

E-Mail Applications

by John C.E. D'Alton

There are three main possible roads people can take when using the Internet E-Mail system.

1. Use a M\$oft Windows operating system in a sensible manner.
2. Use a GNU/Linux operating system on an Intel PC.
3. Use an Apple PC with its UNIX or Apple based operating system.

For most people numero uno (1) is the option so that's what I'M going to talk about here.

1. Use a M\$oft Windows operating system in a sensible manner.

Until I switched over to using (2) GNU/Linux system about four years ago, I like most people used (1) MicroSoft's Windows system. This was from about 1993 which means I had about ten years experience using various E-Mail applications. In that time I learnt that one has to know more than just clicking on the usual MS buttons.

Because Bill Gates did not think that the Internet was going to be popular there wasn't any MicroSoft Web browser or E-Mail applications written by them. In about 1994 he realised that the Internet was going to be a big money spinner so both applications were included in Windows95. This meant that before then these two types of applications were written by other people including apps called Pegasus Mail and Eudora.

The first thing I suggest people should do is not use MS Outlook Express or Outlook but instead install a different E-Mail application. There are many, about ten, some free and some cost only a little. MS OE and Outlook are very susceptible to viruses and hacking as everyone has seen on TV and read. To make thing worse the danger is increased when Attachments

are included in E-Mails. And so it goes on, more trouble than it's worth.



Pegasus Mail

Pegasus Mail is written by a New Zealander and is free but it is not Open Source Software (OSS).

It can be copied and passed on to anyone. I had used it for about eight years. He sells his operating manual to earn a little for his trouble. Its logo is the flying horse. It is a small application and can be downloaded from the Internet at www.pmail.com or obtained on computer magazine cover CDs or from myself.

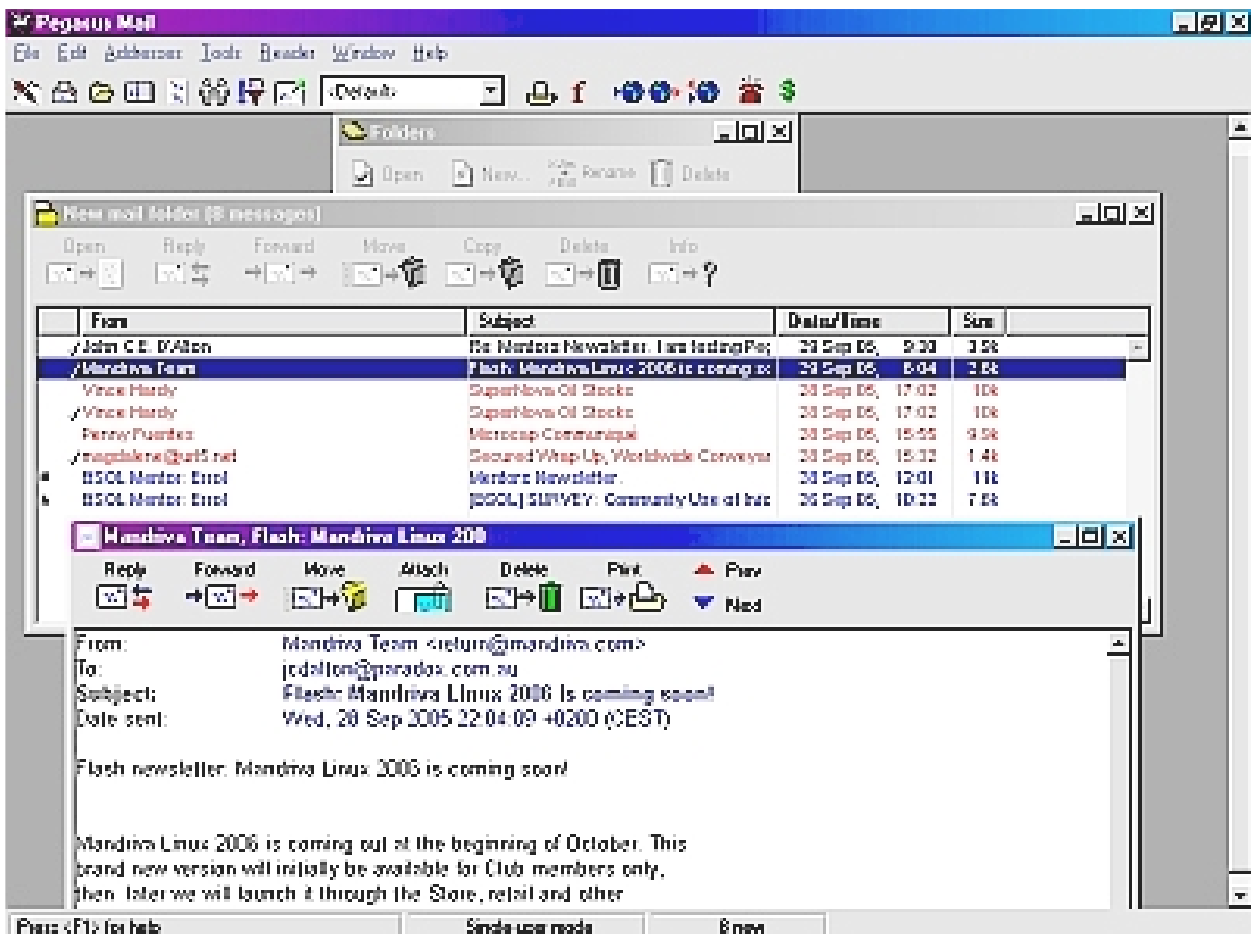
Pegasus Mail installs easily on Intel PCs running W95 and later. The main feature of Pegasus Mail is that one can choose to only download the E-Mail Headers from ones ISP. This is called "Selective Mail Download" as shown in the image here.

