

Mahogany User Manual
for Version 0.60
“Redmond”

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Chapter 1

Using Mahogany

1.1 Release Notes

This is another public release of Mahogany. As with usual we make the source available and binaries for the most common operating systems supported. Mahogany should generally work on any Unix flavour.

Due to the fact that it is a cross-platform effort, the compilation and make system are a bit more complex than the average package. However, the source code is provided and you can attempt to compile it yourself. If you are trying to port it to a new platform, let us know and we will be happy to help you.

1.1.1 Changes against the previous version

0.6 against 0.5

Most importantly, all known major bugs in 0.5 have been fixed in this release. We still have some minor buglets and lots of wishes and enhancements on our list, but all serious bugs should be gone now. A couple of new features have been added:

- fixes to all serious bugs from version 0.50
- significantly improved IMAP support: it is now possible to subscribe to all folders on an IMAP server with a single click or to manually select them from a dialog; Mahogany also uses server side message functions when possible resulting in huge performance improvement

- new, improved filtering system (warning: old filters won't work any more, contact us if this is really a serious problem for you)
- charset and encoding support for message contents and headers (including autodetecting the charset of incoming messages and setting it for the outgoing ones)
- mail can be sent using local MDA (sendmail) in addition to SMTP
- import of settings and folder collections from Pine and XFMail, vCard support (import/export from address book, attach to messages)
- drag and drop for message copying and moving - "Quick Move" and "Quick Filter" functions
- folders now can (finally) be renamed
- quoted text highlighting in the message viewer!
- sort the messages display by simply clicking on the corresponding column, the sorting dialog also has been improved
- folders with new/recent messages are highlighted in the folder tree
- it is possible (although still discouraged) to run Mahogany as root
- passwords in the config file are encrypted using TwoFish algorithm
- option to always use external editor by default
- messages from oneself are optionally marked as such
- support for password protected SMTP and NNTP servers
- more verbose error reporting and detection
- OpenSSL loaded dynamically if available
- PalmOS module supports AvantGo/MAL synchronisation
- templates now may be used for replying/forwarding as well
- many other various fixes

New experimental features include:

- supporting multiple-identities and easy switching between them
- support of storing configuration settings on an IMAP server allowing to share them between different machines/accounts

Known bugs:

- There are always some, listed on our bugtracker at <http://www.wxwindows.org/m-bugs/> and we are working on them.
- Version 0.60 suffers from a minor printing bug leading to some overlap between strings sometimes, which is due to a bug in wxWindows which will hopefully be fixed fairly soon.

0.5 against 0.23a

This release has long been delayed, mainly due to us waiting for changes in wxWindows to be completed. As we introduced new features in the meantime, those introduced new delays, and so on. It has been more than half a year since the last release, so changes are major. We hope to stick to a much faster cycle of minor update releases for the future. The main new features are:

- Proper support for MH folders.
- Browsing and subscription management for IMAP and NNTP servers.
- A plugin module system has been created which allows to dynamically load expansion modules. Existing modules (statically linked in this release, but dynamically linkable) include a filtering language and PalmOS support. For the future, a calendar/timeplanner plugin is planned.
- Configurable filtering rules have been added.
- Message threading and configurable sort order is supported.
- An HTML-based help browser has been added.
- Configurable date format.

- Handling of dial-up networking and detection of connection status.
- Optional user of a Trash folder.
- Wizard-dialogs and “tip of the day” dialogs added to make Mahogany easier to use.
- Optional SSL support can be compiled in (not activated by default due to US export restrictions), allowing secure access to mail and news servers.
- PalmOS handheld connectivity: synchronise e-mails with your PalmOS handheld computer and use its addressbook within Mahogany. Also, backup, restore and install databases of your handheld.
- Bug fixes in nearly all parts of the code. Mahogany should suffer much less from crashes than earlier versions. The message editor behaves better and is faster.
- Minor GUI improvements like keyboard bindings and nicer icons. Support for KDE and GNOME filetype icons.

0.23a against 0.22a

The main news is, of course, the long-awaited for availability of Win32 version. Also:

- Several bugs in message composer (including a few fatal ones) were fixed. Only minor problems still persist.
- Selections support (copy, cut, paste) in message composer and viewer.
- The [Apply] and [Cancel] buttons in the options and folder properties dialogs (mostly) work now.
- Several minor bug fixes and improvements, including a massive speedup in the update of folder listings over slow connections.
- Printing no longer has overlap between pages.
- Folders can be kept open all the time to speed up access to them, very useful for “SentMail” folder.

- Better behaved, asks before removing all mail from spool.
- Configurable templates for message composition and replies.
- Message boxes now have icons in them.
- Searching in mail folders.
- And, of course, updated translations and documentation updates.

We have also made good progress on the filtering code, PGP/GPG support, multi-threading support and support for loadable external modules, but these features are not complete yet and disabled in the release. Expect them to appear in the next releases.

0.22a against 0.21a

Release 0.22a is mainly a bugfix release against 0.21a.

- All known (crash-inducing) bugs fixed.
- Message editor/viewer improvements, adding clipboard support and selections.
- wxGTK layout bug fixes - German, French, Spanish translations
- Text-search in messages
- Several minor usability fixes, sub-folder support fixed.
- Addressbook fixes
- TCP timeouts configurable
- Support for setting the Reply-To: header from To: field in message replies.

0.10a to 0.21a

First, there are some user-visible changes against the latest version, most notably the much improved message editor. This is still work in progress and the next release should add the sorely missed cut and paste support which only recently became functional in the underlying wxGTK toolkit. Also, configurability has been much extended. For the first time, Mahogany now defaults to collecting all mail from the system's INBOX (whatever that is) to a central "New Mail" folder. It can easily be set up to watch any number of different mail accounts or newsgroups and collect mail from them.

This release got a bit delayed because we decided to finish some long planned changes under the hood, mainly a complete rewrite of the internal configuration system which now provides the inheriting configuration settings we had planned, something that will become obvious in the next release when full GUI support for it will be added. Also, we seriously improved the mailfolder handling code to reliably handle all kinds of error conditions, such as modified or disappearing mailboxes or terminated connections and recover from them safely. Also, Mahogany now has full working support for IMAP, NNTP and newspools.

Apart from this there were many minor fixes and changes, both GUI and mail code, documented in detail at the end of the TODO file.

1.1.2 Known bugs

- Newspool support will not work with newsgroups not listed in the "active" file and is little configurable.
- News is not always the easiest to use, but will be the next thing to improve.

1.1.3 TODO, features to implement

The next few things to be implemented:

- Multi-threaded folder access, to avoid blocking while retrieving slow remote folders/servers. This is moreless complete but not enabled in the release as we want to test and debug it further before making it the default behaviour.

- Message editor: rich text editing & HTML (Almost complete, but not activated yet. Will be there very soon.)
- A faster mail folder format or support for storing messages in an ODBC database.
- A calendar pluginto to add some some time planning, reminder and mail-delay functionality (and synchronisation of it with PalmOS handhelds).
- Full Drag and Drop between folders and interaction with filemanagers of Windows and Gnome/KDE.
- Support for PGP and GNU Privacy Guard to encrypt mails.
- Wide character (Unicode) support and other character sets, currently being added to wxWindows.

1.1.4 Help Needed

As you can see, we have big plans for Mahogany. To achieve all this, we need some help. Areas where we would use some help are

- Python
- support for other mail protocols and mailfolder file formats, LDAP
- If you have access to other systems apart from Linux/Solaris/FreeBSD/Windows, you are very welcome to help us port Mahogany to those platforms, or to other hardware than Intel.
- Translations to other languages.
- MacOS development
- **Generally we welcome help for anything. If you miss a feature in Mahogany, we are more than happy to help you implement it yourself. Naturally we tend to work on the features that we either need ourselves or find interesting to do. If your priorities are different, join our team and help us improve it. Mahogany is and will always be an OpenSource(TM)**

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¹<mailto:mahogany-developers@lists.sourceforge.net>

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1.1.7 The License Dialog

When you start Mahogany for the first time, it will display the license and conditions of use and ask you to accept or reject the license. If you do not accept it, Mahogany will terminate. If you have any questions about the license or want to otherwise comment on it, please email the development team at `mahogany-developers@lists.sourceforge.net` .

1.1.8 Additional Credits

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Mahogany can be linked with the OpenSSL toolkit to support secure communications over SSL. In that case, we must give due credit to the authors and copyright of this library:

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²<http://www.openssl.org/>

wxWindows:

We gratefully acknowledge the use of the wxWindows³ cross-platform class library and the excellent work and support of the wxWindows developer team.

1.2 Introduction / Tutorial

To get started on Mahogany, you should look at the following sections of this manual:

- The Folder Tree (1.4.2) and how to create new folders (1.4.3).
- The explanation of the INBOX (1.5.1) and New Mail (1.5.2) folders.

Obviously, the more of this manual you read, the better use you can make of Mahogany. Once the manual has grown too large, we will provide a short tutorial, but for now we go on coding instead.

1.2.1 Getting started

When you start Mahogany for the first time, it will present you with a rather lengthy configuration dialog where you can configure all kinds of more or less useful options. Don't be afraid of it - just make sure that the main points, notably the settings on the Identity (1.7.2) and Network () page are correct and ignore the rest for now. The defaults should be suitable for most situations.

