

# **Sympa**

## **Mailing Lists Management Software**

### **version 5.1**

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# Chapitre 1

## Presentation

*Sympa* is an electronic mailing list manager. It is used to automate list management functions such as subscription, moderation, archive and shared document management. It also includes management functions which would normally require a substantial amount of work (time-consuming and costly for the list owner). These functions include automatic management of subscription renewals, list maintenance, and many others.

*Sympa* manages many different kinds of lists. It includes a web interface for all list functions including management. It allows a precise definition of each list feature, such as sender authorization, the moderating process, etc. *Sympa* defines, for each feature of each list, exactly who is authorized to perform the relevant operations, along with the authentication method to be used. Currently, authentication can be based on either an SMTP From header, a password, or an S/MIME signature.

*Sympa* is also able to extract electronic addresses from an LDAP directory or SQL server, and include them dynamically in a list.

*Sympa* manages the dispatching of messages, and makes it possible to reduce the load on the computer system where it is installed. In configurations with sufficient memory, *Sympa* is especially well adapted to handling large lists : for a list of 20,000 subscribers, it requires less than 6 minutes to send a message to 95 percent of the subscribers, assuming that the network is available (tested on a 300 MHz, 256 MB i386 server with Linux).

This guide covers the installation, configuration and management of the current release (5.1) of *sympa*.

## 1.1 License

*Sympa* is free software ; you may distribute it under the terms of the GNU General Public License Version 2<sup>1</sup>

You may make and give away verbatim copies of the source form of this package without restriction, provided that you duplicate all of the original copyright notices and associated disclaimers.

## 1.2 Features

*Sympa* provides all the basic features that any mailing list management robot should include. While most *Sympa* features have their equivalents in other mailing list applications, *Sympa* is unique in including features in a single software package, including :

- **High speed distribution processing and load control.** *Sympa* can be tuned to allow the system administrator to control the amount of computer resources used. Its optimized algorithm allows :
  - the use of your preferred SMTP engine, e.g. `sendmail`, `qmail` or `postfix`
  - tuning of the maximum number of SMTP child processes
  - grouping of messages according to recipients' domains, and tuning of the grouping factor
  - detailed logging
- **Multilingual** user interface. The full user/admin interface (mail and web) is internationalized. Translations are gathered in a standard PO file.
- **Template based** user interface. Every web page and service message can be customized via **TT2** template format.
- **MIME support.** *Sympa* naturally respects MIME in the distribution process, and in addition allows list owners to configure their lists with welcome, goodbye and other predefined messages using complex MIME structures. For example, a welcome message can be in multipart/alternative format, using **text/html**, **audio/x-wav** :-), or whatever (Note that *Sympa* commands in multipart messages are successfully processed, provided that one part is **text/plain** ).
- The **sending process is controlled** on a per-list basis. The list definition allows a number of different actions for each incoming message. A `private` list is a list where only subscribers can send messages. A list configured using `privateeditorkey` mode accepts incoming messages from subscribers, but will forward any other (i.e. non-subscriber) message to the editor with a one-time secret numeric key that will be used by the editor to *reject* or *distribute* it. For details about the different sending modes, refer to the `send` parameter (18.3.8, page 176). The sending process configuration (as well as most other list operations) is defined using an **authorization scenario**. Any listmaster can define new authorization scenarios in order to complement the 20 predefined configurations included in the distribution.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>

Example : forward multipart messages to the list editor, while distributing others without requiring any further authorization.

- Privileged operations can be performed by list editors or list owners (or any other user category), as defined in the `list config` file or by the robot administrator, the listmaster, defined in the `/etc/sympa.conf` global configuration file (listmaster can also be defined for a particular virtual robot). Privileged operations include the usual ADD, DELETE or REVIEW commands, which can be authenticated via a one-time password or an S/MIME signature. Any list owner using the EXPIRE command can require the renewal of subscriptions. This is made possible by the presence of a subscription date stored in the *Sympa* database.
- textbf Web interface : *WWSympa* is a global Web interface to all *Sympa* functions (including administration). It provides :
  - classification of lists, along with a search index
  - access control to all functions, including the list of lists (which makes *WWSympa* particularly well suited to be the main groupware tool within an intranet)
  - management of shared documents (download, upload, specific access control for each document)
  - an HTML document presenting each user with the list of her current subscriptions, including access to archives, and subscription options
  - management tools for list managers (bounce processing, changing of list parameters, moderating incoming messages)
  - tools for the robot administrator (list creation, global robot configuration) (See 8.1, page 79)
- **RDBMS** : the internal subscriber and administrative data structure can be stored in a database or, for compatibility with versions 1.x, in text files for subscriber data. The introduction of databases came out of the *WWSympa* project. The database ensures a secure access to shared data. The PERL database API DBI/DBD enables interoperability with various RDBMS (MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, Sybase). (See ref sec-rdbms, page 69)
- **Virtual robots** : a single *Sympa* installation can provide multiple virtual robots with both email and web interface customization (See 13, page 121).
- **LDAP-based mailing lists** : e-mail addresses can be retrieved dynamically from a database accepting SQL queries, or from an LDAP directory. In the interest of reasonable response times, *Sympa* retains the data source in an internal cache controlled by a TTL (Time To Live) parameter. (See 18.2.6, page 169)
- **LDAP authentication** : via uid and emails stored in LDAP Directories. Alternative email addresses, extracted from LDAP directory, may be used to "unify" subscriptions. (See ref ldap-auth, page 104)
- **Antivirus scanner** : *Sympa* extracts attachments from incoming messages and run a virus scanner on them. Currently working with McAfee/uvscan, Fsecure/fsav, Sophos, AVP, Trend Micro/VirusWall and Clam Antivirus. (See ref antivirus, page 201)
- Inclusion of the subscribers of one list among the subscribers of another. This is real inclusion, not the dirty, multi-level cascading one might otherwise obtain by simply "subscribing list B to list A".
- channel RSS.

## 1.3 Project directions

*Sympa* is a very active project : check the release note [release note](http://www.sympa.org/release.html)<sup>2</sup>. So it is no longer possible to maintain multiple document about *Sympa* project direction. Please refer to [in-the-future document](http://www.sympa.org/sympa/direct/in-the-future.html)<sup>3</sup> for information about project direction.

## 1.4 History

*Sympa* development started from scratch in 1995. The goal was to ensure continuity with the TULP list manager, produced partly by the initial author of *Sympa* : Christophe Wolfhugel.

New features were required, which the TULP code was just not up to handling. The initial version of *Sympa* brought authentication, the flexible management of commands, high performances in internal data access, and object oriented code for easy code maintenance.

It took nearly two years to produce the first market releases.

Other date :

- Mar 1999 Internal use of a database (Mysql), definition of list subscriber with external datasource (RDBMS or LDAP).
- Oct 1999 Stable version of WWsympa, introduction of authorization scenarios.
- Feb 2000 Web bounces management
- Apr 2000 Archives search engine and message removal
- May 2000 List creation feature from the web
- Jan 2001 Support for S/MIME (signing and encryption), list setup through the web interface, Shared document repository for each list. Full rewrite of HTML look and feel
- Jun 2001 Auto-install of aliases at list creation time, antivirus scanner plugging
- Jan 2002 Virtual robot, LDAP authentication
- Aug 2003 Automatic bounces management
- Sep 2003 CAS-base and Shibboleth-based authentication
- Dec 2003 Sympa SOAP server
- Aug 2004 Changed for TT2 template format and PO catalogue format

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.sympa.org/release.html>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.sympa.org/sympa/direct/in-the-future.html>



## 1.5 Authors and credits

Christophe Wolfhugel is the author of the first beta version of *Sympa*. He developed it while working for the Institut Pasteur<sup>4</sup>.

Later developments have mainly been driven by the Comité Réseaux des Universités<sup>5</sup> (Olivier Salaün and Serge Aumont), who look after a large mailing list service.

