

## Re: Access to a POP3 mailbox

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2007-03/msg01229.html>

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- *From:* "C." <[colin.mckinnon@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:colin.mckinnon@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 22 Mar 2007 07:21:27 -0700
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On 22 Mar, 11:18, bill <nob...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I am in preliminary design of a contact management program. The user would like to use his current mail server (POP3 – remote).

<snip>

Using the IMAP functions can I write a PHP script to:  
scan the subject lines of all mail in the mailbox ?  
pop just certain messages from the inbox ?  
delete those messages from the inbox ?

Yes. Something like...

```
$in=imap_open(...);
$msgs=imap_headers($in); // gets the headers from the currently
available msgs
foreach ($msgs as $index=>$header) {
if (strstr($header, $look_for)) { // may want to explicitly extract
the subject
$email=imap_fetchstructure($in, $index);
if ($email && save($email)) {
imap_delete($in, $index);
}
}
}
imap_expunge($in);
imap_close($in);
```

all without disturbing the other messages in his inbox that are downloaded to his usual email client (Thunderbird).

....but you need to make sure that he doesn't delete your meessages from the mailbox when he downloads the other stuff.

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If anyone can suggest a better way to do this, I am all ears.

It'd be a lot better to handle the messages synchronously, e.g. with a custom procmail script launching the PHP script. But that rather depends on having POSIX or similar on the MTA or MUA box.

C.

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