The main window will then show you a tree of folders (1.4.2) on the left and a view of the currently selected folder (1.4.4) to the right of it. By default, you will find a small number of folders that Mahogany sets up for you, usually these are "INBOX", "SentMail" and "New Mail". So, what are they?

- "SentMail" is obvious, Mahogany will store copies of messages that you send in there.

³<http://www.wxwindows.org/>

- “INBOX” is a little more tricky, it represents the “system inbox” for your system. This depends on your system setup, on Unix, it will most commonly be the `/var/spool/mail` or `/var/mail` entry for you, or wherever new mail for you gets stored. If you have an existing `mbox` or `INBOX` mailfolder in your home directory, as created by some other mail software, it will refer to this. Generally, you don’t need to worry about it, it will just be a black-box showing you new mail on the system you are logged in to. If it should not work, you can just create a folder entry for wherever the mail gets stored and ignore `INBOX`.
- “New Mail” is just a normal file folder, which is used by Mahogany to store mail that it collects from other places. By default, Mahogany will attempt to collect all new mail arriving in `INBOX` and move it to “New Mail”, as it is considered bad practice to leave messages in the system spool area. Also, if you want to collect mail from more than one location, for example from your ISP’s POP account, Mahogany will move it to “New Mail”. It’s just a convenient central place to store new messages, so you have them all in one folder, no matter where they come from. Of course, you can change this, if you don’t like it. Whether Mahogany collects mail from a folder or not, can be set in the Properties dialog of the folder, accessible via a click with the right mouse button in the folder tree. If you try this, you will see, that Mahogany is set up to collect from “INBOX”, but not from “SentMail”. Good.

1.2.2 So how about setting up POP access? And what is IMAP?

Setting up POP access is dead easy: You simply click the right mouse button in the folder tree and select “Create new folder”. Then fill in the details: your username and password for accessing the account and the hostname of the POP server. If you want Mahogany to collect all mail from here and move it to “New Mail” automatically, tick the box, otherwise it will leave the messages on the server and you can only read them while you are online.

IMAP - what's that?

IMAP is POP's big brother. Faster, more powerful and better, even more secure. If your ISP supports it, use IMAP rather than POP, your phone bills will go down, too. It's really just a different protocol for accessing the folder, but can do a few fancy things, more about that later.

1.2.3 How to set up your mail accounts

** This is currently missing, see the text in the FAQ. I will explain here how to set up your accounts.

1.3 Setting up Mahogany, its configuration files

1.3.1 User configuration files

When run for the first time, Mahogany creates a directory called `.M` in the user's home directory. The file `$HOME/.M/config` will contain the current program configuration for this user. Only values different from the default configuration are stored here. If you want to obtain a list of all possible options, you can manually add the entry

```
RecordDefaults = 1
```

to the `[M/Profiles]` section of the configuration file. This will cause all values which are used to be written to the configuration file.

1.3.2 System wide configuration file

Mahogany can be pre-configured on a system wide basis by supplying a `M.conf` file in the Mahogany installation directory (e.g. `/usr/share/Mahogany/M.conf`). The syntax for this configuration file is identical to the user's configuration file, so you can just copy a user's file to this location and edit it by hand. Useful settings for a system wide default are servers or mail return addresses. Note though, that Mahogany will not run properly as `root`. Entries prefixed with an exclamation mark `!` are marked as immutable and cannot be overwritten by the user. This can be used by the system administrator to

hard-wire certain settings, like, for example the return mail addresses or mail servers to use.

1.4 The User Interface

1.4.1 The Main Window

Mahogany's main window is vertically divided into two parts. On the left it has a tree view (1.4.2) of all available mail or news folders. On the right of it, it shows the currently selected folder in a folder view (see 1.4.4).

1.4.2 The Folder Tree

The folder tree shows a hierarchical view of all folders managed by *Mahogany*, this includes both mail folders and newsgroups. Folders can be grouped hierarchical and inherit settings from their parent folders (e.g. the server host). Clicking the right mouse button on any tree node will pop up a menu with some options. To open a folder or connection to a server for the first time, choose "Create New Folder" which will show you a dialog (1.4.3).

1.4.3 Create New Folder Dialog

This menu entry allows you to open a connection to a server or view a mailfolder. No matter whether it is a POP, IMAP, NNTP connection, a file based mailfolder, a newsgroup or whatever, *Mahogany* treats them all the same and calls them all "folder". The dialog has (when the user level is set to "novice") three tabs, **Access** (1.4.3), **Compose** (1.7.2) and **MessageViewer** (1.7.2).

Access

- **Folder Type**

Here you can choose from the currently supported folder types. The "News" type is for reading a local newsspool, it is only partially supported at present but should work fine in most circumstances. "NNTP" is for reading news from a remote newsserver. "IMAP" and "POP3" are for accessing remote mail server. If possible, prefer IMAP over

POP, it is much more powerful and significantly faster, saving modem time.

- **User name**

For those folder types where it is required, the user name or login to get access to them.

- **Password**

For those folder types where it is required, you can specify the password here. If you leave it empty, Mahogany will prompt you for the password whenever it is needed. If you want to auto-collect mail from this folder, you should really specify it. **This is a potential security risk!** The password typed in here will get stored in your \$HOME/.M/config configuration file on Unix or in the registry on Windows. While this file will be created as only readable by you and the passwords be encrypted (using very weak encryption), it is nevertheless a certain risk. If you accidentally change the permissions of that file, someone else could obtain your passwords, though Mahogany would detect this the next time it starts and warn you about it. Generally this should not pose a problem, but you should be aware of this. Previous versions of Mahogany had the passwords world-readable, so if you used it before this release, you might want to change them.

- **Server**

For the folders which require a server setting, you can specify the server host here. If unspecified they will inherit the setting from the global preferences.

- **Newsgroup**

For NNTP and Newsspool folders, the name of the newsgroup, e.g. comp.os.linux.announce .

- **Comment**

Whatever you like to add.

- **File name**

For folders of type “File”, the filename or MH directory.

- **Collect all mail from this folder**

Makes this folder “incoming”. Mahogany will regularly check the folder

for new mail and move any messages to the global folder for new mail, usually the “New Mail” folder.

- **Keep folder always open**

If selected, Mahogany will attempt to open the folder at program start and keep it open all the time. This can significantly speed up access to large folders as opening them can take some time. A very useful option for frequently used folders, such as, for example, the folder where you save copies of outgoing messages.

- **Force re-open on ping**

This forces Mahogany to close and re-open the mailbox when trying to update the information about it. This is required for some POP servers to correctly detect new mail. Usually this should not be needed.

- **Use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)**

This option is not always available, as the use of strong cryptography is outlawed in some dictatorial countries. If your copy of Mahogany supports SSL, tick this box to access a secure IMAP/POP/NNTP server. Must be supported by the server side, too. It will ensure that your communication with the server is encrypted and safe from eavesdropping.

- **Anonymous access**

This marks the folder as anonymous, such as for anonymous IMAP access, telling Mahogany that no user name or password are required to access it.

- **Is directory**

Select this if the mailbox represents not a mailbox or newsgroup but a hierarchy on an IMAP or NNTP server. E.g. comp.os.linux.announce would be a normal newsgroup (unticked), while comp.os.linux would be a new hierarchy (ticket).

- **Hide folder in tree**

If you do not want this mailbox to be shown in the folder tree (unless you select the option to show all hidden folders), tick this box.

- **Folder subtype**

Here you can select some sub-type, e.g. different mailbox formats.

- **Icon for this folder**

Allows you to set a different icon for the mailbox.

1.4.4 Folder Views

A Folder View is a window or part of a window displaying the contents of a mail folder or a newsgroup. It consists of two parts:

- The list of message headers at the top, showing message subjects, authors, dates, etc.
- The contents of the currently selected message below.

The reaction to a mouse click in the list of messages depends on the preferences setting “Preview message when selected”. When the option is selected, a single mouse click will select the message and load it into the preview window. If the option is not set, the message will only be selected but not previewed automatically, which is very useful for accessing mail folders through a slow connection. The same setting effects the behaviour of the space bar, it acts exactly like a single mouse click in the window and will only cause a message to be previewed if a single mouse click is configured to do so. The key “V” can be used to view the message under the current cursor. Also, using the mouse or the space bar together with the SHIFT or CTRL keys, allows one to select multiple messages at once.

When the top window, the list of messages, is active, certain keyboard bindings are active, the following keys are recognized:

0 8 1 0 0 0 00 8 1 0 0 0 0English	Action performed
M	mark/unmark message under cursor
	If message are to be previewed on selection, this will also preview
SPACE	preview message under cursor
D or DELETE	mark selected messages for deletion
U	remove deletion mark from selected messages
X or #	expunge messages marked for deletion
C	copy marked messages to another folder
V	move marked messages to another folder
S	save marked messages to files
P	print marked messages
R	reply to messages
F	forward messages
O	open messages in separate window
H	toggle display of headers

1.5 Reading Mail

1.5.1 The INBOX Folder

The folder named INBOX has a special meaning. It is the main system mailbox and cannot be deleted or renamed. All new mail will arrive in here. At present, Mahogany leaves all messages in the system inbox. Mahogany will collect mail from several different incoming mailboxes, e.g. the INBOX and some additional POP3 accounts, and move them to a new folder.