Our thanks to all contributors, including :

- Gwenaëlle Bouteille who joined the development team for a few months and produced a great job for various features introduced in V5 (family, RSS, shared document moderation, ...).
- Pierre David, who in addition to his help and suggestions in developing the code, participated more than actively in producing this manual.
- David Lewis who corrected this documentation
- Philippe Rivière for his persevering in tuning *Sympa* for Postfix.
- Raphaël Hertzog (debian), Jerome Marant (debian) and Stéphane Poirey (redhat) for Linux packages.
- Loïc Dachary for guiding us through the *GNU Coding Standards*
- Vincent Mathieu, Lynda Amadouche, John Dalbec for their integration of LDAP features in *Sympa*.
- Olivier Lacroix, for all his perseverance in bug fixing.
- Hubert Ulliac for search in archive base on marcsearch.pm
- Florent Guilleux who wrote the Task Manager
- Nadia Euzen for developing the antivirus scanner pluggin.
- Fabien Marquois, who introduced many new features such as the digest.
- Valics Lehel, for his Romanian translations
- Vizi Szilard for his Hungarian translations
- Petr Prazak for his Czech translations
- Rodrigo Filgueira Prates for his Portuguese translations
- Lukasz Zalubski for his Polish translations
- Alex Nappa and Josep Roman for their Spanish translations
- Carsten Clasohm and Jens-Uwe Gaspar for their German translations
- Marco Ferrante for his Italian translations
- Tung Siu Fai, Wang Jian and Atrijus Tang for their Chinese translations
- and also : Manuel Valente, Dominique Rousseau, Laurent Ghys, Francois Petillon, Guy Brand, Jean Brange, Fabrice Gaillard, Hervé Maza, Harald Wilhelmi,
- Anonymous critics who never missed a chance to remind us that *smartlist* already did all that better.
- All contributors and beta-testers cited in the RELEASE\_NOTES file, who, by serving as guinea pigs and being the first to use it, made it possible to quickly and efficiently debug the *Sympa* software.
- Ollivier Robert, Usenet Canal Historique and the good manners guru in the PERL program.
- Bernard Barbier, without whom *Sympa* would not have a name.

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.pasteur.fr>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.cru.fr>

We ask all those we have forgotten to thank to accept our apologies and to let us know, so that we can correct this error in future releases of this documentation.

## 1.6 Mailing lists and support

If you wish to contact the authors of *Sympa*, please use the address `sympa-authors@cru.fr`.

There are also a few mailing-lists about *Sympa* <sup>6</sup> :

- `sympa-users@cru.fr` general info list
- `sympa-fr@cru.fr`, for French-speaking users
- `sympa-announce@cru.fr`, *Sympa* announcements
- `sympa-dev@cru.fr`, *Sympa* developers
- `sympa-translation@cru.fr`, *Sympa* translators

To join, send the following message to `sympa@cru.fr` :

`subscribe Listname Firstname Name`

(replace *Listname*, *Firstname* and *Name* by the list name, your first name and your family name).

You may also consult the *Sympa* home page, you will find the latest version, FAQ and so on.

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<sup>6</sup><http://listes.cru.fr/sympa/lists/informatique/sympa>

## Chapitre 2

# what does *Sympa* consist of ?

### 2.1 Organization

Here is a snapshot of what *Sympa* looks like once it has settled down on your system. This also illustrates the *Sympa* philosophy, I guess. Almost all configuration files can be defined for a particular list, for a virtual robot or for the whole site.

- /home/sympa  
The root directory of *Sympa*. You will find almost everything related to *Sympa* under this directory, except logs and main configuration files.
- /home/sympa/bin  
This directory contains the binaries, including the CGI. It also contains the default authorization scenarios, templates and configuration files as in the distribution. /home/sympa/bin may be completely overwritten by the `make install` so you must not customize templates and authorization scenarios under /home/sympa/bin.
- /home/sympa/bin/etc  
Here *Sympa* stores the default versions of what it will otherwise find in /home/sympa/etc (task models, authorization scenarios, templates and configuration files, recognized S/Mime certificates, families).
- /home/sympa/etc  
This is your site's configuration directory. Consult /home/sympa/bin/etc when drawing up your own.
- /home/sympa/etc/create\_list\_templates/  
List templates (suggested at list creation time).
- /home/sympa/etc/scenari/  
This directory will contain your authorization scenarios. If you don't know what the hell an authorization scenario is, refer to 12, page 115. Those authorization scenarios are default scenarios but you may look at /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/scenari/ for default scenarios of my.domain.org virtual robot and /home/sympa/expl/mylist/scenari for

- scenarios specific to a particular list
- /home/sympa/etc/data\_sources/  
This directory will contain your .incl files (see 15.7, page 138). For the moment it only deals with files required by paragraphs owner\_include and editor\_include in the config file.
- /home/sympa/etc/list\_task\_models/  
This directory will store your own list task models (see 14.10, page 131).
- /home/sympa/etc/global\_task\_models/  
Contains global task models of yours (see 14.10, page 131).
- /home/sympa/etc/web\_tt2/ (used to be /home/sympa/etc/www\_templates/)  
The web interface (WWSympa) is composed of template HTML files parsed by the CGI program. Templates can also be defined for a particular list in /home/sympa/expl/mylist/web\_tt2/ or in /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/web\_tt2/
- /home/sympa/etc/mail\_tt2/ (used to be /home/sympa/etc/templates/)  
Some of the mail robot's replies are defined by templates (welcome.tt2 for SUBSCRIBE). You can overload these template files in the individual list directories or for each virtual robot, but these are the defaults.
- /home/sympa/etc/families/  
Contains family directories of yours (see 16, page 145). Families directories can also be created in /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/families/
- /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org  
The directory to define the virtual robot my.domain.orgdedicated to management of all lists of this domain (list description of my.domain.orgare stored in /home/sympa/expl/my.domain.org). Those directories for virtual robots have the same structure as /home/sympa/etc which is the configuration dir of the default robot.
- /home/sympa/expl  
Sympa's working directory.
- /home/sympa/expl/mylist  
The list directory (refer to ??, page ??). Lists stored in this directory belong to the default robot as defined in sympa.conf file, but a list can be stored in /home/sympa/expl/my.domain.org/mylist directory and it is managed by my.domain.orgvirtual robot.
- /home/sympa/expl/X509-user-certs  
The directory where Sympa stores all user's certificates
- /home/sympa/locale  
Internationalization directory. It contains message catalogues in the GNU .po format.
- /home/sympa/spool  
Sympa uses 8 different spools (see 2.4, page 22).
- /home/sympa/src/  
Sympa sources.

## 2.2 Binaries

- sympd.pl  
The main daemon ; it processes commands and delivers messages. Continuously

- scans the msg/ spool.
- `sympa.wizard.pl`  
A wizard to edit `sympa.conf` and `wwsympa.conf`. Maybe it is a good idea to run it at the beginning, but those file can also be edited with your favorite text editor.
- `wwsympa.fcgi`  
The CGI program offering a complete web interface to mailing lists. It can work in both classical CGI and FastCGI modes, although we recommend FastCGI mode, being up to 10 times faster.
- `bounced.pl`  
This daemon processes bounces (non-delivered messages), looking for bad addresses. List owners will later access bounce information via *WWSympa*. Continuously scans the bounce/ spool.
- `archived.pl`  
This daemon feeds the web archives, converting messages to HTML format and linking them. It uses the amazing *MhOnArc*. Continuously scans the outgoing/ spool.
- `task_manager.pl`  
The daemon which manages the tasks : creation, checking, execution. It regularly scans the task/ spool.
- `sympa_soap_server.fcgi`  
The server will process SOAP (web services) request. This server requires FastCGI ; it should be referenced from within your HTTPS config.
- `queue`  
This small program gets the incoming messages from the aliases and stores them in msg/ spool.
- `bouncequeue`  
Same as queue for bounces. Stores bounces in bounce/ spool.

## 2.3 Configuration files

- `/etc/sympa.conf`  
The main configuration file. See 6, page 43.
- `/etc/wwsympa.conf`  
*WWSympa* configuration file. See 1.2, page 15.
- `edit_list.conf`  
Defines which parameters/files are editable by owners. See 16.4.4, page 150.
- `topics.conf`  
Contains the declarations of your site's topics (classification in *WWSympa*), along with their titles. A sample is provided in the `sample/` directory of the *sympa* distribution. See 14.7, page 129.
- `auth.conf`  
Defines authentication backend organisation ( LDAP-based authentication, CAS-based authentication and *sympa* internal )
- `robot.conf`  
It is a subset of `sympa.conf` defining a Virtual robot (one per Virtual robot).

## 2.4 Spools

See 6.6, page 53 for spool definition in `sympa.conf`.