There are three options.

1. One can delete the E-Mail/s from the ISP.
 2. Retrieve the E-Mail/s but keep the E-Mail/s on the ISP.
- This is useful if one works with E-Mails from more than one location.

3. Retrieve and delete the E-Mail/s from the ISP which is the usual function of E-Mail apps.





This function of Pegasus Mail and other E-Mail apps uses a protocol called IMAP which can be set-up in MS OE and Outlook but it's rather technical. There are other features in Pegasus Mail which I won't go into here. Here is a screen shot image of Pegasus Mail with a message in the reading pane.

PopCorn and JMail

A decade or so ago one needed to be rather technical minded to use one's E-Mail system if one was in another country. There were no such thing as Web based E-Mail systems such as Hotmail and others. In the late 1990s Web Hotmail became a reality and also little apps that fitted onto a 9cm floppy disk. PopCorn and JMail are just two such apps of which I use on occasions.

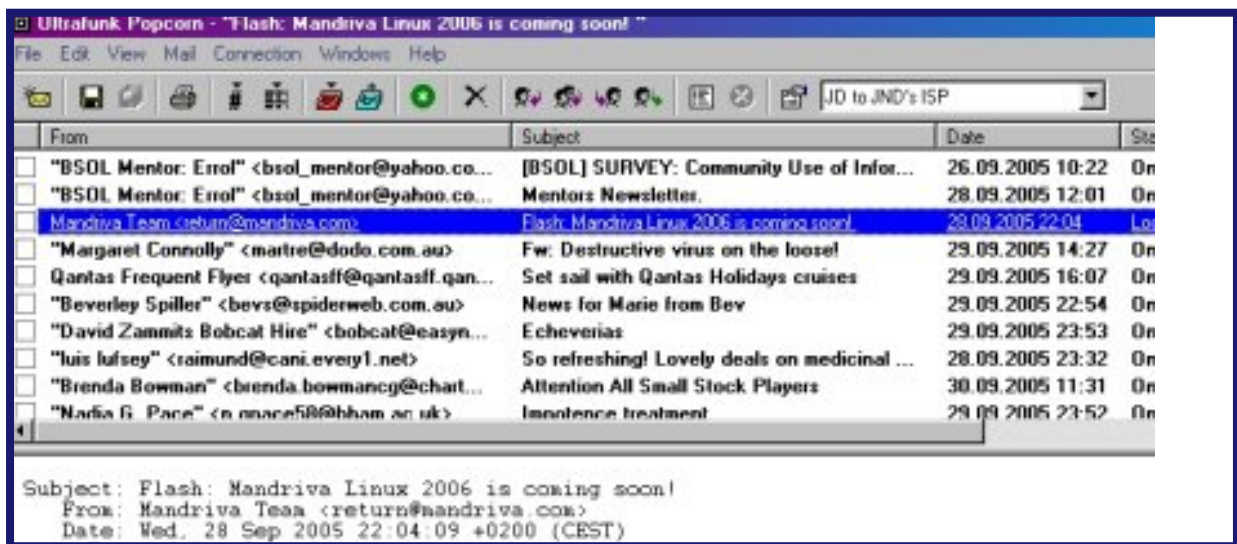
I will talk about PopCorn.

PopCorn is a small app about 150kb in file size so easily fits onto a 9cm floppy

disk which can be carried in a purse or pocket. When one needs to use PopCorn, access to a 9cm floppy drive and being allowed to use it and the PC is logged onto the Internet is required. Your own PC, your friends PC, an Internet café PC and so on. Anywhere in the world.

PopCorn is NOT installed onto the PC, no Registry entries or files written onto the PC.

The first time PopCorn is used the usual E-Mail Set-Up data is typed in or selected, address and password etc. Click on a button and PopCorn connects to one's ISP and the Headers are downloaded, just the Headers, NOT the message and Attachments if there are any which are displayed in a window similar to most E-Mail apps, including MS OE. No drama there. The screen shot above shows PopCorn with the Headers and the little boxes on the left on each line where one puts a tick indicating the ones that