1.5.2 The “New Mail” Folder

Created by Mahogany the first time you start it, this is a file mailbox which by default receives all new mail. If you mark any folder as incoming, its contents will be checked regularly and any new mail in it moved to the “New Mail” folder. If you do not like this name, you can change it in the preferences dialog. Mahogany should in all situations recover from closed connections or disappearing mailboxes, so it is safe to let it run over long periods of time. If a server connection times out, you will receive one or possibly a few error messages but Mahogany will reopen the connection and continue as usual.

1.5.3 Other Folders

The folders are organized in a tree structure: this is purely for the convenience of the user, so any folder may contain as many other folders as needed. Folders can be managed either from the top level menu or from the popup menu in the folder control invoked by pressing the right mouse button in it. You can group folders together by making the sub folders of another folder. This builds no physical connection between the folders but makes the sub folder inherit certain configuration defaults settings from their parent folder. We will soon add a “folder group” folder type not representing any mailbox but just being a group of folders.

1.5.4 Accessing Mail Remotely

Mahogany supports two protocols for accessing remote mail servers: POP3 and IMAP. While POP3 is more commonly available, IMAP is definitely the superior protocol and should be used where available. It will generally give you more functionality and will be much faster over slow connections. Both normally require you to log in with a username and password, but can be configured to work anonymously if supported by the server. IMAP additionally allows you to access any mailfolder file on the remote machine. For example, if you use Mahogany on a remote machine “`atwork.company.com`”, you might have your local INBOX (which could be `/var/spool/mail/MyUserName` on a unix box) and also your “New Mail” folder, which might be `/home/MyUserName/.M/New Mail`. With IMAP, if you log in from home, you can not only access your INBOX on the `atwork.company.com` mail server, but also the “New Mail” folder there, by telling Mahogany to use `/home/MyUserName/.M/New Mail` as the path to the mailbox file. Like this, you can access any mail folder on that machine that you have access to locally, making remote access to your mail much more flexible than just accessing your new messages.

1.6 Sending Mail

1.6.1 To: CC: and BCC: Settings

All of these fields accept either mail addresses, aliases or folder names. Aliases must be expanded by using the tabulator key or the Expand button next to

the fields. If multiple entries match the text, you will be prompted with a list to choose from.

Using Folder names as an address

Folder names can be entered by prefixing them with a hash ('#') sign. This will cause a copy of the message to be saved in the folder with this name. If no such folder exists, it will be created in the mail folder directory. For example, entering "joe.user@foo.com, #myMail" in the To: field, will send the mail to Joe User and save a copy of it in the folder "myMail". Note, that if you have your folders organised hierarchically, you must specify the full path to the folder in the folder tree control. An example: If you have a group of folders in the tree, called "Work" and want to save a copy of the message to the folder "TODO" which is a sub-folder of "Work", you need to add "#Work/TODO" in the address field. Instead of using the To: field for this, you can also use CC: or BCC:, there is no difference.

To:

The primary address to which to send the message, multiple addresses can be entered and must be comma-separated.

CC:

CC means Carbon Copy - copies of the message will get sent to the addresses listed here.

BCC:

BCC means Blind Carbon Copy - like CC:, copies will be sent to the addresses listed here, but the addresses will not be stored in the mail header. This allows you to send copies without other recipients of the message knowing about it.

1.6.2 Key Bindings in the Message Editor

0 8 1 0 0 0 00 8 1 0 0 0 0Key-Combination	Function
ALT-D	delete word
CTRL-Y	delete line
CTRL-U	delete to begin of line
CTRL-K	delete to end of line
CTRL-C	copy selection to clipboard
SHIFT-INSERT	
CTRL-X	cut selection to clipboard
SHIFT-DELETE	
CTRL-V	paste text from clipboard
CTRL-INSERT	
CTRL-S	search for text
CTRL-T	search same text again

1.6.3 Using the address book

Although you may directly enter the addresses of recipients of your message into the different address fields (“To:“, “Cc:“ and “Bcc:“ although the last two are optional and so might not appear), there is a more convenient way to do it using the address book. To insert an address from your address book you should type the first few letters of either the “nick name” (or the “alias”) for this address or the first letters of the e-mail address and press `␣` key or click on the “Expand” button. If there is only one possible expansion for the letters you have typed, Mahogany will automatically replace them with the corresponding full e-mail address. Other possible cases: either there are no matches at all and a message in the status line of the window will tell you so, or there are more than one match in which case you will be presented with a choice of all possible completions.

Hint: if you press `␣` immediately after the address expansion it will bring you to the next text entry zone and will not attempt the address expansion the second time.

A special feature of the address expansion is the so-called “group extension”: if you type the first few letters of an address group name (see “Address Book Editor” description for more about it) it will be replaced by the addresses of all the addresses in this group. So, for example, if you have a group

called “Friends” you may type “fri” in the “To:” text entry zone and after pressing `␣` it will be replaced by the e-mail addresses of all your friends.

1.6.4 The Mail Composition Window

The composition window’s appearance depends on your configuration settings (1.7.2). Generally, it will at least show text entry fields to specify who to send the message to, for the subject and a large editing window below for the actual message itself. It also features an EXPAND button next to the address field, which allows you to lookup addresses in the currently loaded addressbooks. If you type in the beginning or a substring of a name, alias or email address and either press the expand button or the tabulator key, Mahogany will look up a list of matching addressbook entries and either expand it directly or prompt you with the matching choices. This works for the main address field (“To”) as well as for the carbon copy addresses (“CC” and “BCC”). If you specify an address in the “CC” or “BCC” fields, these people will receive a copy of the message. The difference between them is that the list of addresses in “CC” is included in the message, while the “BCC” (blind carbon copy) addresses will be suppressed in the message keeping them anonymous. If you enter an address like “#myfolder”, Mahogany will interpret it as the name of a mailfolder and save a copy of the message to that folder (in this case “myfolder”).

1.6.5 The News Article Composition Window

This window is essentially identical to the mail composition window (1.6.4), but instead of specifying a mail address to send the message to, you can enter one or more newsgroups names (comma separated). The newsserver used depends on from where this window was opened, if it was opened while reading a specific newsgroup, it will use the same newsserver that the newsgroup was read from, otherwise it will fall back to the setting in the global preferences.

1.7 Understanding program options

One of the goals of the Mahogany project is to be as configurable as possible. Of course, it means that Mahogany has a lot of options - however we hope that it doesn’t make the program more difficult to use because you have the

complete liberty to ignore all options until you need to use them. Moreover, some program options are completely transparent to the user because they are automatically remembered by the program. All the other ones may be changed from the main options dialog which may be invoked from the main window toolbar or from the menu. Generally, Mahogany configuration settings are inherited in a logical fashion. The settings in the preferences dialog are the global default settings and can be overridden on a per-folder basis. Subfolders inherit from their parent folders. Currently there is no full GUI support for this, but the next release will have the full set of program options available on the per-folder basis. Currently you can already achieve this by editing the configuration file manually. Also, system administrators can provide other defaults in a global `/etc/Mahogany.conf` file (also found in `/usr/etc`, `/usr/local/etc`, `/opt/etc`, ...).

1.7.1 Automatically remembered options

These options include the sizes and the positions of all windows, the texts of all prompts, the positions of splitters in the main program window and the other folder views as well as several other things. These options are special in that they do not appear in the options dialog and so can not be changed directly - instead Mahogany remembers them each time it is shut down, so when it is reopened it will be in exactly the same state as during the last run. Try to play with it: adjust the sizes of the main program window and the splitters in it as you like, exit Mahogany and restart it (this is for testing only, of course, you do not need to do it each time!) - you should see that the window reappears on the same position (although this might not work under some window managers), has the same size and is split in the same manner.

1.7.2 Other options

All other options except those mentioned in the previous subsection can be changed from the program options dialog. This dialog has several pages which are described in more details below:

Identity page

Here several important settings are configured, so it is advised (as the program itself will tell you when it is run for the first time) to set them up before starting using Mahogany. These include your personal identity settings - see also your preferred mail and news servers which is configured from the network page (1.7.2).

- **Username**

This is used as (default) login name for the accounts which require one (POP3 or IMAP4) and also as the base for the return address unless it is overridden by explicit setting of the return address.

- **Hostname**

This is used as the default hostname for your username. If you do not specify a return address, this must form a valid mail address when used together with your username.

- **Return/Reply address**

Here you can specify a return mail address where you want to receive mail and replies to your mails from other users. By using this you can hide your original (possibly “uglier”) return address.

- **Return return address from To: field**

If set, Mahogany will use the original To: address field values for the Reply-To: header entry of any message replies that you send. This makes sure that the same person sending you mail will always see the same mail address for you. It is especially useful, if you collect mail from several different incoming mail folders. An example: Someone sends you mail to `John.Doe@mycompany.com`. If you reply to this message, it will appear as coming from `John.Doe@mycompany.org`, even if you read this mail from home, on a machine called `MyBox.fun.org`. On the other hand, if someone sends you mail to `MyAlias@writeme.com`, your reply will carry that as a return address, so that person will never know about your `mycompany.com` office address.