- `/home/sympa/spool/auth/`  
For storing messages until they have been confirmed.
- `/home/sympa/spool/bounce/`  
For storing incoming bouncing messages.
- `/home/sympa/spool/digest/`  
For storing lists' digests before they are sent.
- `/home/sympa/spool/expire/`  
Used by the expire process.
- `/home/sympa/spool/mod/`  
For storing unmoderated messages.
- `/home/sympa/spool/msg/`  
For storing incoming messages (including commands).
- `/home/sympa/spool/msg/bad/`  
*Sympa* stores rejected messages in this directory
- `/home/sympa/spool/distribute/`  
For storing message ready for distribution. This spool is used only if the installation run 2 `sympa.pl` daemon, one for commands, one for messages.
- `/home/sympa/spool/distribute/bad/`  
*Sympa* stores rejected messages in this directory
- `/home/sympa/spool/task/`  
For storing all created tasks.
- `/home/sympa/spool/outgoing/`  
`sympa.pl` dumps messages in this spool to await archiving by `archived.pl`.

## 2.5 Roles and privileges

You can assign roles to users (via their email addresses) at different level in *Sympa*; privileges are associated (or can be associated) to these roles. We list these roles below (from the most powerful to the less), along with the relevant privileges.

### 2.5.1 (Super) listmasters

These are the persons administrating the service, defined in the `sympa.conf` file. They inherit the listmaster role in virtual robots and are the default set of listmasters for virtual robots.

### 2.5.2 (Robot) listmasters

You can define a different set of listmasters at a virtual robot level (in the `robot.conf` file). They are responsible for moderating mailing lists creation (if list creation is configured this way), editing default templates, providing help to list owners and moderators. Users defined as listmasters get a privileged access to Sympa web interface. Listmasters also inherit the privileges of list owners (for any list defined in the virtual robot), but not the moderator privileges.

### 2.5.3 Privileged list owners

The first defined privileged owner is the person who requested the list creation. Later it can be changed or extended. They inherit (basic) owners privileges and are also responsible for managing the list owners and editors themselves (via the web interface). With Sympa's default behavior, privileged owners can edit more list parameters than (basic) owners can do ; but this can be customized via the `edit-list.conf` file.

### 2.5.4 (Basic) list owners

They are responsible for managing the members of the list, editing the list configuration and templates. Owners (and privileged owners) are defined in the list config file.

### 2.5.5 Moderators (also called Editors)

Moderators are responsible for the messages distributed in the mailing list (as opposed to owners who look after list members). Moderators are active if the list has been setup as a moderated mailing list. If no moderator is defined for the list, then list owners will inherit the moderator role.

### 2.5.6 Subscribers (or list members)

Subscribers are the persons who are member of a mailing list ; they either subscribed, or got added directly by the listmaster or via a datasource (LDAP, SQL, another list,...). These subscribers receive messages posted in the list (unless they have set the `nomail` option) and have special privileges to post in the mailing list (unless it is a newsletter). Most privileges a subscriber may have is not hardcoded in Sympa but expressed via the so-called authorization scenarios (see 12, page 115).





## Chapitre 3

# Installing *Sympa*

*Sympa* is a program written in PERL. It also calls a short program written in C for tasks which it would be unreasonable to perform via an interpreted language.

### 3.1 Obtaining *Sympa*, related links

The *Sympa* distribution is available from <http://www.sympa.org>. All important resources are referenced there :

- sources
- RELEASE\_NOTES
- .rpm and .deb packages for Linux
- user mailing list (see 1.6, page 18)
- contributions
- ...

### 3.2 Prerequisites

*Sympa* installation and configuration are relatively easy tasks for experienced UNIX users who have already installed PERL packages.

Note that most of the installation time will involve putting in place the prerequisites, if they are not already on the system. No more than a handful of ancillary tools are needed, and on recent UNIX systems their installation is normally very straightforward. We strongly advise you to perform installation steps and checks in the order listed below ; these steps will be explained in detail in later sections.

- identification of host system characteristics
- installation of DB Berkeley module (already installed on most UNIX systems)
- installing a RDBMS (Oracle, MySQL, Sybase or PostgreSQL) and creating *Sympa*'s Database. This is required for using the web interface for *Sympa*. Please refers to *Sympa* and its database section (7, page 69).
- installation of CPAN CPAN (Comprehensive PERL Archive Network)<sup>1</sup> modules
- creation of a UNIX user

### 3.2.1 System requirements

You should have a UNIX system that is more or less recent in order to be able to use *Sympa*. In particular, it is necessary that your system have an ANSI C compiler (in other words, your compiler should support prototypes);

*Sympa* has been installed and tested on the following systems, therefore you should not have any special problems :

- Linux (various distributions)
- FreeBSD 2.2.x and 3.x
- NetBSD
- Digital UNIX 4.x
- Solaris 2.5 and 2.6
- AIX 4.x
- HP-UX 10.20

Anyone willing to port it to NT ? ;-)

Finally, most UNIX systems are now supplied with an ANSI C compiler; if this is not the case, you can install the gcc compiler, which you will find on the nearest GNU site, for example in France<sup>2</sup>.

To complete the installation, you should make sure that you have a sufficiently recent release of the sendmail MTA, i.e. release 8.9.x<sup>3</sup> or a more recent release. You may also use postfix or qmail.

### 3.2.2 Install Berkeley DB (NEWDB)

UNIX systems often include a particularly unsophisticated mechanism to manage indexed files. This consists of extensions known as dbm and ndbm, which are unable to meet the needs of many more recent programs, including *Sympa*, which uses the DB package initially developed at the University of California in Berkeley, and which is

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.perl.com/CPAN>

<sup>2</sup><ftp://ftp.oleane.net/pub/mirrors/gnu/>

<sup>3</sup><ftp://ftp.oleane.net/pub/mirrors/sendmail-ucb/>

now maintained by the company Sleepycat software<sup>4</sup>. Many UNIX systems like Linux, FreeBSD or Digital UNIX 4.x have the DB package in the standard version. If not you should install this tool if you have not already done so.

You can retrieve DB on the Sleepycat site<sup>5</sup>, where you will also find clear installation instructions.

### 3.2.3 Install PERL and CPAN modules

To be able to use *Sympa* you must have release 5.004\_03 or later of the PERL language, as well as several CPAN modules.

At make time, the `check_perl_modules.pl` script is run to check for installed versions of required PERL and CPAN modules. If a CPAN module is missing or out of date, this script will install it for you.

You can also download and install CPAN modules yourself. You will find a current release of the PERL interpreter in the nearest CPAN archive. If you do not know where to find a nearby site, use the CPAN multiplexor<sup>6</sup>; it will find one for you.

### 3.2.4 Required CPAN modules

The following CPAN modules required by *Sympa* are not included in the standard PERL distribution. At make time, *Sympa* will prompt you for missing Perl modules and will attempt to install the missing ones automatically; this operation requires root privileges.

Because *Sympa* features evolve from one release to another, the following list of modules might not be up to date :

- DB\_File (v. 1.50 or later)
- Digest-MD5
- MailTools (version 1.13 or later)
- IO-stringy
- MIME-tools (may require IO/Stringy)
- MIME-Base64
- CGI
- File-Spec
- libintl-perl
- Template-Toolkit

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.sleepycat.com>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.sleepycat.com/>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.perl.com/CPAN/src/latest.tar.gz>

Since release 2, *Sympa* requires an RDBMS to work properly. It stores users' subscriptions and preferences in a database. *Sympa* is also able to extract user data from within an external database. These features require that you install database-related PERL libraries. This includes the generic Database interface (DBI) and a Database Driver for your RDBMS (DBD) :

- DBI (DataBase Interface)
- DBD (DataBase Driver) related to your RDBMS (e.g. *Mysql-Mysql-modules* for MySQL)

If you plan to interface *Sympa* with an LDAP directory to build dynamical mailing lists, you need to install PERL LDAP libraries :

- Net : :LDAP (*perlldap*).

Passwords in *Sympa* database can be crypted ; therefore you need to install the following reversible cryptography library :

- *CipherSaber*

For performance concerns, we recommend using *WWSympa* as a persistent CGI, using *FastCGI*. Therefore you need to install the following Perl module :

- *FCGI*

If you want to Download Zip files of list's Archives, you'll need to install perl Module for Archive Management :

- Archive : :Zip

### 3.2.5 Create a UNIX user

The final step prior to installing *Sympa* : create a UNIX user (and if possible a group) specific to the program. Most of the installation will be carried out with this account. We suggest that you use the name *sympa* for both user and group.

