

# Package ‘tm.plugin.mail’

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**Title** Text Mining E-Mail Plug-in

**Version** 0.3-1

**Imports** NLP (>= 0.1-2), tm (>= 0.6-1), reticulate

**Description** A plug-in for the tm text mining framework providing mail handling functionality.

**License** GPL-3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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convert\_mbox\_eml      *Convert E-Mails From mbox Format To eml Format*

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**Description**

Convert e-mails from mbox (i.e., several mails in a single box) format to eml (i.e., every mail in a single file) format.

**Usage**

```
convert_mbox_eml(mbox, dir, format = "mbox", delim = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| mbox   | a character string or connection describing the mbox location. |
| dir    | a character string describing the output directory.            |
| format | see <a href="#">MBoxSource</a> .                               |
| delim  | see <a href="#">MBoxSource</a> .                               |

**Value**

No explicit return value. As a side product the directory `dir` contains the e-mails in eml format.

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer and Kurt Hornik

**See Also**

<https://www.loc.gov/preservation/digital/formats/fdd/fdd000388.shtml>.

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MailDocument      *E-Mail Documents*

---

**Description**

Create electronic mail documents.

**Usage**

```
MailDocument(x,
             author = character(),
             datetimestamp = as.POSIXlt(Sys.time(), tz = "GMT"),
             description = character(),
             header = character(),
             heading = character(),
             id = character(),
             language = character(),
             origin = character(),
             ...,
             meta = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| x             | a character vector giving the text content.   |
| author        | a character vector or an object of class <code>person</code> giving the author names.   |
| datetimestamp | an object of class <code>POSIXt</code> or a character string giving the creation date/time information. If a character string, exactly one of the ISO 8601 formats defined by <a href="https://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime">https://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime</a> should be used. See <code>parse_ISO_8601_datetime</code> in package <code>NLP</code> for processing such date/time information. |
| description   | a character string giving a description.  |
| header        | a character vector or list giving the mail header information.  |
| heading       | a character string giving the title or a short heading.   |
| id            | a character string giving a unique identifier.  |
| language      | a character string giving the language (preferably as IETF language tags, see <code>language</code> in package <code>NLP</code> ).  |
| origin        | a character string giving information on the source and origin.   |
| ...           | user-defined document metadata tag-value pairs.   |
| meta          | a named list or <code>NULL</code> (default) giving all metadata. If set, all other metadata arguments are ignored.  |

**Value**

An object inheriting from `MailDocument`, `PlainTextDocument`, and `TextDocument`.

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer and Kurt Hornik

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MBoxSource

*Mailbox Source*


---

## Description

Create a mailbox source.

## Usage

```
MBoxSource(mbox, format = "mbox", delim = NULL)
```

## Arguments

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| mbox   | a character string giving the path or URL to a mailbox stored in “mbox” format.   |
| format | a character string giving the mbox format to use, with possible values “mbox” (default), “mboxo”, and “mboxrd”.   |
| delim  | a character string giving a regexp to use for finding the ‘From ’ lines delimiting the messages, or NULL (default), which provides suitable regexps according to the mbox format. |

## Details

A *mailbox source* interprets each e-mail stored in the mailbox as a document.

‘Mbox’ is a generic term for a family of related file formats used for holding collections of email messages. The messages are stored in a single mailbox text file separated by lines starting with the four characters ‘From’ followed by a space (the so-called ‘From ’ lines) and the sender’s email address.

Clearly, there will be a problem if the message bodies contain lines which also start with ‘From’ followed by a space. There are four common variants of the mbox format to deal with this problem: in *mboxo* and *mboxrd* such lines get a greater-than sign prepended, whereas in *mboxcl* and *mboxcl2* a ‘Content-Length:’ header field is used to record the message lengths. For more information, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mbox> and <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/digital/formats/fdd/fdd000383.shtml> which in turn points to <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/digital/formats/fdd/fdd000384.shtml> and <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/digital/formats/fdd/fdd000385.shtml> for the *mboxo* and *mboxrd* extensions.

The above LoC web page suggests that the ‘From ’ lines are always of the form ‘From *sender date moreinfo*’ where *sender* is one word without spaces or tabs and *date* (the delivery date of the message) always contains exactly 24 characters in Standard C asctime format. Thus, for the *mbox* format, the default delimiter regexp for ‘From ’ lines actually matches this form (with some timezone variants). For the *mboxo* and *mboxrd* variants, the default delimiter regexp is “^From ”.

The `getElem()` method for class MBoxSource strips the prepended greater-than signs for the *mboxo* and *mboxrd* formats.

## Value

An object inheriting from MBoxSource, [SimpleSource](#), and [Source](#).

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer and Kurt Hornik

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readMail                      *Read In an E-Mail Document*

---

**Description**

Return a function which reads in an electronic mail document.

**Usage**

```
readMail(DateFormat = character())
```

**Arguments**

`DateFormat`            A character vector giving date-time formats for the “Date” header field in the mail document. By default, the “basic” formats of [RFC 5322](#) are tried.

**Details**

Formally this function is a function generator, i.e., it returns a function (which reads in a mail document) with a well-defined signature, but can access passed over arguments (e.g., the “Date” header format) via lexical scoping.