- **Personal name**

Your full personal name to be included in your address.

- **User level**

Setting it to advance will allow you more detailed configuration of Mahogany, allowing you to make changes to the configuration which might be confusing to a novice user. It's recommended that you first become familiar with the program before changing the value of this option.

This page allows you to configure the network-related settings. Please notice that the four server names (for POP3, IMAP4, SMTP and NNTP) are only the default values and that Mahogany can use as many different servers (in particular, POP3 and NNTP) as you wish - for this, it is just enough to change the server name when creating a new folder from the default value specified here.

- **POP server**

This is the default server for your POP3 mail folders.

- **IMAP server**

This is the default server for your IMAP mail folders.

- **SMTP server**

This is the server used for sending outgoing mail, please ask your system administrator if you don't know its name. If you don't configure this setting, you will not be able to send any e-mail!

- **NNTP server**

This is the server used for reading USENET newsgroups and posting news articles.

- **TCP Timeout Values**

These timeouts are used for all accesses to remote servers. Generally it is a good idea to set them to small values to avoid unnecessary delays if something goes wrong. On the other hand, you want to make sure that they are long enough for slow connections, like for example through a modem line. If you get a lot of error messages about failed accesses to remote servers, you should try to increase these settings.

- **TCP Open Timeout**

This setting decides after how many seconds the attempt to open a connection to a remote mail or newsserver will time out. I.e. if no connection can be made within this time interval, the request will fail.

- **TCP Write Timeout**

If the attempt to write data to a remote server takes longer than this, it will fail.

- **TCP Read Timeout**

If the attempt to read data from a remote server takes longer than this, it will fail.

- **TCP Close Timeout**

If the attempt to close the connection to a remote server takes longer than this, it will fail.

- **TCP Rsh Timeout**

If the attempt to open a remote shell connection (used for some mail operations) to a remote server takes longer than this, it will fail.

Compose Page

On this page you may configure different settings which control the behaviour of the message composer (it is also used when replying or forwarding mail messages, not only for composing the new ones).

- **Save sent messages**

If enabled, Mahogany will keep a copy of each message you send.

- **Folder file for sent messages**

Where you want Mahogany to save the copies of sent messages.

- **Wrap margin**

If set to a value greater than zero, the message editor will wrap lines for you at that margin. It is recommended to set it at number less than 75, otherwise the lines in your mail messages might become too long to be conveniently read.

- **Reply string in subject**

The prefix for subject lines in message replies, usually set to “Re:”

- **Collapse reply marker**

Mahogany can collapse multiple reply markers (such as “Re:”) into one in three different ways:

- no : do not collapse reply markers
- collapse : collapse them into one
- count : collapse them into one and add a counter for the reply level, such as “Re[2]:”

- **Quote character**

The text inserted before each line of the quoted message when replying.

- **Use signature**

If enabled, Mahogany will append the contents of your signature file to each message sent.

- **Use signature separator**

If enabled, your signature will be separated from the text with two dashes. This is a common Internet/Usenet convention.

- **Use XFace**

XFaces are small black and white bitmaps which can be added to the message header to identify the sender. Mahogany will recognise and display them if enabled. It will also attempt to load your XFace from the file specified and send it with messages you write. If you do not have your own XFace file, Mahogany will use its own default XFace.

- **XFace file**

This file must contain a 48x48 pixel black and white image. Most image formats should be recognised, XPM is recommended. If the file cannot be loaded, the default XFace will be substituted.

- **Mail alias substring expansion**

If enabled, the EXPAND button will search the mail address databases using substring search rather than just comparing the text against the beginning of addresses and aliases. Produces many more matches than the default search and might take a bit longer.

- **Font family, font sizes, foreground colour, background colour**

These settings determine the appearance of the composition window's message editor.

- **Configure headers**

Allows you to specify default values for the To:, CC: and BCC: fields and whether to display them in the compose view or not. Hint: you may want to configure the folder where you collect all messages from some person (or the mailing list) to have this persons reply address default value for the “To:” field.

The dialog shown will also allow you to edit the custom headers for outgoing messages (i.e. add arbitrary additional headers) if the user level (1.7.2) is set to “Advanced”.

Folders page

- **Folders to open on startup**

Mahogany will open these folders on program startup.

- **Folder opened in main frame**

This specifies the folder to open in the main frame on program startup. It will be automatically remembered each time you exit Mahogany.

- **Poll for new mail delay**

Mahogany will check all incoming mailboxes for new mail. Specify the time between checks in seconds here. Notice that each check causes a short delay as Mahogany polls the folders, set it to a longer value to reduce the annoying screen updates, set it to a shorter value if you care about receiving your new mail with little delay.

- **Ping/check folder interval in seconds**

Mahogany checks periodically whether the opened folders are still “alive” (a folder may become dead if, for example, the remote server goes down or the network link fails).

- **Automatically select first message in viewer**

If enabled, Mahogany will automatically select and display the first message in the message viewer whenever you open a folder. This can be inconvenient if you want to just look at headers without downloading messages over a slow link.

- **Threshold for displaying progress dialog**

Mahogany will display progress dialogs when parsing mail folders or

querying servers. If the number of messages is less than this threshold value, the progress dialog will be suppressed - play with this setting and set it to the value which doesn't show the progress dialogs which disappear too quickly, but still shows them if the operation lasts a long time.

Python page

(only if you have a Python-enabled version of Mahogany)

- **Enable Python**

Enables the built-in python interpreter which can be used to extend Mahogany. It is not essential for normal operation, but if you want to do unusual things, python gives you the power to do practically anything you want with the program.

- **Python Path**

Where to search for python files.

- **Startup script**

The name of a python script which will be executed at program startup.

Callbacks Callbacks are python functions that can be called from different parts of Mahogany's code. See the Scripting and Extending chapter (2) and the Hacker's guide (??) for more information on this.

- **Folder open callback**
- **Folder update callback**
- **Folder expunge callback**
- **Flag set callback**
- **Flag clear callback**

Message Viewer

- **Preview message when selected**

When this option is set, any message that gets selected in the list of messages will get pre-viewed automatically. If using a modem connection, it makes sense to disable it, so messages will only get loaded and pre-viewed when double-clicked upon or when the 'V' key is pressed. By default, this is enabled, so that clicking on a message or pressing the spacebar to select it, will also pre-view it.

- **Font family, font size, foreground colour, background colour, colour for URLs, colour for header names, colour for header values**

These settings control the appearance of messages in the message viewer window. Mahogany will detect URLs embedded in messages and by using a different colour for them, can highlight them. When the user clicks on a URL, it will be opened in an external browser.

- **Inline graphics**

If enabled, Mahogany will display images included as MIME content in the message window. If disabled, images will be represented by a filetype icon like any other MIME content.

- **Conversion graphics format**

Mahogany uses an external conversion program (1.7.2) for image formats which it does not support natively. Here you can choose one of the natively supported formats to use for the conversion. At present, the most reliable format appears to be XPM. If configured properly and all libraries are available, Mahogany should support XPM, PNG, JPEG and BMP. Notice that XPM files are extremely large, so you might want to change this setting to one of the other formats.

- **Support special fax mailers**

This enables support for domains sending faxes by email, such as the EFX⁴ fax to email gateway. Faxes are sent as MIME attachments and need treatment different from normal images.

- **Domains sending faxes**

This is a colon-separated list of domains sending faxes. All IMAGE/TIFF

⁴<http://www.efax.com/>

or APPLICATION/OCTET-STREAM MIME content in mails coming from these domains will be treated as TIFF-G3 faxes. Note that the strings in this field do not need to be real domain names but are substrings looked for in the sender's email address.

- **Maximum size of message**

If you attempt to view a message larger than this limit, Mahogany will prompt you for confirmation. This is to prevent you from accidentally downloading large messages over a slow remote connection. Setting it to 0 will disable this. The limit is not applied to mailfolder files.

- **Maximum number of messages**

If you open a folder with more than this limit of messages, Mahogany will ask you whether you want to limit the amount of messages downloaded (or partially downloaded). Again, this is to prevent you from accidentally downloading huge numbers of messages over a slow remote connection. Setting it to 0 disables this. It does not apply to mailfolder files. Also, for NNTP connections, this might be triggered although there could be less messages in the newsgroup, as at the time of testing the number of unread messages is not known yet.

- **Configure headers to show**

This allows you to choose from a list of the most commonly viewed header lines, which you would like to display together with the message contents. By default, To:, From:, Subject: and Date: are shown. Note that you can always view the complete header information or the raw message text, no matter what you choose here.

- **Configure Date Format**

This will pop up a sub-dialog (1.7.4) for setting the format for displaying dates.

Addressbook page

Mahogany may automatically remember all addresses from all e-mail messages you receive (actually, only those which you read). This is called *address autocollection* and, as almost any other feature of Mahogany can be turned on and off as desired. In this page you may choose whether you want to use

this feature at all (it is on by default) and, if so, where should be the auto-collected addresses be put and other settings. See the Addressbook section (1.8) for more information on Mahogany's built-in addressbook.