Numerous files will be located in the *Sympa* user's login directory. Throughout the remainder of this documentation we shall refer to this login directory as */home/sympa*.

### 3.3 Compilation and installation

Before using *Sympa*, you must customize the sources in order to specify a small number of parameters specific to your installation.

First, extract the sources from the archive file, for example in the `~sympa/src/` directory : the archive will create a directory named `sympa-5.1/` where all the useful files and directories will be located. In particular, you will have a `doc/` directory containing this documentation in various formats ; a `sample/` directory containing a few examples of configuration files ; a `locale/` directory where multi-lingual messages are stored ; and, of course, the `src/` directory for the mail robot and `wwsympa` for the web interface.

Example :

```
# su -
$ gzip -dc sympa-5.1.tar.gz | tar xf -
```

Now you can run the installation process :

```
$ ./configure
$ make
$ make install
```

`configure` will build the `Makefile` ; it recognizes the following command-line arguments :

- - - `prefix=PREFIX`, the *Sympa* homedirectory (default `/home/sympa/`)
- - - `with-bindir=DIR`, user executables in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin/`)  
queue and bouncequeue programs will be installed in this directory. If `sendmail` is configured to use `smrsh` (check the mailer prog definition in your `sendmail.cf`), this should point to `/etc/smrsh`. This is probably the case if you are using Linux RedHat.
- - - `with-sbindir=DIR`, system admin executables in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin`)
- - - `with-libexecdir=DIR`, program executables in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin`)
- - - `with-cgidir=DIR`, CGI programs in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin`)
- - - `with-iconsdir=DIR`, web interface icons in `DIR` (default `/home/httpd/icons`)
- - - `with-datadir=DIR`, default configuration data in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin/etc`)
- - - `with-confdir=DIR`, *Sympa* main configuration files in `DIR` (default `/etc`)  
`sympa.conf` and `wwsympa.conf` will be installed there.
- - - `with-expldir=DIR`, modifiable data in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/expl/`)
- - - `with-libdir=DIR`, code libraries in `DIR` (default `/home/sympa/bin/`)
- - - `with-mandir=DIR`, man documentation in `DIR` (default `/usr/local/man/`)

- - - `with-docdir=DIR`, man files in DIR (default `/home/sympa/doc/`)
- - - `with-initdir=DIR`, install System V init script in DIR (default `/etc/rc.d/init.d`)
- - - `with-lockdir=DIR`, create lock files in DIR (default `/var/lock/subsys`)
- - - `with-piddir=DIR`, create .pid files in DIR (default `/home/sympa/`)
- - - `with-etcdir=DIR`, Config directories populated by the user are in DIR (default `/home/sympa/etc`)
- - - `with-localedir=DIR`, create language files in DIR (default `/home/sympa/locale`)
- - - `with-scriptdir=DIR`, create script files in DIR (default `/home/sympa/script`)
- - - `with-sampledir=DIR`, create sample files in DIR (default `/home/sympa/sample`)
- - - `with-spooldir=DIR`, create directory in DIR (default `/home/sympa/spool`)
- - - `with-perl=FULLPATH`, set full path to Perl interpreter (default `/usr/bin/perl`)
- - - `with-openssl=FULLPATH`, set path to OpenSSL (default `/usr/local/ssl/bin/openssl`)
- - - `with-user=LOGIN`, set sympa user name (default `sympa`)  
Sympa daemons are running under this UID.
- - - `with-group=LOGIN`, set sympa group name (default `sympa`)  
Sympa daemons are running under this UID.
- - - `with-sendmail_aliases=ALIASFILE`, set aliases file to be used by Sympa (default `/etc/mail/sympa_aliases`). (You can overright this value at runtime giving its value in `sympa.conf`)
- - - `with-virtual_aliases=ALIASFILE`, set postfix virtual file to be used by Sympa (default `/etc/mail/sympa_virtual`)

This is used by the `alias_manager.pl` script :

- - - `with-newaliases=FULLPATH`, set path to sendmail newaliases command (default `/usr/bin/newaliases`)
- - - `with-newaliases_arg=ARGS`, set arguments to newaliases command (default `NONE`)

This is used by the `postfix_manager.pl` script :

- - - `with-postmap=FULLPATH`, set path to postfix postmap command (default `/usr/sbin/postmap`)
- - - `with-postmap_arg=ARGS`, set arguments to postfix postmap command (default `NONE`)

`make` will build a few binaries (`queue`, `bouncequeue` and `aliaswrapper`) and help you install required CPAN modules.

`make install` does the installation job. It recognizes the following option :

- `DESTDIR`, can be set in the main Makefile to install sympa in `DESTDIR/DIR` (instead of `DIR`). This is useful for building RPM and DEB packages.

Since version 3.3 of Sympa colors are `sympa.conf` parameters (see 6.1.9, page 45)

If everything goes smoothly, the `~sympa/bin/` directory will contain various PERL

programs as well as the queue binary. You will remark that this binary has the *set-uid-on-exec* bit set (owner is the *sympa* user) : this is deliberate, and indispensable if *Sympa* is to run correctly.

### 3.3.1 Choosing directory locations

All directories are defined in the `/etc/sympa.conf` file, which is read by *Sympa* at runtime. If no `sympa.conf` file was found during installation, a sample one will be created. For the default organization of directories, please refer to 2.1, page 19.

It would, of course, be possible to disperse files and directories to a number of different locations. However, we recommend storing all the directories and files in the *sympa* user's login directory.

These directories must be created manually now. You can use restrictive authorizations if you like, since only programs running with the *sympa* account will need to access them.

## 3.4 Robot aliases

See Robot aliases , 5.1, page 39)

## 3.5 Logs

*Sympa* keeps a trace of each of its procedures in its log file. However, this requires configuration of the `syslogd` daemon. By default *Sympa* will use the `local1` facility (`syslog` parameter in `sympa.conf`). *WWSympa*'s logging behaviour is defined by the `log_facility` parameter in `wwsympa.conf` (by default the same facility as *Sympa*). To this end, a line must be added in the `syslogd` configuration file (`/etc/syslog.conf`). For example :

```
local1.*      /var/log/sympa
```

Then reload `syslogd`.

Depending on your platform, your `syslog` daemon may use either a UDP or a UNIX socket. *Sympa*'s default is to use a UNIX socket ; you may change this behavior by editing `sympa.conf`'s `log_socket_type` parameter (6.3.3, page 48). You can test log feature by using `testlogs.pl`.

### 3.6 INIT script

The `make install` step should have installed a `sympa` init script in your `/etc/rc.d/init.d/` directory (you can change this at configure time with the `--with-initdir` option). You should edit your runlevels to make sure *Sympa* starts after Apache and MySQL. Note that MySQL should also start before Apache because of `wwsympa.fcgi`.

### 3.7 sympa.pl

`sympa.pl` is the main daemon ; it processes mail commands and is in charge of messages distribution.

`sympa.pl` recognizes the following command line arguments :

- - - debug — -d  
Sets *Sympa* in debug mode and keeps it attached to the terminal. Debugging information is output to `STDERR`, along with standard log information. Each function call is traced. Useful while reporting a bug.
- service *process\_command* — *process\_message*  
Sets *Sympa* daemon in way it process only message distribution (*process\_message*) or in way it process only command (*process\_command*).
- - - config *config\_file* — -f *config\_file*  
Forces *Sympa* to use an alternative configuration file. Default behavior is to use the configuration file as defined in the Makefile (`$CONFIG`).
- - - mail — -m  
*Sympa* will log calls to `sendmail`, including recipients. Useful for keeping track of each mail sent (log files may grow faster though).
- - - lang *catalog* — -l *catalog*  
Set this option to use a language catalog for *Sympa*. The corresponding catalog file must be located in `~sympa/locale` directory.
- - - keepcopy *recipient\_directory* — -k *recipient\_directory*  
This option tells *Sympa* to keep a copy of every incoming message, instead of deleting them. *recipient\_directory* is the directory to store messages.  
`/home/sympa/bin/sympa.pl`
- - - create\_list - - robot *robotname* - - input\_file  
*/path/to/list\_file.xml*  
Create the list described by the xml file, see 16.3, page 149.
- - - close\_list *listname@robot*  
Close the list (changing its status to closed), remove aliases and remove subscribers from DB (a dump is created in the list directory to allow restoring the list). See ??, page ?? when you are in a family context.
- - - dump *listname* / *ALL*  
Dumps subscribers of a list or all lists. Subscribers are dumped in `subscribers.db.dump`.



