select that mailbox from the mailbox browser and press the Search button. If you wish to search more than one mailbox, you can shift-click to select multiple mailboxes from the mailbox browser. If you wish to

search all your mailboxes, you can change the popup button from "Selected Mailboxes" to "All Mailboxes". In 3.0 "All Mailboxes" is now the default choice.

When you search a mailbox, a little dot may appear next to the mailbox name in the browser. This indicates that messages were found in this mailbox. This is useful when you search multiple mailboxes because it indicates which mailboxes contain messages found from your search. These little dots are reset for each new search.

Search Parameters

To modify how a search is performed select "Search..." from the menu. The following panel will appear:

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The checkboxes in the upper right allow you to limit your search to messages with

attachments, without attachments, messages you have seen or messages you have not yet seen. Checking one of these checkboxes will search those **particular messages**. By default they are all selected. For example, if you uncheck the "With Attachments" checkbox and perform a search, only messages with attachments will be searched.

If you wish to limit searching to **particular dates**, you can use the radio buttons to select either between or outside the dates listed. You can enter dates in the following formats: "MM/DD/YY", "DD MMM YY" and "DD-MMM-YY". Only those message between or outside the dates listed will be searched.

Occasionally you'll wish to find messages with these particular attributes, but without searching for a particular keyword. This can be accomplished by simply leaving the search text blank. A blank search text will match all messages searched. The search panel then just controls which messages are searched.

The search panel has two pop-ups. The first popup controls **what part of a message** is searched:

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Searching "From", "To", "cc" or "Subject" will just search these fields of the header. Searching for "Header" will just search the message header and ignores anything in the body. Searching the "Body" will only search the message body and ignores anything in the header. Searching the "Entire Message" will search the entire text of the message. Attached file are not searched and cannot be searched via MailSearch.

The other popup controls how the search text is interpreted. This is the only option from this panel that is saved from session to session.

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A **Word search** is interpreted as a phrase. If the search text is "help", every message containing "help" will be found. "Help" will also match "helpful" and "helpless". If the search text is "My search", that phrase will be searched for. "My search" will not match "My text search" or "search my text". Word searches are case insensitive. "Help" will match "help", "HELP" and "heLP".

Boolean Expressions are something unique to MailSearch. It allows searching for expressions with something like a C language syntax. The search text "apple & orange" will match any message containing both words "apple" and "orange". The search text "apple | orange" will match any messages containing either word. The search text "!apple" will match any message without the word apple in it. You can use parenthesis to form rather complex searches such as "(apple & pie) | (peach & cobbler)" this would match messages containing "apple and pie" or "peach & cobbler", but wouldn't match "apple & cobbler". The NOT operator, "!" may also be specified as "~". Other types of searches will highlight what was matched when the message is displayed...boolean searches cannot do this.

Regular Expression searches interpret the search text as a regular expression. Regular expressions are too involved to explain completely here. Below is a brief summary cutout of the egrep man page.

A \ followed by a single character other than newline matches that character.

The character ^ matches the beginning of a line.

The character \$ matches the end of a line.

A . (period) matches any character.

A single character not otherwise endowed with special meaning matches that character.

A string enclosed in brackets [] matches any single character from the string. Ranges of ASCII character codes may be abbreviated as in `a-z0-9'. A] may occur only as the first character of the string. A literal - must be placed where it can't be mistaken as a range indicator.

A regular expression followed by an * (asterisk) matches a sequence of 0 or more matches of the regular expression. A regular expression followed by a + (plus) matches a sequence of 1 or more matches of the regular expression. A regular expression followed by a ? (question mark) matches a sequence of 0 or 1 matches of the regular expression.

Two regular expressions concatenated match a match of the first followed by a match of the second.

Two regular expressions separated by | or newline match either a match for the first or a match for the second.

A regular expression enclosed in parentheses matches a match for the regular expression.

The order of precedence of operators at the same parenthesis level is [] then *+? then concatenation then | and newline. expression.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I use MailSearch to search the text of an attached file such as a WordPerfect

document somebody sent me.

A: No. MailSearch cannot search the contents of attached files. You can however search for messages with attached files. This at least will limit the number of messages you have to look at.

Q: How can I move or delete messages using MailSearch.

A: Unfortunately MailSearch cannot do this. You'll have to use NeXT's Mail application to relocate or delete messages.

Q: When will MailSearch 1.0 be released.

A: Shortly after NeXT releases NeXTSTEP 3.3.

Q: Will there be any future releases or enhancements (like MIME)?

A: No, I (George Fankhauser) just inherited MailSearch from Bill and adapted it to 3.3. I don't have the time to enhance it a lot, however I try to make it Openstep clean¹/₄

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