- **Autocollect addresses**

You may choose “No” to disable autocollecting addresses completely, or choose “Yes” to always autocollect them. The remaining option, “Ask”, means that you will be presented with a message box each time an address is about to be autocollected.

- **Address book to use**

You may enter the path of the address book to use for autocollected addresses. Although you may use any address book for this, it is probably better to have a special address book for all autocollected addresses. If the path name given here is an absolute one, it is used as is. Otherwise, it is considered to be relative to your Mahogany directory. For example, the default for this option is “autocollect.adb” and so the default autocollect book will be created in
\$HOME/.M/AUTOCOLLECT.ADB
under Unix.

- **Ignore addresses without names**

You may wish to autocollect only addresses which have a full name - in this case you should check this option. If it is off and the address has no name, the first part of e-mail address (the one preceding the '@' symbol) will be used instead of the name.

In addition to its own built-in addressbook format, Mahogany also supports the addressbook files of the BBDB addressbook used with Emacs (see 1.8.3). Some settings can be set here which apply only to the BBDB addressbook support:

- **Ignore entries without names**

BBDB can store entries which have only an e-mail address with them, but no name. If you set this option, Mahogany will discard such entries.

- **Generate unique aliases**

Setting this option allows Mahogany to ensure that all aliases are unique. If two entries have the same alias, one of them will be modified

to distinguish them. This is especially useful in conjunction with the following option. If this option is set, reading in of BBDB addressbooks is slowed down considerably. However, setting it once, then saving the addressbook and disabling it, will make sure that all aliases are unique without slowing down subsequent loading of the addressbook the next time it is used.

- **Name for nameless entries**

If Mahogany finds entries without a name and is not set to ignore it, this name will be used for such entries. It can be combined with the option to generate unique aliases.

- **Save on exit**

As saving BBDB addressbook can potentially lead to some loss of information in the original database file (BBDB and Mahogany support different fields), you can choose whether you want Mahogany to automatically save the data on exit or ask you for confirmation. Read section 1.8.3 for more details about how BBDB and Mahogany differ in interpreting the database.

Helpers On this page you can customise which external helper applications Mahogany uses for different action that it does not perform itself.

- **Open URLs with**

Mahogany will use the program listed here to open URLs embedded in email messages. If you want to use Lynx as your Web browser you should prefix it with “xterm -e” under Unix in order to open Lynx in a separate window. For example, you may use `XTERM -T LYNX -E LYNX`.

- **URL browser is Netscape**

If the browser used to open URLs belongs to the family of Netscape programs, tick this box. Instead of calling a new browser each time, Mahogany will tell the already running Netscape process to load the new URL. Also, don't forget to clear it if you use another browser - otherwise it will fail to start up.

- **Help viewer**

The program listed here will be used to view the online help system in HTML format. Any simple HTML viewer can be used here.

- **Help viewer is Netscape**

Just like the option for the URL browser, this will take talk to an already running Netscape process instead of opening a new one each time.

- **External editor**

This is the external editor which will be invoked if you choose “External editor...” from the compose view menu. You should use the “%s” characters to indicate the place where the file name will be inserted in the command line (if you don’t do it, an implicit “%s” will be added to the end of the string).

- **New Mail Command**

The line in this field will be executed whenever Mahogany receives new mail. This can be used to play a sound to notify the user of incoming messages, or do something else to alert him.

Miscellaneous

All options which don’t fit in any other pages are collected here.

- **Show log window**

If this option is on, the log window showing all program messages will be displayed during program execution. It is advised to leave it on because the log messages (which can be saved to a file from the log window menu) can be valuable for the bug reports.

- **Splash screen on startup**

If this option is on, a splash screen is shown on startup. It will go away when clicked with the mouse or when a given delay (see the next item) expires.

- **Splash screen delay**

The delay after which the splash screen disappears.

- **Autosave delay**

This option allows to automatically save all program settings (but not messages being composed so far) each time the given delay (in seconds) passes. It can be disabled by setting the delay to 0, but it is advised to leave it enabled - so that your changes to the program configuration will be always saved.

- **Confirm exit**

If this options is on, you will be asked whether you want to leave the program each time before exiting. The checkbox on the message box with this question can be used to change the value of this option as well.

- **Click folder to open**

If this option is on, it is enough to select (for example, by clicking on it) a folder in the folder tree control in the main window to open it in the integrated folder view. Double clicking the folder or choosing “Open” from the popup menu will open folder in a separate window. This approach has a drawback of being a little slow with either very big folders or on slow machines/network connections, so an alternative way is to uncheck this checkbox. Then double clicking a folder will be needed to open it in the integrated folder view - while “Open” popup menu item will still open it in a separate window.

- **Format for the date**

This controls how the dates are shown in the folder view window. The string here has the same format as an argument to `strftime()`, on a Unix system you may execute `MAN STRFTIME` to see them all.

- **Show new mail notification**

If this option is on, a message box will be shown each time new messages are received.

- **Path where to find AFM files (Unix version only)**

To properly scale printing under Unix, Mahogany needs access to a set of AFM files. The searchpath where to look for them can be modified here.

- **Remote configuration synchronisation settings**

Please refer to the section below for a detailed explanation.

1.7.3 Remot configuration synchronisation

Mahogany can automatically save a subset of its configuration settings in a mailbox at program exit and automatically retrieve that information the next time it is started up. This option becomes useful if you are using the

program from different systems, e.g. if sometimes from the office and some other times from home over a dialup link. In this case, you can save some settings in a special IMAP mailbox and tell the program to use this for some of the settings. Like that, you can share the program settings no matter from where you run Mahogany and you do not need to manually adjust both configurations.

To use this option, first create a mailbox on an IMAP server. Do not use a POP3 server, as the program cannot store information via POP3, IMAP is required for this to work. Then, activate the “Sync options with remote server” setting and choose which settings you wish to share. Currently supported are:

- **Sync Filter Rules:** This keeps the global list of all filter rules synchronised via the IMAP mailbox. Very useful if you want to use the same set of filter rules no matter where you run Mahogany.
- **Sync Identities:** This keeps the list of available identity settings synchronised. Be careful: some things such as server settings might cause problems if they are used on a machine with different network settings.
- **Sync part of the folder tree:** This allows you to synchronise a complete sub-tree of the mailbox/folder tree. Activate this and pick a group of folders from the tree (Click on the [?] button to choose one.) and this tree of folders will be available no matter from where you run Mahogany. Note: this only makes sense if the folder group contains networked folders which are accessible from both machines. It synchronises configuration information, not folder contents. So you cannot access a mailbox file residing on one machine via this mechanism, but you can share configuration entries for remote mailboxes, such as IMAP, POP3 or newsgroups.

1.7.4 Some Other Dialogs You May Encounter

Date Format

The dates of messages for the list of headers can be displayed in a format of your choice. The same format is used for inserting the current date in templates when writing messages. The format of the date is controlled by a list of format specifiers (as accepted by the `strftime()` function in the

c-library). Most of the available format specifiers are available via a little popup menu which appears if you press the right-mouse button in the input field.

Display time in GMT/UST If you tick this box, all times will be displayed in Greenwich Mean Time (= Universal Standard Time) rather than local time. If not checked, all dates and times will be displayed in your own timezone. *Note that the time and date displayed is not the local time in the sender's timezone but the time it was in your local timezone when the message was sent.*

Message Sorting Dialog

Here you can choose the criteria for sorting mailfolder listings. If you want to use message score as a sort criterium, you need to have a plugin module loaded which provides the “Scoring” interface. At time of writing no such plugin is available, it will appear soon, though.

Use Threading If you tick this box, all messages will be threaded, i.e. sorted in hierarchical orders, with replies following earlier messages in the same discussion thread. Very useful for newsgroups. – Currently not yet implemented! –

Re-Sort on status change The effect of this option feels a bit strange at first and you might not like it. If selected, the messages will be re-sorted each time the status of a message changes. If you sort messages by message status and delete a message, it will immediately drop to the bottom of the list. Useful to always maintain a strict sorting order, but can be confusing.

1.7.5 Mahogany Plugin Modules

Mahogany can load plugin modules at runtime to extend its functionality. Currently we are working on plugins to supply PGP/GPG encryption support and a scoring engine for sorting mailfolder listings. A plugin to use IBM's ViaVoice will be started work on as soon as the Debian/Linux “Potato” release becomes stable.

Generally, if you want to write an extension for Mahogany without using Python (which we hope to turn into a plugin, too, soon), you can do that

very easily by writing it as a plugin module. Get in touch with the developers and we will show you how to do so.

The Plugin Module Configuration Dialog

This dialog allows you to decide which plugins get loaded at program start. At present, modules don't get loaded/unloaded at runtime, so you need to restart Mahogany for these options to take effect. On the top left you see a list of all modules that Mahogany has found in either the global `modules` directory or in your local directory (`$HOME/.M/modules/`). The window below shows some information about the module currently selected in the list, such as the name, author, a description of what it does and the name of the interface it provides. The interface would e.g. be "Scoring" for the plugin providing the functionality for scoring messages and is used by the program to find the right plugin for a given operation.