- - - import *listname*  
Import subscribers in the *listname* list. Data are read from STDIN.
- - - lowercase  
Lowercases e-mail addresses in database.
- - - help — -h  
Print usage of sympa.pl.
- - - make\_alias\_file  
Create an aliases file in /tmp/ with all list aliases (only list which status is 'open'). It uses the list\_aliases.tt2 template.
- - - version — -v  
Print current version of Sympa.
- - - instantiate\_family *familyname* *robotname* - - input\_file  
          /path/to/family\_file.xml  
Instantiate the family *familyname*. See 17, page 153.
- - - close\_family *familyname* - - robot *robotname*  
Close the *familyname* family. See 17.2.4, page 159.
- - - add\_list *familyname* - - robot *robotname* - - input\_file  
          /path/to/list\_file.xml  
Add the list described in the XML file to the *familyname* family. See 17.2.5, page 159.
- - - modify\_list *familyname* - - robot *robotname* - - input\_file  
          /path/to/list\_file.xml  
Modify the existing family list, with description contained in the XML file. See 17.2.7, page 160.



## Chapitre 4

# Upgrading Sympa

Sympa upgrade is a relatively riskless operations, mainly because the install process preserves your customizations (templates, configuration, authorization scenarios,...) and also because Sympa automates a few things (DB update, CPAN modules installation).

### 4.1 Uncompatible changes

New features, changes and bug fixes are summarized in the NEWS file, part of the tar.gz (the Changelog file is a complete log file of CVS changes). As mentionned at the beginning of this file, uncompatible changes are preceded by '\*\*\*\*\*'. While running the `make install` Sympa will detect the previously installed version and will prompt you with uncompatible changes between both versions of the software. You can interrupt the install process at that stage if you are too frightened. Output of the `make install` :

```
You are upgrading from Sympa 4.2
You should read CAREFULLY the changes listed below ; they might be uncompatible changes :
<RETURN>

*****   require new perlmodule XML-LibXML

*****   You should update your DB structure (automatically performed by Sympa with MySQL),
*****   CREATE TABLE admin_table (
*****   list_admin                varchar(50) NOT NULL,
*****   user_admin                varchar(100) NOT NULL,
*****   role_admin                enum('listmaster','owner','editor') NOT NULL,
*****   date_admin               datetime NOT NULL,
*****   update_admin              datetime,
*****   reception_admin          varchar(20),
*****   comment_admin            varchar(150),
```

```

***** subscribed_admin      enum('0','1'),
***** included_admin        enum('0','1'),
***** include_sources_admin  varchar(50),
***** info_admin            varchar(150),
***** profile_admin          enum('privileged','normal'),
***** PRIMARY KEY (list_admin, user_admin,role_admin),
***** INDEX (list_admin, user_admin,role_admin)
***** );

```

```

***** Extend the generic_sso feature ; Sympa is now able to retrieve the user
<RETURN>

```

## 4.2 CPAN modules update

Required and optional perl modules (CPAN) installation is automatically handled at the make time. You are asked before each module is installed. For optional modules, associated features are listed.

Output of the make command :

Checking for REQUIRED modules:

```

-----
perl module      from CPAN      STATUS
-----
Archive::Zip      Archive-Zip    OK (1.09  >= 1.05)
CGI               CGI            OK (2.89  >= 2.52)
DB_File          DB_FILE        OK (1.806  >= 1.75)
Digest::MD5       Digest-MD5     OK (2.20  >= 2.00)
FCGI             FCGI           OK (0.67  >= 0.67)
File::Spec        File-Spec       OK (0.83  >= 0.8)
IO::Scalar        IO-stringy     OK (2.104  >= 1.0)
LWP              libwww-perl    OK (5.65  >= 1.0)
Locale::TextDomain libintl-perl   OK (1.10  >= 1.0)
MHonArc::UTF8     MHonArc        version is too old ( < 2.4.6).
>>>>>> You must update "MHonArc" to version "" <<<<<.

```

Setting FTP Passive mode

Description:

Install module MHonArc::UTF8 ? n

```

MIME::Base64      MIME-Base64    OK (3.05  >= 3.03)
MIME::Tools       MIME-tools     OK (5.411  >= 5.209)
Mail::Internet    MailTools      OK (1.60  >= 1.51)
Regexp::Common    Regexp-Common  OK (2.113  >= 1.0)
Template          Template-ToolkitOK (2.13  >= 1.0)
XML::LibXML       XML-LibXML     OK (1.58  >= 1.0)

```

Checking for OPTIONAL modules:

-----

perl module	from CPAN	STATUS
-----	-----	-----
Bundle::LWP	LWP	OK (1.09 >= 1.09)
Constant subroutine	CGI::XHTML_DTD	redefined at /usr/lib/perl5/5.8.0/constant.pm line 108,
CGI::Fast	CGI	CGI::Fast doesn't return 1 (check it).
Crypt::CipherSaber	CipherSaber	OK (0.61 >= 0.50)
DBD::Oracle	DBD-Oracle	was not found on this system.
Description: Oracle database driver, required if you connect to a Oracle database.		
Install module DBD::Oracle ?		

### 4.3 Database structure update

Whatever RDBMS you are using (mysql, Pg, Sybase or Oracle) Sympa will check every database tables and fields. If one is missing `sympa.pl` will not start. If you are using mysql Sympa will also check field types and will try to change them (or create them) automatically ; assuming that the DB user configured has sufficient privileges. If You are not using Mysql or if the DB user configured in `sympa.conf` does have sufficient privileges, then you should change the database structure yourself, as mentionned in the NEWS file.

Output of Sympa logs :

```

Table admin_table created in database sympa
Field 'comment_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to
Field comment_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'date_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to a
Field date_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'include_sources_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Atte
Field include_sources_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'included_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting
Field included_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'info_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to a
Field info_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'list_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to a
Field list_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'profile_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting t
Field profile_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'reception_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting
Field reception_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'role_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to a
Field role_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'subscribed_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attemptin
Field subscribed_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'update_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to
Field update_admin added to table admin_table
Field 'user_admin' (table 'admin_table' ; database 'sympa') was NOT found. Attempting to a
Setting list_admin,user_admin,role_admin fields as PRIMARY

```

```
Field user_admin added to table admin_table
```

## 4.4 Preserving your customizations

Sympa comes with default configuration files (templates, scenarios,...) that will be installed in the `/home/sympa/bin` directory. If you need to customize some of them, you should copy the file first in a safe place, ie in the `/home/sympa/etc` directory. If you do so, the Sympa upgrade process will preserve your site customizations.

## 4.5 Running 2 Sympa versions on a single server

This can be very convenient to have a stable version of Sympa and a fresh version for test purpose, both running on the same server.

Both sympa instances must be completely partitioned, unless you want to make production mailing lists visible through the test service.

The biggest part of the partitioning is achieved while running the `./configure`. Here is a sample call to `./configure` on the test server side :

```
./configure --prefix=/home/sympa-dev \  
            --with-confdir=/home/sympa-dev/etc \  
            --with-mandir=/home/sympa-dev/man \  
            --with-initdir=/home/sympa-dev/init \  
            --with-piddir=/home/sympa-dev/pid \  
            --with-lockdir=/home/sympa-dev/lock \  
            --with-sendmail_aliases=/home/sympa-dev/etc/sympa_aliases
```

You can also customize more parameters via the `/home/sympa-dev/etc/sympa.conf` file.

If you wish to share the same lists in both Sympa instances, then some parameters should have the same value : `home`, `db_name`, `arc_path`

## Chapitre 5

# Mail aliases

Mail aliases are required in Sympa for `sympa.pl` to receive mail commands and list messages. Management of these aliases management will depend on the MTA (`sendmail`, `qmail`, `postfix`, `exim`) you're using, where you store aliases and whether you are managing virtual domains or not.

### 5.1 Robot aliases

An electronic list manager such as *Sympa* is built around two processing steps :

- a message sent to a list or to *Sympa* itself (commands such as subscribe or unsubscribe) is received by the SMTP server. The SMTP server, on reception of this message, runs the queue program (supplied in this package) to store the message in a spool.
- the `sympa.pl` daemon, set in motion at system startup, scans this spool. As soon as it detects a new message, it processes it and performs the requested action (distribution or processing of a command).