In version 0.3.0 of the **tm.plugin.mail** package, the reader code was switched to use the Python **email** library via CRAN package **reticulate**. Compared to previous versions, this allows to

- handle textual message bodies in character sets other than US-ASCII and the use of base64 or quoted-printable transfer encodings ([RFC 2045](#))
- handle non-US-ASCII text data in message header fields ([RFC 2047](#))
- correctly handle the metadata in structured header fields ([RFC 5322](#))

For messages using the Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) extensions, the texts extracted from the messages are the (suitably decoded) bodies when using the ‘text/plain’ or ‘text/html’ content types, or the body parts using these types when using ‘multipart/mixed’ or ‘multipart/alternative’ (see [RFC 2046](#) for more information). Non-MIME messages are treated like ‘text/plain’. The extracted texts are represented as character vectors with length the number of extracted body parts and names giving the MIME *subtype* (“plain” or “html”).

This allows text mining applications to flexibly handle HTML content “as appropriate” by filtering on the names of the content of the [MailDocument](#) objects.

In case the Python processing fails or its results cannot be transferred to R (in particular, when text body parts contain embedded NULs), the reader falls back to simple header field processing appropriate for unstructured headers, and/or extracting no text. Information about problems is provided in the `problems` element of the metadata.

**Value**

A function with the following formals:

`elem` a named list with the component `content` which must hold the document to be read in.

`language` a string giving the language.

`id` a character giving a unique identifier for the created text document.

The function returns a [MailDocument](#) representing the text and metadata extracted from `elem$content`. The argument `id` is used as fallback if no corresponding metadata entry is found in `elem$content`.

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer and Kurt Hornik

**See Also**

[Reader](#) for basic information on the reader infrastructure employed by package **tm**.

[strptime](#) for date-time format specifications.

[RFC 5322](#), [RFC 2045](#), [RFC 2045](#), [RFC 2047](#).

**Examples**

```
require("tm")
newsgroup <- system.file("mails", package = "tm.plugin.mail")
news <- VCorpus(DirSource(newsgroup),
               readerControl = list(reader = readMail))
inspect(news)
## Use the high-level content and metadata accessors from package 'NLP':
require("NLP")
content(news[[2]])
meta(news[[2]])
## Processed header fields of the message.
meta(news[[2]])$header
```

---

removeCitation

*Remove E-Mail Citations*

---

**Description**

Remove citations, i.e., lines beginning with `>`, from an e-mail message.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'MailDocument'
removeCitation(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A mail document.  
...                   the argument `removeQuoteHeader` (default `FALSE`) giving a logical indicating if the quotation header (of the type “On *date*, *author* wrote:”) that proceeds the quoted message should be removed.

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer

**See Also**

[removeMultipart](#) to remove non-text parts from multipart e-mail messages, and [removeSignature](#) to remove signature lines from e-mail messages.

**Examples**

```
require("tm")
newsgroup <- system.file("mails", package = "tm.plugin.mail")
news <- VCorpus(DirSource(newsgroup),
               readerControl = list(reader = readMail))
news[[8]]
removeCitation(news[[8]])
removeCitation(news[[8]], removeQuoteHeader = TRUE)
```

---

removeMultipart

*Remove Non-Text Parts From E-Mails*

---

**Description**

Remove non-text parts from multipart e-mail messages.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'MailDocument'
removeMultipart(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A mail document.  
...                   Not used.

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer

**See Also**

[removeCitation](#) to remove e-mail citations, and [removeSignature](#) to remove signature lines from e-mail messages.

---

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| removeSignature | <i>Remove E-Mail Signatures</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Remove signature lines from an e-mail message.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'MailDocument'  
removeSignature(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| x   | A mail document.  |
| ... | the argument marks giving a character of signature identifications marks (in form of regular expression patterns). Note that the official signature start mark -- (dash dash blank) is always considered. |

**Author(s)**

Ingo Feinerer

**See Also**

[removeCitation](#) to remove e-mail citations, and [removeMultipart](#) to remove non-text parts from multipart e-mail messages.

**Examples**

```
require("tm")  
newsgroup <- system.file("mails", package = "tm.plugin.mail")  
news <- VCorpus(DirSource(newsgroup),  
               readerControl = list(reader = readMail))  
news[[7]]  
removeSignature(news[[7]], marks = "[+]-*[+]$")
```



---

threads

*E-Mail Threads*

---

### Description

Extract threads (i.e., chains of messages on a single subject) from e-mail documents.

### Usage

```
threads(x)
```

### Arguments

x                    A corpus consisting of e-mails (MailDocuments).

### Details

This function uses a one-pass algorithm for extracting the thread information by inspecting the “References” header. Some mails (e.g., reply mails appearing before their corresponding base mails) might not be tagged correctly.

### Value

A list with the two named components ThreadID and ThreadDepth, listing a thread and the level of replies for each mail in the corpus x.

### Examples

```
require("tm")
newsgroup <- system.file("mails", package = "tm.plugin.mail")
news <- VCorpus(DirSource(newsgroup),
               readerControl = list(reader = readMail))
vapply(news, meta, "id", FUN.VALUE = "")
lapply(news, function(x) meta(x, "header")$References)
(info <- threads(news))
lengths(split(news, info$ThreadID))
```

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