Any changes to the plugin module settings will only take effect after you re-started Mahogany!

1.8 The Address Database

Mahogany has a built-in address book system with flexible support for different addressbook formats. It can easily be expanded to handle other programs' file formats and at present supports two formats, its own ADB format (1.8.1) and (X)Emacs' BBDB (1.8.1) address book format. Generally the address books are ordered hierarchically, with the possibility to order entries in groups and sub-groups in a tree-like fashion. Alias expansion is configurable and also handles group names, to expand to the full list of email addresses within that given group.

1.8.1 The native Address Book

This is Mahogany's own address book format, offering you the maximum set of functionality supported by the address book editor. It offers hierarchical grouping of address entries and it is also the default address book format used by the address auto-collection mechanisms, which use different groups for address entries collected from different mail folders.

1.8.2 The Address Book Editor

To edit the address book, open the address book editor. If the book is already present in the address book tree on the left side of the window, you may expand it (and any subgroups it might have) and start editing immediately. If not, you must first add it to the tree by choosing “New..” from the “Book” submenu or using the corresponding toolbar button.

Generally speaking, there are several ways to perform the same action in the address book editor:

1. use the menus: the commands for creating and deleting address book entries are in the “Edit” menu, the corresponding commands for the address books - in “Book” one.
2. use the toolbar: this may be more convenient because, depending on the current position of the selected item in the tree it will propose to create either an address book or an entry.
3. use keyboard: `⌘INSERT` key creates a new entry or address book if the current selection is the root of the tree, `⌘DELETE` deletes an item and `⌘Alt-ENTER` brings up the “Properties” dialog.

To edit the entry, simply select it in the tree. The data associated to it is spread over several notebook pages - select the one which contains the field you want to change and change it. If you want to undo your changes, simply press “Cancel” at any moment - however, this only works while you’re editing the entry. As soon as you pass to another one, all previous changes are saved and cannot be undone any more. The changes are saved automatically when you select another entry or close the address book editor - there is no special “Save” button.

To quickly move in the address book tree you may use either the “Find” or “Go to” dialogs (both available in the “Find” menu). The first dialog allows you to find the entry by its contents while the second one allows you to quickly go to the entry (in the current address book only) if you know its nickname. In the “Find” dialog you have several options to configure the search: it may be either case sensitive or not (should “mike” match “Mike?”) and try to find only the whole string or just the substring of it (should “mik” match “Mike?”). You may also choose among which fields should the search be done. You may choose as many fields as you like (possibly all of them) but you must choose at least one.

After you used the “Find” dialog once, you may choose the “Find next” menu item to go to the next address book entry matching your search criterion (notice that a message in the status bar will notify you about how many matches, if any, were found). Keep hitting “Find next” until the search wraps to the beginning (again, watch the status line for the message) or until you find the entry you’re looking for.

You may import your existing address book file by choosing the “Import book...” entry from the “Book” menu - this will open the address book import dialog proposing you to select the

1.8.3 Support for BBDB Address Books

Mahogany supports reading and writing of BBDB address book files. BBDB is the Big Brother DataBase used with the Emacs family of editors. If you have an existing address book file, usually called `.bbdb`, you can load it into Mahogany and use it. This is especially useful if you have an existing file with auto-collected email addresses that you want to continue to use.

Caution: The BBDB address book format supports different fields than Mahogany’s native database. When reading a BBDB file, Mahogany will only read the first two addresses and telephone numbers and assign them to the “Home” and “Work” addresses and phone numbers. All additional addresses and phone numbers, the AKA list and the comments will get lost. Mahogany will only save the information displayed in the address editor window. Currently saving of phone numbers to BBDB files is unsupported as it uses a different format from Mahogany. *Therefore, reading a BBDB file and saving it back to disk may lead to a loss of information!*

1.8.4 Support for Palm Address Books

Mahogany does currently support reading of Palm Addressbooks (referring to a “Palm” we mean the handheld organizer Palm Pilot running PalmOS). For being able to do that it is required to include the PalmOS-Module (see below). The support of Palm Addressbooks is not yet fully implemented, as so far it is only possible to download the addresses from the Palm and to display them. Changing and uploading changed/new addresses to the Palm is something we plan to add in the next release.

To display the Palm addressbook, create a new addressbook of type “PalmOS”. You will be asked to put your Palm into the cradle and to push the HotSync-button. After the download the addressbook is accessible in read-only mode. Restarting *Mahogany* requires to download the addressbook again.

Chapter 2

Scripting and Extending *Mahogany*

2.1 Python Scripting

2.1.1 Introduction

Mahogany has an embedded Python interpreter, if compiled with Python support enabled. Python is an object-oriented script language which can be used to write scripts to be executed by *Mahogany* or even to extend *Mahogany*'s functionality. Python scripts have full access to all internal *Mahogany* data structures and objects.

A number of user definable callback functions are available. Scripts have access to most objects living in *Mahogany*. Scripting can be disabled in the Preferences dialog (see 1.7.2).

Currently the scripting support is quite basic. If you are interested in writing scripts and need additional callbacks or support for them within *Mahogany*, please get in touch with the developers who will be happy to add it.

2.1.2 Initialisation

At startup, *Mahogany* will load a file called `Minit.py` and call the `Minit()` function defined in there, without any arguments.

2.1.3 Callback Functions (Hooks)

There are a number of callbacks available which will be called from different places within *Mahogany*. These are defined in the header file `Mcallbacks.h`. The documentation of these callbacks can be found in the Classes documentation (Classes online docs¹). All of these callbacks are called with at least two arguments:

1. The name of the hook for which the function got called, e.g. `FolderOpenHook`
2. A pointer to the object from which it was called. E.g. for `FolderOpenHook`, this would be a pointer to a `MailFolder` object. This object does not carry a useable type with it and needs to be converted in the callback, e.g. if the argument is called `arg` and the object is a `MailFolder`, the object must either be used as `MailFolder.MailFolder(arg)` or be converted as `mf = MailFolder.MailFolder(arg)`.
3. Some callbacks have a third argument. This is either a single value or a tuple holding several values.

2.1.4 Namespaces

To avoid repeatedly typing in the name of the module (`MailFolder` in this case), it can be imported into the global namespace with “`from MailFolder import *`”. By default modules are not imported into the global namespace and must be explicitly named.

¹classes/index.html

2.1.5 List of Callbacks

0 8 1 0 0 0 00 8 1 0 0 0 0	Callback Name	Object Type	Additional Arguments/Types	
	FolderOpenHook	MailFolder		
	FolderUpdateHook	MailFolder		
	FolderSetMessageFlag	MailFolder	(long) index of message	1 if ch
			(string) name of flag	
	FolderClearMessageFlag	MailFolder	(long) index of message	1 if ch
			(string) name of flag	
	FolderExpungeHook	MailFolder		
	FolderNewMailHook	MailFolder		1 to su
	GlobalNewMailHook	mApplication	(string) sender of mail	1 to su
			(string) subject of mail	

2.1.6 Supported Classes

Python has access to Mahogany's internal class hierarchy. At present we supply interface definitions and Python modules for only a small number of classes, however if there is need for more classes being supported, we can easily extend the list - please ask us if you want more support!

Some automatically generated documentation of the Python interface to Mahogany classes can be found in the doc/Python directory². Documentation about all classes, including those not available to Python, can be found in the doc/classes directory³.

2.2 Plugins

2.2.1 Introduction

Starting with release 0.5, *Mahogany* allows the use of plugins (modules). This allows for an easy and comfortable way to enlarge *Mahogany's* functionality. These modules can be loaded at runtime and do not need to be part of the main executable. At the time of release 0.5 we are still linking them statically,

²../Python/

³../classes/

but they can be loaded dynamically and future releases are likely to use this feature to keep the size of the main executable down.

2.2.2 The Filters Module

This module provides a filtering language for Mahogany. It allows you to have Mahogany look at different message properties, such as message contents, size or header lines and execute arbitrary action on them. The most common use would be to sort mails from different mailing lists in corresponding mail-folders, to reduce the number of messages in your main incoming mailbox. Filters can be specified in three possible ways:

- You can use the filters dialog. This is the most convenient and best supported option.
- You can write them by hand, using a simple programming language remotely similar to 'C', and put the filtering rules directly into the Mahogany configuration file or registry.
- You can write complex rules yourself, save them to a file and tell Mahogany to read the rules from that file.

The normal way to set up filters is to specify them in the filters dialog (2.2.2) and then tell Mahogany folder which of the filter rules to use for the individual folders with the folder filters dialog (2.2.2).

The Filters Dialog

This dialog allows you to define any number of filter rules available to Mahogany. In a separate dialog (2.2.2) you can then pick any rule from the list and assign it to a folder. As you can have different sets of rules for each folder and might want to share rules for some folders, this dialog simply sets up rules and you can later specify for which folders to use them. When editing or adding a new filter rule, you will get to the following dialog:

The Filter-Rule Dialog

This dialog allows you to set up or edit an individual filtering rule, it contains of the following components:

- The rule name, in the text entry field at the very top. This name is only to help you remember what the rule does and will appear in the list of rules in the main Filters Dialog, but is without any further significance.
- Underneath the name, you find the text “If Message...” followed by at least one row of conditioncontrols.
- Under the condition controls you find the text “Then do this:” followed by some action controls.