are chosen to be deleted. The dark line on the third header down from the top was clicked so I could read the text of the message from Mandriva. This means that all or part of that message was downloaded into my PC.

One can choose:

1. Delete E-Mail/s off the ISP.
2. Retrieve and read E-Mail/s.

Because PopCorn is a very small app one can only see and Save text, not Attachment/s/images in the message pane.

One can download the E-Mail/s on one's main PC to do that.

I use a similar little app in GNU/Linux to delete the junk/SPAM E-Mails before downloading to my E-Mail app.

Using Pegasus Mail and PopCorn is considered to be 95% Virus proof. Other such apps, Linux and Apple give the same type of protection. There are so many areas in MSoft software that hackers can write virus' to give users problems.

E-Mail Etiquette

I hope to place an article on one of my pages on my Web site at www.paradox.com.au/~jcdalton in the future. The most important thing I point out is about the Subject Line in an E-Mail.

If I do not see a decent Subject Line I usually delete the E-Mail directly off my ISP.

Bad Subject Lines could be:

1. Happy Birthday
2. Information you requested
3. Hello John
4. Glad to have met you at

Wednesdays gathering.

Don't type in (1) (2) or (3).

A good Subject Line instead of (4) would be;

Glad to have met you John at Wednesdays BSOL gathering at Chermside.

There are sixty-eight characters there which is a bit long but you get my point.

The added words; Wednesday, BSOL, Chermside, John means I would download the E-Mail.

My ISP Inbox receives about one hundred E-Mails per week so I don't have the time to waste trying to figure out which are good E-Mails or SPAM.

It's a good idea to type the abbreviated text of the club or group the E-Mail concerns. Such as BSOL, U3A, ALP or similar. Remember, people do have varied interests. Please spend more time so the system runs better for all, including oneself.

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I use GNU/Linux Mandriva 2005 LE
 and Scribus