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

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Submitted by [falko](#) ([Contact Author](#)) ([Forums](#)) on Mon, 2008-01-07 17:39. :: [Debian](#) | [Postfix](#)

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

Version 1.0

Author: Falko Timme <ft [at] falkotimme [dot] com >

Last edited 12/20/2007

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):

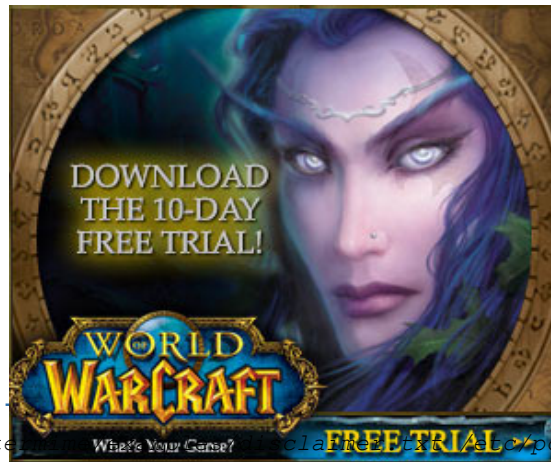
```
vi /etc/postfix/disclaimer
```

```
#!/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
```

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/alter... 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
# of the file, see the master(5) manual page (command: "man
#
# =====
# service type private unpriv chroot wakeup maxproc com
#          (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 ${send
```

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>

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[Altermime with secure SMTP](#)

Submitted by Adrian (not registered) on Wed, 2009-12-02 14:12.

Just wanted to mention that if you have users submitting mail via SMTPS on port 465 you will also need to add the altermime filter to master.cf for SMTPS or they won't have the disclaimer added, see example below:

<snip>

```
smtps  inet  n    -    -    -    -    smtpd -o smtpd_tls_wrappermode=yes -o
```



```
smtpd_sasl_auth_enable=yes -o
smtpd_client_restrictions=permit_sasl_authenticated,reject
# Altermime filter
-o content_filter=dfilt:

</snip>
```

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