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Mailman installation procedure

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1. PRECONDITIONS

Prior to Mailman installation, you must have a mail server that you can send messages to, and a web server that supports the CGI/1.1 API.

Joinup uses Apache as web server and Exim as mail server, but other web server and MTAs may provide the desired functionality.

2. INSTALLATION OF MAILMAN

Ensure you have at least Python 2.6 on the target machine:

```
$ ssh list@mymachine "python -V"
Python 2.6.6
```

2.1. COMPILING MAILMAN ON THE MACHINE

While Mailman is mostly written using Python, it provides a few programs (e.g. its setgid wrapper program) written in C.

Download and extract the latest Mailman sources:

```
ssh systems-testing -l root
mkdir -p /root/mailman/sources
cd /root/mailman/sources
http_proxy=http://user:passwd@XXX.XXX.X.XX:8012/ \
wget http://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/mailman/mailman-<version>.tgz
tar xzf mailman-<version>.tgz
cd mailman-<version>/
```

You may need the following dependency on the compiling machine:

```
yum install python-devel.x86_64
```

Configure Mailman this way:

- specify a custom prefix so that various resources are searched in the adequate directories
- specify the mail group MTA will run when calling the Mailman entry program
- specify the user and group dedicated to Mailman

```
./configure --prefix=/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman --with-mail-gid=xxx --with-username=list --with-groupname=list --without-permcheck 2>&1 | tee configuration.log
# Once configured, make and make install to build and install Mailman
make 2>&1 | tee compilation.log
make install 2>&1 | tee installation.log
# Check the result of the installation
cd /environment/server/icp/mailman
find | xargs ls -ald
```

2.2. INSTALLATION ON THE TARGET MACHINE:

```
tar cf - mailman/ | ssh list@mymachine "tar -x -p -C /environment/server/icp/mailman -f -"
ssh list@mymachine
# Upload the attached custom-templates.tar.gz archive on the server
# it contains modified versions of the English templates that do not mention the URLs to the web part of
Mailman.
cd /environment/server/icp/mailman
tar xzvf custom-templates.tar.gz
cd /environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman
# The basic configuration for Mailman is rather short
cat >> Mailman/mm_cfg.py <<EOF
MAILMAN_USER = 'list'
MAILMAN_GROUP = 'list'
DEFAULT_EMAIL_HOST = 'joinup.production'
DEFAULT_URL_HOST = 'joinup.production'
DELIVERY_MODULE = 'SMTPDirect'
SMTPHOST = 'localhost'
SMTPPORT = 2025
TEMPLATE_DIR = '/environment/server/icp/mailman/custom-templates'
EOF
```

Create the main mailing list:

```
$ bin/newlist mailman
Enter the email of the person running the list: XXXX.XXX@ mymachine
Initial mailman password:
To finish creating your mailing list, you must edit your /aliases (or equivalent) file by adding the following lines,
and possibly running the `newaliases' program:

## mailman mailing list
mailman:      "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman post mailman"
mailman-admin:  "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman admin mailman"
mailman-bounces: "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman bounces mailman"
mailman-confirm: "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman confirm mailman"
mailman-join:   "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman join mailman"
mailman-leave:  "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman leave mailman"
mailman-owner:  "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman owner mailman"
mailman-request: "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman request mailman"
mailman-subscribe: "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman subscribe mailman"
mailman-unsubscribe: "|/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/mail/mailman unsubscribe mailman"

Hit enter to notify mailman owner...
```

2.3. RUN MAILMAN AT STARTUP

```
# Login as 'list' user
su list
# Edit the crontab
crontab -e
# Run mailman at startup (c.f. man 5 crontab)
@reboot /environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/scripts/mailman start
```

2.4. SETUP THE MAILING LIST CREATION BATCH

```
mkdir -p /environment/server/icp/mailman/cronjobs
cd /environment/server/icp/mailman/cronjobs
svn co https://webgate.production.eu/CITnet/svn/ISAICP/trunk/isaml
cd isaml
# Locate the PHP CLI (Command-Line Interface) filepath; example:
locate bin/php | grep php$
# Adapt the bin/mlcron shebang line
vim bin/mlcron
```

Configure the script:

CONF/MAILMAN-CONF.INC.PHP

```
<?php
/*
   Common configuration for Mailing Lists scripts.
*/

// The server is the MySQL database of the Drupal application.
define('SERVER', 'ml');
define('DB_USERNAME', 'userml');
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'xxxxxxxxxxxxx');
define('DB_NAME', 'drupal_database');

// This directory will host lock files
define('LOCK_DIR', '/tmp');

// Name of the table storing mailing lists operations
// Note this value must include the Drupal table prefix, if any
define('ML_MANAGEMENT_TABLE', 'ml_management');

// Options for password generation
define('PASSWORD_LENGTH', XX);
define('PASSWORD_CHARS', 'abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz_-ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ0123456789');

// Mailman-related paths
define('ML_NEWLIST_PATH', '/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/bin/newlist');
define('ML_CONFIGLIST_PATH', '/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/bin/config_list');
define('ML_ADDMEMBERS_PATH', '/environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/bin/add_members');

// options applied when creating a new mailing list
// note these options may be overridden by those defined in the creation task
$GLOBALS['ml_creation_options'] = array(
    'digest_footer' => "",
    'msg_footer' => "",
    'subscribe_policy' => 0
);
```

Require a youremail@yourdomain functional mailbox. Then check the following variables are set in the settings.php file of the Drupal application:

SETTINGS.PHP

```
$conf['domain'] = 'joinup.production';
$conf['initial_members'] = array('youremail@yourdomain');
```

```
$conf['listhandler_from'] = 'youremail@yourdomain';
```

When Joinup requires the creation of a mailing list, it simply adds a record in the ml_management table. This record contains various parameters such as the mailing list owner and the initial list of members to be subscribed as soon as the mailing list is created. Actually, this list is simply the initial_members variable. Therefore, the above configuration ensures that youremail@yourdomain will receive every mail for every newly created mailing list.

2.5. CONFIGURE AND ENABLE THE MAILBOX WITHIN DRUPAL

Configuration:

```
UPDATE mailhandler
SET mail = 'youremail@yourdomain',
domain = 'popserver.int',
port = 110,
name = 'NET1\\JOINUP/adps_XXXXXXX',
pass = 'xxxFILLMExxx',
fromheader = 'From',
folder = 'INBOX',
mailto = 'youremail@yourdomain',
authentication = 'my_handler'
WHERE mid = 1;
```

Test the connection using [admin/content/mailhandler/edit/1](#).

Activation:

```
UPDATE mailhandler SET enabled = 1 WHERE mid = 1;
```

2.6. SETUP MAILMAN CRONJOBS

- Edit /environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/cron/crontab.in: comment /environment/server/icp/mailman/mailman/cron/gate_news
- Edit the crontab of the "list" user, which should already contains mlcron and the Mailman start: add the content of crontab.in