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mp-app.tiff ⇧

MailPictures v0.4

Introduction

This is the fourth (Beta) version of a very simple utility to manage the /LocalLibrary/Images/People database of mail pictures. It was inspired by an example application in the very excellent MiscKit where the MiscString class was used to parse the passwd and alias files.

The application is still not as perfect as I would like, but with 3.3 on the horizon and the upgrade to Mail.app imminent I thought I should release the application and see if anyone else finds it useful. Your comments are VERY welcome.

Features

• accepts an alias through the services menu

• will collect aliases that are not correctly configured and allow the user to assign them to valid user names. The format for valid entries are:

passwd file:

```
<user_name>:*:-2:-2:<full_name>:/nodir:/noshell  
david_aspinall:*:-2:-2:David Aspinall:/nodir:/noshell
```

alias file:

```
<alias_address@some.domain!a!uucp!host>: <user_name>
```

```
david_aspinall@comnetix.com: david_aspinall
comnetix.com!aspinall@circus.yorku.ca: david_aspinall
dave@circus.yorku.ca: david_aspinall
...
```

The corresponding photo for this entry would be:
/LocalLibrary/Images/People/david_aspinall.tiff

MailPictures will manage all of these files for you!

• create/delete password and alias file entries

• assign/change pictures using drag and drop paradigm. Note pictures cannot be deleted from this application, only replaced. Also currently a new picture will delete an old picture. One solution could have been to store the picture in /tmp/ until the user commits the change, and then clobber the original. This would also allow a regular user to modify the database locally, save a user entry (see *Save User*), and the new picture could be placed into the document. Then the new document, including the picture could be mailed to the sysadmin who could then apply the changes. At any rate it should probably push the old file into the recycler instead, but

• when saving the new data base, the old data files are backed up into a "/LocalLibrary/Images/People/.passwd-alias.backup" file. Currently the application does not have a revert to backup option, but this is semi-trivial. :) *use the MPexport file instead*

• the inspector will display details about the currently selected user, or it can display a list of netinfo group aliases. For example an alias entry like:

```
<group>: <user_name>,<user_name>,...
info: dave,dave@circus.yorku.ca,peter
```

Document Menu Options

Save	Save changes back to database
Save User	Save currently selected user name and all that users aliases, and that users picture into a document in your home directory. This is the "mailpicture" document type.
Export As	Save all the current password and alias entries into a "MPexport" document. Does NOT export the pictures.
Import From	Open and MERGE the data from either document type.
Reload	Discard changes and reload from the database.
Reload Netinfo	Supposed to replace mailDBupdate, but it doesn't work yet so I took it out...

Limitations

Running mailDBupdate is great for updating the list of aliases and user names from netinfo. Unfortunately it trashes any alias/passwd entries for names not in netinfo. (take it out of your crontab file *now!*) If you do run mailDBupdate, simply have a "MPexport" document around and merge the entries back in. MailPictures *should* detect duplicate entries, and simply add the *non-duplicate* ones.

The app does NOT understand aliases that refer to other aliases. For example, mailer-agent is an alias for postmaster, and postmaster is an alias for root. The app will not understand this, and will assume it is an error. Fortunately the app will give you the opportunity to reassign the alias to another user. Keep in mind that this app does not in any way change the netinfo

database.

Copyright

The usual stuff. It's free. It's my baby. Don't change it without acknowledging me. The source is "kinda" available.

The author

I am David Aspinall, former NeXT Campus Consultant and now a programmer at Comnetix Computer Systems. This app was written in my spare time as a way of experimenting with DBTables and MiscKit (very kool). You can reach me at any one of the following aliases:

dave@circus.yorku.ca
dave@huma.yorku.ca
aspinall@comnetix.com

david_aspinall.mailpicture >> david_aspinall.mailpicture ↵