To separate the processing of commands (subscription, unsubscription, help requests, etc.) from the processing of messages destined for mailing lists, a special mail alias is reserved for administrative requests, so that *Sympa* can be permanently accessible to users. The following lines must therefore be added to the `sendmail` alias file (often `/etc/aliases`) :

```
sympa : "— /home/sympa/bin/queue sympa@my.domain.org"
listmaster : "— /home/sympa/bin/queue listmaster@my.domain.org"
bounce+* : "— /home/sympa/bin/bouncequeue sympa@my.domain.org"
sympa-request : postmaster
```

`sympa-owner` : `postmaster`

Note : if you run *Sympa* virtual robots, you will need one `sympa` alias entry per virtual robot (see virtual robots section, 13, page 121).

`sympa-request` should be the address of the robot administrator, i.e. a person who looks after *Sympa* (here `postmaster@cru.fr`).

`sympa-owner` is the return address for *Sympa* error messages.

The alias `bounce+*` is dedicated to collect bounces. It is useful only if at least one list uses `welcome_return_path` unique or `remind_return_path` unique. Don't forget to run `newaliases` after any change to the `/etc/aliases` file !

Note : aliases based on `listserv` (in addition to those based on `sympa`) can be added for the benefit of users accustomed to the `listserv` and `majordomo` names. For example :

```
listserv:      sympa
listserv-request: sympa-request
majordomo:     sympa
listserv-owner: symp-owner
```

## 5.2 List aliases

For each new list, it is necessary to create up to six mail aliases (at least three). If you managed to setup the alias manager (see next section) then *Sympa* will install automatically the following aliases for you.

For example, to create the `mylist` list, the following aliases must be added :

```
mylist :          "|/home/sympa/bin/queue mylist@my.domain.org"
mylist-request :  "|/home/sympa/bin/queue mylist-request@my.domain.org"
mylist-editor :   "|/home/sympa/bin/queue mylist-editor@my.domain.org"
mylist-owner :    "|/home/sympa/bin/bouncequeue mylist@my.domain.org"
mylist-subscribe : "|/home/sympa/bin/queue mylist-subscribe@my.domain.org@my"
mylist-unsubscribe : "|/home/sympa/bin/queue mylist-unsubscribe@my.domain.org"
```

The address `mylist-request` should correspond to the person responsible for managing `mylist` (the owner). *Sympa* will forward messages for `mylist-request` to the owner of `mylist`, as defined in the `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/config` file. Using this feature means you would not need to modify the alias file if the owner of the list were to change.



Similarly, the address `mylist-editor` can be used to contact the list editors if any are defined in `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/config`. This address definition is not compulsory.

The address `mylist-owner` is the address receiving non-delivery reports. The `bouncequeue` program stores these messages in the `queuebounce` directory. *WWSympa* (see 1.2, page 15) may then analyze them and provide a web access to them.

The address `mylist-subscribe` is an address enabling users to subscribe in a manner which can easily be explained to them. Beware : subscribing this way is so straightforward that you may find spammers subscribing to your list by accident.

The address `mylist-unsubscribe` is the equivalent for unsubscribing. By the way, the easier it is for users to unsubscribe, the easier it will be for you to manage your list !

## 5.3 Alias manager

The `alias_manager.pl` script does aliases management. It is run by *WWSympa* and will install aliases for a new list and delete aliases for closed lists.

The script expects the following arguments :

1. `add` — `del`
2. `<list name>`
3. `<list domain>`

Example : `/home/sympa/bin/alias_manager.pl add mylistcru.fr`

`/home/sympa/bin/alias_manager.pl` works on the alias file as defined in `sympa.conf` by the `SENDMAIL_ALIASES` variable (default is `/etc/mail/sympa_aliases`) in the main Makefile (see 3.3, page 29). You must refer to this aliases file in your `sendmail.mc` (if using `sendmail`) :

```
define('ALIAS_FILE', '/etc/aliases,/etc/mail/sympa_aliases')dnl
```

`/home/sympa/bin/alias_manager.pl` runs a `newaliases` command (via `aliaswrapper`), after any changes to aliases file.

If you manage virtual domains with your mail server, then you might want to change the form of aliases used by the `alias_manager`. You can customize the `list_aliases` template that is parsed to generate list aliases (see 15.8.8, page 141).

L. Marcotte has written a version of `alias_manager.pl` that is LDAP enabled. Check the contrib. page for more information : <http://sympa.org/contrib.html>.

## 5.4 Virtual domains

When using virtual domains with `sendmail` or `postfix`, you can't refer to `mylist@my.domain.org` on the right-hand side of an `/etc/aliases` entry. You need to define an additional entry in a virtual table. You can also add a unique entry, with a regular expression, for your domain.

With Postfix, you should edit the `/etc/postfix/virtual.regex` file as follows :

```
/(.*)@my.domain.org$/ my.domain.org-$1
```

Entries in the 'aliases' file will look like this :

```
my.domain.org-sympa      :      "/home/sympa/bin/sympa.pl
sympa@my.domain.org"     ..... my.domain.org-listA      :
"/home/sympa/bin/sympa.pl listA@my.domain.org"
```

With Sendmail, add the following entry to `/etc/mail/virtusertable` file :

```
@my.domain.org my.domain.org-%1%3
```

## Chapitre 6

# sympa.conf parameters

The `/etc/sympa.conf` configuration file contains numerous parameters which are read on start-up of *Sympa*. If you change this file, do not forget that you will need to restart *Sympa* afterwards.

The `/etc/sympa.conf` file contains directives in the following format :

*keyword value*

Comments start with the `#` character at the beginning of a line. Empty lines are also considered as comments and are ignored. There should only be one directive per line, but their order in the file is of no importance.

## 6.1 Site customization

### 6.1.1 domain

This keyword is **mandatory**. It is the domain name used in the `From:` header in replies to administrative requests. So the smtp engine (qmail, sendmail, postfix or whatever) must recognize this domain as a local address. The old keyword `host` is still recognized but should not be used anymore.

Example: `domain cru.fr`

### 6.1.2 email

(Default value: sympa)

Username (the part of the address preceding the @ sign) used in the From: header in replies to administrative requests.

Example: email listserv

### 6.1.3 listmaster

The list of e-mail addresses of listmasters (users authorized to perform global server commands). Listmasters can be defined for each virtual robot.

Example: listmaster postmaster@cru.fr,root@cru.fr

### 6.1.4 listmaster\_email

(Default value: listmaster)

Username (the part of the address preceding the @ sign) used in the listmaster email. This parameter is useful if you want to run more than one sympa on the same host (a sympa test for example).

If you change the default value, you must modify the sympa aliases too.

For example, if you put :

```
listmaster listmaster-test
```

you must modify the sympa aliases like this :

```
listmaster-test : "— /home/sympa/bin/queue listmaster@my.domain.org"
```

See 5.1,page 39 for all aliases.

### 6.1.5 wwsympa\_url

(Default value: http ://<host>/wws)

This is the root URL of *WWSympa*.

Example: `wwsympa_url https://my.server/sympa`

### 6.1.6 soap\_url

This is the root URL of Sympa's SOAP server. Sympa's WSDL document refer to this URL in its service section.

Example: `soap_url http://my.server/sympasoa`

### 6.1.7 spam\_protection

`spam_protection` (Default value: javascript)

There is a need to protection Sympa web site against spambot which collect email adresse in public web site. Various method are available into Sympa and you can choose it with `spam_protection` and `web_archive_spam_protection` parameters. Possible value are :

- javascript : the adresse is hidden using a javascript. User who enable javascript can see a nice mailto addresses where others have nothing.
- at : the @ char is replaced by the string " AT ".
- none : no protection against spammer.

### 6.1.8 web\_archive\_spam\_protection

(Default value: cookie)

Idem `spam_protection` but restricted to web archive. A additional value is available : cookie which mean that users must submit a small form in order to receive a cookie before browsing archives. This block all robot, even google and co.

### 6.1.9 color\_0, color\_1 .. color\_15

They are the color definition for web interface. Thoses parameters can be overwritten in each virtual robot definition. The color are used in the CSS file and unfortunately they are also in use in some web templates. The sympy admin interface show every colors in use.

