

Re: tcllib mime smtp proc sends BCC mail copies as attachments

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Tcl/comp.lang.tcl/2008-01/msg00648.html>

- *From:* "tom.rmadilo" <tom.rmadilo@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 13 Jan 2008 09:50:42 -0800 (PST)
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On Jan 13, 3:13 am, Pat Thoyts <cnggub...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

There is a bug here. If it gets raised as a bug – or someone provides a patch then it will get fixed.

Is there a better place to discuss the issue? Although buggy, any change will now introduce changed behavior. I never advocate supporting bugs, but email is somewhat sensitive. Input from those relying on current behavior might help.

SMTP has no BCC support explicitly. The package should send the same body to each recipient in the BCC list as for the TO list. The only difference should be that for the BCC list we reset the SMTP session and issue a new MAIL TO so that noone else sees the list of BCC'd recipients.

Given some of the other limitations/requirements of the SMTP protocol, this seems like a brief outline of the steps and what should be sent (most of this is already done I think, I'm just explaining my thoughts, not teaching anyone, please correct any errors)

First, not just the body, but the full TO and CC headers should be sent to each recipient. This is simply the stuff after the DATA verb. This 'stuff' should be the same to everyone. The smtp proc reads an original message which includes the TO/CC and BCC headers and transforms this into the actual message to send, it might add headers, and it removes the BCC header.

1. read original message and create list of primary recipient, secondary recipients and bcc recipients. (and figure out MAIL From).
2. finalize the text of the actual message (leaving intact the TO and CC headers, removing BCC, adding any additional stuff).

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3. contact the smtp server to send the actual message. It may take more than one envelope to send to all recipients (some servers limit RCPT per envelope), but each 'session' goes something like this:

```
MAIL From:<from@xxxxxxxxxxx>
RCPT To:<primary@xxxxxxxxxxx>
RCPT To:<secondary-1@xxxxxxxxxxx>
....
RCPT To:<secondary-n@xxxxxxxxxxx> (check for server rejecting due to
too many rcpt)
DATA
(actual message)
..
RSET
```

Mail From:

The same loop can be done for the BCC recipients. RSET may not be required for some servers, but it is more universally used to clear the RCPT list.

It shouldn't be absolutely necessary to separate the BCC recipients from named recipients since none of the RCPT lines show up in the message. The only potential for problems is if the server records the list and somehow associates any reply as going to everyone on this list. This would be very bad behavior, and the only way around it would be to send each BCC recipient a message with a clean envelope (just one RCPT line). I would actually recommend anyone handling sensitive email lists to verify how their clients and servers work, before something unexpected happens. (Like a congressional staffer sending a CC to all whistle-blowers, very nice!) CC is, in fact, the bigger problem, which is why BCC must work correctly.

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