You can add more pattern matching controls by pressing the [More] button, and you can delete the last pattern matching rule by pressing the [Less] button. The number of actions to execute is fixed to one.

You can use several condition and connect them via logical AND and OR, optionally negating them by ticking the [Not] box. The following conditions can be tested for at present:

- Always - this rule will always be executed
- Contains - check if the text next to it is contained in the message component selected
- Match - check if the message component selected is exactly this text (case independent)
- Match Case - check if the message compent selected is exactly this text (case dependent)
- Match RegExp - check if the message compent selected matches the regular expression specified
- Larger Than - check if the message is larger than this in KByte
- Smaller Than - check if the message is smaller than this in KByte
- Older Than - check if the message is older than this many days
- Newer Than - check if the message is newer than this many days
- Is SPAM - check if the message originates from a system blacklisted as sending unsolicited emails (SPAM).

- Python - execute the text in the box in the built-in Python interpreter and proceed if it returns a non-0 result.

The possible actions which can be performed, are:

- Delete - deletes the message
- Copy to - copies the message to the folder specified
- Move to - moves the message to the folder specified
- Expunge - expunge all messages in this folder
- MessageBox - open a message box dialog with the text specified
- LogEntry - add the text specified to the log window
- Python - execute the text specified in the built-in Python interpreter

If you are not using a Trash folder, it is a good idea to add a rule at the end of the list of filtering rules, that always expunges all messages. For testing filters, you can leave that rule disabled, and all messages will get treated and marked as deleted, but stay around. Only when expunge is executed, will they really disappear in the original mailbox. Notice, if you are using a Trash folder, this does not apply, as messages won't be marked as deleted but moved straight to Trash.

The Folder Filters dialog

This dialog allows you to assign filter rules to a folder. You can pick them from the set of existing filter rules (set up via the Filters Dialog (2.2.2)) and change the order of the rules. The listbox on the left lists the existing filtering rules for the currently selected folder in the order in which they are executed. You can use the buttons to change the order or rules. You can also activate/deactivate rules by clicking on the little checkbox ([X] or []) next to their name.

If you want to apply rules to all incoming messages and are collecting mail from different servers, simply apply the rules to the "New Mail" folder if you have one, alternatively you can set up rules for individual servers or INBOX.

2.2.3 The PalmOS Module

When 3Com released its first PalmPilots several years ago, many people did not believe in a success. But they were proven wrong, the Palm Pilot (or short: Palm) is today the most used handheld organizer.

For all the people possessing one of thoses little helpers, the PalmOS Module allows (or will allow) for an easy integration of the Palms data in Mahogany. In future releases there will be full support for addressbook synching, schedules etc. Currently you can only view the Palms addressbook (see above) and use *Mahogany* as your Palm desktop software.

Desktop functionality

As there is not really a common Palm desktop in the Unix/Linux environment (not like under MS Windows), we thought it a nice idea to include the desktop into *Mahogany*. Therefore *Mahogany* does allow to

- create backups of the Palms databases using the “Backup” function
- restore the previously backup-ed databases using the “Restore” function
- install new files to the Palm using the “Install” function

To use this functionality, you must of course have the PalmOS module enabled. You can access the functions via the Plugin menu. In addition to the above mentioned tasks, you can specify quite a lot of options to adapt for instance the backup process to your personal needs.

There is an additional function not mentioned yet, labelled “Synchronize”. Via the configuration dialog you can specify what should happen during synchronization - starting with mail exchange, backups and automatic installations. Read the following section about the configuration dialog to get see how you can customize your PalmOS-Module.

The configuration dialog

You can configure the PalmOS module via the Plugin menu in a lot of ways. Lets go through every single item in the configuration dialog which you can access using the Plugin-Menu:

Synchronise Mail When you have this enabled, you can specify a mailbox which will be used as place of exchange for mails. Mails in this folder will be transfered to the Palm at the next hotsync and the outbox of the Palms mail program will be send. This mailbox is also used as a configuration setting for messages sent. *Mahogany* will use the properties of this mailbox when sending the messages retrieved from the Palm's Outbox. If you have enabled the "advanced user" option in the program preferences' identity tab, you can set up a separate return-address or completely different options for this mailbox and therefore have the mail sent from the PalmPilot with different settings as those sent normally. The options for user name and return address as set on the Palm are ignored when mails are sent with *Mahogany*.

Mailbox for Exchange Enter here the name of the mailbox that should be used for mail exchange when you have the "Synchronise Mail" feature enabled (see above).

Mail disposal mode This specifies what to do with outgoing e-mails retrieved from the PalmPilot and sent. You have three options:

- file : move messages from Outbox to Filed mailbox on the Palm
- delete : delete messages after sending
- keep : keep messages in Palm's Outbox

Always do Backup Setting this checkbox to true will make a backup take place every time you "Synchronize".

Directory for backup files This field does contain a valid directory path where the PalmOS-Module will store the backup of your Palms databases.

Delete no longer existing backups This checkbox determines whether you want files to be deleted on the PC that are residing in the backup directory but are not any longer on the Palm. This makes it possible to really keep the backup identical to the Palm, but has the disadvantage that you might loose data if you (accidently?) delete important data on the Palm and do a backup, as the backup-ed databases will be deleted too. So think carefully whether you do really want to do this.

Make incremental backup only Enable this checkbox if you only want to make an incremental backup. Using this features will speed the backup process up, as only changed or new databases are downloaded from the Palm.

Backup all databases Enabling this checkbox will make the PalmOS-Module ignore the backup flags of the databases. By default the PalmOS-Module does only backup files with a set backup flag. Use this option if you want all files to be backedup.

Exclude these databases Here you can specify a comma separated list of databases (without spaces!) that should not be backedup.

Do auto-install Using this feature enables the auto-install feature and everytime you “Synchronize” the module will check the auto-install directory for Palm databases. If databases are found they will be installed and deleted without further notice!

Auto-install directory Specify here a directory where the files to be auto-installed can be found.

Besides that, some general options are available:

Pilot device Here you can specify the device where the Pilot is residing (this ought to be /dev/pilot under Unix/Linux and Com1: or Com2: under MS Windows (not yet supported)).

Connection speed You have the choice beetween different hotsync speeds (“connection speed”), measured in baud.

Try to lock device You can force a lock of the above set device by enabling “Try to lock device”

Accessing the Palms

There is the “general” approach to get the Palm databases on your computer and the more selective one. For the first one, just use the “Synchronize” menu point in the plugin menu. Depending on what you have enabled in the configuration dialog (see above), different actions will be taken (backup, mail exchange, ...).

If you only want to update your backup or to install a file or to restore your Palms contents, you can access these functions individually by using the corresponding menu points in the plugin menu.

Chapter 3

Getting Help and Support

3.1 WWW Support

Mahogany has a home on the world wide web where you can get up to date information about development and the last releases. Come and visit us at the Mahogany Homepage¹

3.2 Mailing Lists

Several mailing lists exist to contact the developers, to receive updates of new releases and to exchange information and experiences with other users. Please visit the Mahogany Project Page² for more information and to join the lists.

If you want to help further development of Mahogany, please go to the same place and you will find all the information you need about how to contribute or how to contact us.

¹<http://mahogany.sourceforge.net/>

²<http://sourceforge.net/projects/mahogany>

Chapter 4

Compiling *Mahogany* from source

For detailed information on how to compile Mahogany yourself and how to change it or get involved in its development, please refer to the Hackers' Guide, included either in the online docs¹ or on the Mahogany Web page².

Some quick notes about common compilation problems can be found in the FAQ, in section 5.1.3.

¹../HackersGuide/index.html

²<http://www.wxwindows.org/Mahogany/docs.html>

Chapter 5

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

Being a brand new program, this section is currently pretty empty. However, we will constantly update this chapter with questions received on the mailing lists.

5.1 Installation Problems

5.1.1 All Mahogany icons show a questionmark

I'm a linuxuser (redhat) who just found Mahogany and really likes it, but I have a problem, I cant get all the widgets to work, the pictures on the buttons and the ones before the mailboxes all appear as an questionmark. Do I need some library to make it look like your screenshot? If you would assist me in this matter I would be very grateful.

It depends how you installed it. If the icon with the questionmark appears, it means that Mahogany didn't find its installation directory with the icons. If you installed the linux version from the .tar.gz with the binary, it should go into /usr/local or a similar place and you should have the icons in /usr/local/share/M/icons. If they are not there, Mahogany cannot find them. If you have installed it in a different location, Mahogany should ask you for the installation ("global Mahogany directory") when you start it for the first time.

If you have compiled it yourself, make sure you do a "make install" or

”make install_all” (of which parts might fail, depending on your setup), to install everything in the right place. If you just grabbed the binary of the daily snapshot, you need to have a working Mahogany installation as well or it won’t get the icons. You do not need any additional library, Mahogany handles xpm files internally.