### 6.1.10 `dark_color` `light_color` `text_color` `bg_color` `error_color` `selected_color` `shaded_color`

Deprecated. They are the color definition for previous web interface. Thoses parameters are unused in 5.1 and higher version but still available. `style.css`, `print.css`, `print-preview.css` and `fullPage.css`

### 6.1.11 `logo_html_definition`

This parameter allow you to insert in the left top page corner a piece of html code, usually to insert a logo in the page. This is a very basic but easy customization. Example:  
`logo_html_definition <a href="http://www.mycompagnie.com"><img`  
`style="float : left; margin-top : 7px; margin-left : 37px;"`  
`src="http://logos/mylogo.jpg" alt="my compagnie" /></a>`

### 6.1.12 `css_path`

Pre-parsed CSS files (let's say static css files) can be installed using Sympa server skins module. Thoses CSS files are installed in a part of the web server that can be reached without using sympa web engine. In order to do this edit the `robot.conf` file and set the `css_path` parameter. Then retart the server and use skins module from the "admin sympa" page to install prepared CSS file. The in order to replace dynamic CSS by thoses static files set the `css_url` parameter.

### 6.1.13 `css_url`

By default, CSS files `style.css`, `print.css`, `print-preview.css` and `fullPage.css` are delivered by Sympa web interface itself using a sympa action named `css`. URL look like `http://foo.org/sympa/css/style.css`. CSS file are made parsing a `web.tt2` file named `css.tt2`. This allow dynamique definition of colors and in a near futur a complete definition of the skin, user preference skins etc.

In order to make sympa web interface faster, it is strongly recommended to install static css file somewhere in your web site. This way sympa will deliver only one page instead of one page and four css page at each clic. This can be done using `css_url` parameter. The parameter must contain the URL of the directory where `style.css`, `print.css`, `print-preview.css` and `fullPage.css` are installed. You can make your own a sophisticated new skin editing thoses files. The server admin module include a CSS administration page that can help you to install static CSS.

### 6.1.14 cookie

This string is used to generate MD5 authentication keys. It allows generated authentication keys to differ from one site to another. It is also used for reversible encryption of user passwords stored in the database. The presence of this string is one reason why access to `sympa.conf` needs to be restricted to the Sympa user.

Note that changing this parameter will break all http cookies stored in users' browsers, as well as all user passwords and lists X509 private keys.

Example: `cookie gh869jku5`

### 6.1.15 create\_list

(Default value: `public_listmaster`)

`create_list` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

Defines who can create lists (or request list creations). Sympa will use the corresponding authorization scenario.

Example: `create_list intranet`

### 6.1.16 global\_remind

(Default value: `listmaster`)

`global_remind` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

Defines who can run a `REMIN * command`.

## 6.2 Directories

### 6.2.1 home

(Default value: `/home/sympa/exp1`)

The directory whose subdirectories correspond to the different lists.

Example: `home /home/sympa/expl`

### 6.2.2 `etc`

(Default value: `/home/sympa/etc`)

This is the local directory for configuration files (such as `edit_list.conf`). It contains 5 subdirectories : `scenari` for local authorization scenarios ; `mail_tt2` for the site's local mail templates and default list templates ; `web_tt2` for the site's local html templates ; `global_task_models` for local global task models ; and `list_task_models` for local list task models

Example: `etc /home/sympa/etc`

## 6.3 System related

### 6.3.1 `syslog`

(Default value: `LOCAL1`)

Name of the sub-system (facility) for logging messages.

Example: `syslog LOCAL2`

### 6.3.2 `log_level`

(Default value: `0`)

This parameter sets the verbosity of Sympa processes (including) in log files. With level 0 only main operations are logged, in level 3 almost everything is logged.

Example: `log_level 2`

### 6.3.3 `log_socket_type`

(Default value: `unix`)



*Sympa* communicates with `syslogd` using either UDP or UNIX sockets. Set `log_socket_type` to `inet` to use UDP, or `unix` for UNIX sockets.

### 6.3.4 pidfile

(Default value: `/home/sympa/etc/sympa.pid`)

The file where the `sympa.pl` daemon stores its process number. Warning : the `sympa` user must be able to write to this file, and to create it if it doesn't exist.

Example: `pidfile /var/run/sympa.pid`

### 6.3.5 umask

(Default value: `027`)

Default mask for file creation (see `umask(2)`). Note that it will be interpreted as an octual value.

Example: `umask 007`

## 6.4 Sending related

### 6.4.1 distribution\_mode

(Default value: `single`) Use this parameter to determine if your installation nrun only one `sympa.pl` daemon that process both messages to distribute and commands (`single`) or if `sympa.pl` will fork to run two separate processus one dedicated to message distribution and one dedicated to commands and message pre-processing (`fork`). The second choice make a better priority processing for message distribution and faster command response, but it require a bit more computer ressources.

Example: `distribution_mode fork`

### 6.4.2 maxsmtp

(Default value: `20`)

Maximum number of SMTP delivery child processes spawned by *Sympa*. This is the main load control parameter.

Example: `maxsmtp 500`

### 6.4.3 `log_smtp`

(Default value: `off`)

Set logging of each MTA call. Can be overwritten by `-m sympa` option.

Example: `log_smtp on`

### 6.4.4 `max_size`

(Default value: 5 Mb)

Maximum size allowed for messages distributed by *Sympa*. This may be customized per virtual robot or per list by setting the `max_size` robot or list parameter.

Example: `max_size 2097152`

### 6.4.5 `misaddressed_commands`

(Default value: `reject`)

When a robot command is sent to a list, by default *Sympa* reject this message. This feature can be turned off setting this parameter to `ignore`.

### 6.4.6 `misaddressed_commands_regexp`

(Default value: `(subscribe|unsubscribe|signoff)`)

This is the Perl regular expression applied on messages subject and body to detect misaddressed commands, see `misaddressed_commands` parameter above.

### 6.4.7 nrcpt

(Default value: 25)

Maximum number of recipients per `sendmail` call. This grouping factor makes it possible for the (`sendmail`) MTA to optimize the number of SMTP sessions for message distribution.

### 6.4.8 avg

(Default value: 10)

Maximum number of different internet domains within addresses per `sendmail` call.

### 6.4.9 sendmail

(Default value: `/usr/sbin/sendmail`)

Absolute path to SMTP message transfer agent binary. Sympa expects this binary to be `sendmail` compatible (`postfix`, `Qmail` and `Exim` binaries all provide `sendmail` compatibility).

Example: `sendmail /usr/sbin/sendmail`

### 6.4.10 sendmail\_args

(Default value: `-oi -odi -oem`)

Arguments passed to SMTP message transfer agent

### 6.4.11 sendmail\_alias

(Default value: defined by `makefile`, `sendmail_aliases`)

Path of the alias file that contain all lists related aliases. It is recommended to create a specific alias file so Sympa never overright the standard alias file but only a dedicated file. You must refer to this aliases file in your `sendmail.mc` :

#### 6.4.12 `rfc2369_header_fields`

(Default value: `help,subscribe,unsubscribe,post,owner,archive`)

RFC2369 compliant header fields (List-xxx) to be added to distributed messages. These header-fields should be implemented by MUA's, adding menus.

#### 6.4.13 `remove_headers`

(Default value: `Return-Receipt-To,Precedence,X-Sequence,Disposition-Notification-To`)

This is the list of headers that *Sympa* should remove from outgoing messages. Use it, for example, to ensure some privacy for your users by discarding anonymous options. It is (for the moment) site-wide. It is applied before the *Sympa*, `rfc2369_header_fields`, and `custom_header` fields are added.

Example: `remove_headers Resent-Date,Resent-From,Resent-To,Resent-Message-Id,Sender,Delivered-To`

#### 6.4.14 `anonymous_headers_fields`

(Default value: `Sender,X-Sender,Received,Message-id,From,X-Envelope-To,Resent-From,Reply-To`)

This parameter defines the list of SMTP header fields that should be removed when a mailing list is setup in anonymous mode (see 18.4.3, page 180).

#### 6.4.15 `list_check_smtp`

(Default value: `NONE`)

If this parameter is set with a SMTP server address, *Sympa* will check if alias with the same name as the list you're gonna create already exists on the SMTP server. It is robot specific, i.e. you can specify a different SMTP server for every virtual robot you are running. This is needed if you are running *Sympa* on `somehost.foo.org`, but you handle all your mail on a separate mail relay.

