Email and Communications

Hour 21

Objectives

- Unix e-mail commands:
  - mail
  - mailx
  - pine
  - elm
- Communications commands: write, talk, mesg, wall, and tty

E-Mail

Born on Unix

```
mail [ address ... ]  The original e-mail
  - Line-at-a-time input (i.e., you can’t edit a line after pressing enter)
  - Terminate by pressing EOF (usually control-D) as the first character
    on a line; replies EOT
  - Poor reader; not used much any more

mailx [ -s ] [ address ]  Extended mail
  - Little better than mail; not used much any more
  - A still-useful command: mailx -H prints a list of all mail headers or
    subjects

Both have largely been replaced by better programs like elm
  (electronic mail) and pine (a pun on elm)
```
**pine**

A good mail reader and composer

- pine
  - completely interactive
  - complete instructions

**Commands**

- ^C denotes control

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**elm**

A good mail reader and composer

- elm [-s "subject"] [ address ...]
  - more to read
  - vi to edit

See hour 7 for more

See hour 10 for vi
The **elm** Address Book

**Location and maintenance**
- `$HOME/.elm/aliases.text`
- **Format**
  - alias, alias, .. = comment = address
  - alias, alias, .. = comment = alias, alias, ...
  - dave, taylor = Dave Taylor = taylor@intuitive.com
  - dave, taylor = Taylor; Dave = taylor@intuitive.com
  - gurus = Unix Gurus = alan, john, dave, mike, richard, larry

**Updating and maintaining the address book**
- run `newalias` after editing `aliases.text`, creates `$HOME/aliases`
- Updating your personal alias file...processed 11 aliases.
- run `checkalias` to validate new entries
- `% checkalias dave`
- Expands to: `taylor@intuitive.com` (Dave Taylor)

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**Miscellaneous Commands**

A potpourri of communications commands

- **write userid [tty]** one-way, asynchronous communication
  - local system only
- **talk userid [tty]** two-way, split screen dialogue
  - local or remote system
- **wall** write all logged in users
- **mesg [y | n]** enable/disable messages (write, talk, wall) or report message status
- **tty** current terminal device