5.1.2 How do I unpack the compressed files?

The distribution files for Solaris and some of the other ones, are in compressed tar format, having the ending `.tar.gz`. To unpack them, you need `gzip` and `tar`. Change to the directory where you want to install Mahogany, e.g to `/usr` or `/opt` or `/usr/local` and issue the following command:

```
gzip -dc < thedistributionfile | tar xvof -
```

Where `thedistributionfile` is the complete path to the file you downloaded. You will need to have proper write access to the directory where you install it and `tar` should show you a list of all files being installed as it unpacks them.

5.1.3 Compiling aborts with errors

A common problem with compiling wxGTK and Mahogany is, that you need to follow the instructions in Mahogany’s README file and use the configure script to set them up as explained. If you use different arguments for configure than those shown in README, things will not work! Also, before running configure again, remove any `*.cache` and `*status` files in the working directory or configure will re-use some old settings.

Also, as we are omitting some unused subdirectories from the wxGTK source, to save you download time, you may need to run “make -k” rather than just “make” to get it to ignore some errors caused by this. On non-Linux/GNU systems, you need to use the GNU linker, i.e. “gmake” rather than the default “make”.

make fails

If Mahogany’s own make process fails after configuring it, this is likely caused by the “make depend” stage. Simply run “make -i depend” from the toplevel

(mahogany-0.50) directory and it will run through, ignoring all errors. After that, a normal “make” will succeed.

5.1.4 How can I get it to compile on Caldera Linux?

You will need to install a libcrypt library with a working crypt() function. The source for one such library can be found on the Mahogany ftp server.

5.1.5 Mahogany fails to find wxWindows, Configure fails

The following steps should identify and solve the problem:

1. Do a “make install” for wxWindows and watch the output, it should copy lots of things to /usr/local/....
2. Do a “which wx-config”, it should report wx-config to be in /usr/local/bin
3. Just type “wx-config -cflags”, it should run the wx-config script and report the compiler flags, which should include something like “-I/usr/local/include”.
4. Then go to the Mahogany directory and “rm *cache*” to remove old configuration info and run ./configure
5. This *should* find wx/wx.h if all of the above worked, if not, look at the end of config.log to see what went wrong.
6. If it does not find the wxWindows library, you need to add /usr/local/lib to either your LD_LIBRARY_PATH or to /etc/ld.conf (and run ldconfig as root), then remove *cache* and try again. Again, if something fails, look at config.log.

5.2 Other Problems / Questions

5.2.1 The Preferences Dialog does not show up properly

When I set up Mahogany or select the preferences dialog, its contents do not appear. Sometimes I cannot enter anything in the fields.

wxGTK has a problem with constraint handling which can cause this dialog to sometimes get into an endless loop trying to do the layout. On most windowmanagers it helps if you resize the dialog a little and it will appear correctly. This seems to depend on the platform and windowmanager. Also, wxGTK does not seem to work correctly with OpenLook which does not allow you to enter anything.

5.2.2 How do I access mail downloaded via fetchpop/procmail?

I use fetchpop and procmail to deliver my mail (Redhat Linux). I'm reading mail with Netscape right now and I want to move to M. I cannot for the life of me get M to open my files when it loads. I have to open them manually. Can someone please help me (if its possible) to get M to open all of my Linux Folders at startup.

You should be able to right-click on the folder treecontrol on the left of the main screen and "Create a new folder". Make it of type "file" and specify the path to the folder file as the filename. Your normal mailspool /var/spool/mail/username is available under the name INBOX anyway, but I guess you have fetchpop/procmail deliver your mail to some other place.

5.2.3 Mahogany cannot create some files when run as root

Mahogany will not work properly when executed by the `root` super-user. The underlying mail handling library used in Mahogany will change to some other user id for security reasons and therefore the program will not be able to create some files needed. For security reasons it is a bad idea anyway to run any X11 application as `root`.

5.2.4 Does Mahogany have group aliases?

Mahogany supports alias expansion for individual entries and for groups. There are two ways in which you can expand an alias to a group of addresses:

- The quick and dirty approach: Create an addressbook entry and simply list multiple, comma separated, addresses in its Email field. Mahogany will use the whole contents of this field when expanding aliases.

- The more elegant method: Create a new group in your addressbook and add the individual addresses as sub-entries of this group. If you use the group name as a mail alias, Mahogany will expand it to the list of email addresses of all of its group members. This is more powerful, as you can easily add and remove entries to sub groups.

5.2.5 How can I set up my POP3 access (applies to IMAP, too)?

It is not immediately apparent how to set up my POP3 server under 0.23a, can someone give me a hand, please? It appears there is no section in the initial configuration utility for this.

Mahogany allows you to have as many folders or mail accounts as you like. That's why it doesn't ask you at the beginning. To add a POP account:

1. right click on the folder tree and choose "Create Folder"
 2. give the folder a name, set its type to POP and fill in the required fields, such as server and login
 3. Click on [OK]. The folder will now appear in the tree
 4. Double-click on the folder to open it.
- If opening fails, right click on it again and choose "Properties", make sure that all settings are correct. I found that occasionally some setting would not get set properly in the Windows version. Setting it again fixes it.
 - - If you want Mahogany to collect all mail from that box, you can tick that checkbox and whenever Mahogany starts, it will open that box and continue collecting all mail from there and move it to the "New Mail" folder.

5.2.6 How can I set up IMAP access?

Follow the rules for setting up POP3 access^{5.2.5} but set the folder type to be "IMAP mailbox". Then enter the name of your IMAP server, your username and password (or leave it empty to be asked later) for that server

and, optionally, the path to the mailbox on the IMAP server. You can leave the path empty, and it will use the default mailbox (INBOX).

If you want to access many IMAP folders on the same server, or a directory there, you can create foldertree entries representing the IMAP server itself (i.e. the top-level directory on it) or a directory on the IMAP server. For these, if not using the Wizard dialog, make sure that the folder properties dialog has the “is directory” checkbox ticked, which tells Mahogany that it is not a mailbox file to open, but a directory which can be browsed for entries via the popup menu.

5.2.7 Can I have multiple POP or IMAP accounts?

Can I access multiple different POP3 or IMAP accounts?

Yes, *Mahogany* allows you to have any number of different folders configured. Just right-click on the folder tree control and choose the “Create Folder...” option from the popup-menu. You can then switch between the different folders by selecting them (usually with a double-click on the tree control) for display in the main window, or, by selecting “Open” from the popup-menu which will open the folders in their own individual windows.

You can also select the “Collect all mail from this folder” option when creating the entries for them (or later, via the “Preferences” popup-menu option) to let *Mahogany* automatically check these accounts for new mail and collect it from there.

5.2.8 Can I have multiple identities?

Does Mahogany allow me to send email as different people? That is, if I monitor two IMAP or POP servers, one for my work email, and one for my home email, can I reply to emails and specify it to use my home or work email address as the sender?

Yes, you can set almost **all** options on a per-folder basis, including your name or return address, even outgoing SMTP servers to make it perfect. To have full access to all these configuration options in the folder properties dialog, you must first set your user level to “advanced” in the main configuration dialog, otherwise only a small subset of configuration options is available.

5.2.9 Can I run Mahogany as root?

Very simple question: can I run Mahogany on a unix system as the superuser (root)?

Not directly. There are two problems with it:

1. It is not a good idea for security reasons. In fact, you should not even run X11 as root. Though, we would not dare to impose that on you, if you want to, that is your problem.
2. The technical reason, and this is why Mahogany does not allow it: The c-client library that we use for accessing mail folders and servers uses the user-Id 0 (root) internally and does not work when called as root. When inquiring why this is so, c-client's author told us that it was bad to read mail as root - he thinks he knows what is good for you. Unless we find an easy way to circumvent that problem, you will not be able to run Mahogany as root as we have no time and desire to re-write the c-client library just for this.

There is a workaround however:

You can forward your email to another user, say "user1", by creating a `/root/.forward` file containing that user's name. Then, run Mahogany through the "su" command: `"su user1 -c mahogany"`. This will work just fine. If you get an error message about it being unable to access your X11 display, do a `"xhost localhost"` before, which will allow all local users to access your display. All this is not very safe from a security point of view if you don't trust your local machine, but perfectly fine for standalone or dialup boxes.

5.2.10 How can I set which language to use?

Under Unix: simply set and export your LANG environment variable like for any other program, too. Under Windows: the environment variable LANG will be recognised if it is set, but in addition Mahogany will automatically detect which language your system is set to use.

5.2.11 How can I delete messages?

If I press 'D' or use the menu to delete messages, they get marked as deleted but never disappear. How can I delete them?

Simple, press '#' or 'x' or select Message/Expunge from the menu. Mahogany will also ask you if you want to expunge them when closing the folder. If you use the Trash folder, this only applies to that one as all other folders will move messages straight to Trash instead of marking them deleted.

5.2.12 Commands in the folder viewer get executed twice, keybindings are funny

When copying messages via the 'C' key, I get the folder tree dialog twice. Trying to toggle header display by pressing 'H' toggles it and immediately switches back. What is going on?

It's caused by a last minute bug that sneaked into the stable release branch of wxWindows that we compiled our release with. We have reported it and it should be gone soon, so you could try to re-compile Mahogany with the very latest wxWindows version or try one of our daily recompiles which will have the fix in it as soon as it has been fixed.