#### 6.4.16 `list_check_suffixes`

(Default value: `request,owner,unsubscribe`)

This parameter is a comma-separated list of admin suffixes you're using for *Sympa* aliases, i.e. mylist-request, mylist-owner etc... This parameter is used with `list_check_smtp` parameter. It is also used to check list names at list creation time.

#### **6.4.17** `urlize_min_size`

(Default value: 10240)

This parameter is related to the URLIZE subscriber reception mode ; it defines the minimum size (in bytes) for MIME attachments to be urlized.

## **6.5 Quotas**

### **6.5.1** `default_shared_quota`

The default disk quota for lists' document repository.

### **6.5.2** `default_archive_quota`

The default disk quota for lists' web archives.

## **6.6 Spool related**

### **6.6.1** `spool`

(Default value: `/home/sympa/spool`)

The parent directory which contains all the other spools.

### **6.6.2** `queue`

The absolute path of the directory which contains the queue, used both by the `queue` program and the `sympa.pl` daemon. This parameter is mandatory.

Example: /home/sympa/spool/msg

### **6.6.3** queuedistribute

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/distribute)

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### **6.6.4** queuemod

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/moderation)

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### **6.6.5** queuedigest

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### **6.6.6** queueexpire

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/expire)

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### **6.6.7** queueauth

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/auth)

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### **6.6.8** queueoutgoing

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/outgoing)

This parameter is optional and retained solely for backward compatibility.

### 6.6.9 queuebounce

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/bounce)

Spool to store bounces (non-delivery reports) received by the bouncequeue program via the mylist-owner or bounce+\* addresses . This parameter is mandatory and must be an absolute path.

### 6.6.10 queuetask

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/task)

Spool to store task files created by the task manager. This parameter is mandatory and must be an absolute path.

### 6.6.11 tmpdir

(Default value: /home/sympa/spool/tmp)

Temporary directory used by OpenSSL and antiviruses.

### 6.6.12 sleep

(Default value: 5)

Waiting period (in seconds) between each scan of the main queue. Never set this value to 0 !

### 6.6.13 clean\_delay\_queue

(Default value: 1)

Retention period (in days) for “bad” messages in spool (as specified by queue). *Sympa* keeps messages rejected for various reasons (badly formatted, looping, etc.) in this directory, with a name prefixed by BAD. This configuration variable controls the number of days these messages are kept.

Example: `clean_delay_queue 3`

### 6.6.14 `clean_delay_queuemod`

(Default value: 10)

Expiration delay (in days) in the moderation pool (as specified by `queuemod`). Beyond this deadline, messages that have not been processed are deleted. For moderated lists, the contents of this spool can be consulted using a key along with the `MODINDEX` command.

### 6.6.15 `clean_delay_queueauth`

(Default value: 3)

Expiration delay (in days) in the authentication queue. Beyond this deadline, messages not enabled are deleted.

## 6.7 Internationalization related

### 6.7.1 `localedir`

(Default value: `/home/sympa/locale`)

The location of multilingual catalog files. Must correspond to `~src/locale/Makefile`.

### 6.7.2 `supported_lang`

Example: `supported_lang fr,en_US,de,es`

This parameter lists all supported languages (comma separated) for the user interface. The default value will include all message catalogues but it can be narrowed by the `listmaster`.

### 6.7.3 `lang`

(Default value: `en_US`)



This is the default language for *Sympa*. The message catalog (.po, compiled as a .mo file) located in the corresponding locale directory will be used.

#### 6.7.4 web\_recode\_to

If you set this parameter to a charset then web pages will be recoded to this specified charset. This is usefull to have web pages in UTF-8, allowing multi-lingual contents. You should check that customized web templates, topics.conf, list config files, info files are all using the same charset.

Example :

```
web_recode_to    utf-8
```

Note : if you recode web pages to utf-8, you should also add the following tag to your mhonarc-ressources.tt2 file :

```
<TextEncode>
utf-8; MHonArc::UTF8::to_utf8; MHonArc/UTF8.pm
</TextEncode>
```

## 6.8 Bounce related

### 6.8.1 bounce\_warn\_rate

(Default value: 30)

Site default value for bounce. The list owner receives a warning whenever a message is distributed and the number of bounces exceeds this value.

### 6.8.2 bounce\_halt\_rate

(Default value: 50)

FOR FUTURE USE

Site default value for bounce. Messages will cease to be distributed if the number of bounces exceeds this value.

### 6.8.3 `welcome_return_path`

(Default value: `owner`)

If set to string `unique`, `sympa` will use a unique e-mail address in the return path, prefixed by `bounce+`, in order to remove the corresponding subscriber. Requires the `bounced` daemon to run and `bounce+*` alias to be installed (plussed aliases as in `send-mail 8.7` and later).

### 6.8.4 `remind_return_path`

(Default value: `owner`)

Like `welcome_return_path`, but relates to the remind message. Also requires the `bounce+*` alias to be installed.

### 6.8.5 `expire_bounce_task`

(Default value: `daily`)

This parameter tells what task will be used by `task_manager.pl` to perform bounces expiration. This task resets bouncing information for addresses not bouncing in the last 10 days after the latest message distribution.

### 6.8.6 `purge_orphan_bounces_task`

(Default value: `Monthly`)

This parameter tells what task will be used by `task_manager.pl` to perform bounces cleaning. This task delete bounces archives for unsubscribed users.

### 6.8.7 `eval_bouncers_task`

(Default value: `daily`)

The task `eval_bouncers` evaluate all bouncing users for all lists, and fill the field `bounce_score_suscriber` in table `suscriber_table` with a score. This score allow the auto-management of bouncing-users.

### 6.8.8 process\_bouncers\_task

(Default value: monthly)

The task process\_bouncers execute configured actions on bouncing users, according to their Score. The association between score and actions has to be done in List configuration, This parameter define the frequency of execution for this task.

### 6.8.9 minimum\_bouncing\_count

(Default value: 10)

This parameter is for the bounce-score evaluation : the bounce-score is a note that allows the auto-management of bouncing users. This score is evaluated with, in particular, the number of messages bounces received for the user. This parameter sets the minimum number of these messages to allow the bounce-score evaluation for a user.

### 6.8.10 minimum\_bouncing\_period

(Default value: 10)

Determine the minimum bouncing period for a user to allow his bounce-score evaluation. Like previous parameter, if this value is too low, bounce-score will be 0.

### 6.8.11 bounce\_delay

(Default value: 0) Days

Another parameter for the bounce-score evaluation : This one represent the average time (days) for a bounce to come back to sympa-server after a post was send to a list. Usually bounces are arriving same day as the original message.

### 6.8.12 default\_bounce\_level1\_rate

(Default value: 45)

This is the default value for bouncerslevel1 rate entry (??, page ??)

**6.8.13** `default_bounce_level2_rate`

(Default value: 75)

This is the default value for `bouncerslevel2_rate` entry (18.5.3, page 184)

**6.8.14** `bounce_email_prefix`

(Default value: bounce)

The prefix Username (the part of the address preceding the @ sign) used in the bounce email. The email is used to collect bounce. This parameter is useful if you want to run more than one sympa on the same host (a sympa test for example).

If you change the default value, you must modify the sympa aliases too.

For example, if you put :

```
bounce_email_prefix bounce-test
```

you must modify the sympa aliases like this :

```
bounce-test+*      :      "—      /home/sympa/bin/queuebounce
sympa@my.domain.org"
```

See 5.1,page 39 for all aliases.

**6.8.15** `default_remind_task`

(Default value: 2month)

This parameter defines the default `remind_task` list parameter.

**6.9 Priority related****6.9.1** `sympa_priority`

(Default value: 1)

Priority applied to *Sympa* commands while running the spool.

Available since release 2.3.1.

### **6.9.2 request\_priority**

(Default value: 0)

Priority for processing of messages for mylist-request, i.e. for owners of the list.

Available since release 2.3.3

### **6.9.3 owner\_priority**

(Default value: 9)

Priority for processing messages for mylist-owner in the spool. This address will receive non-delivery reports (bounces) and should have a low priority.

Available since release 2.3.3

### **6.9.4 default\_list\_priority**

(Default value: 5)

Default priority for messages if not defined in the list configuration file.

Available since release 2.3.1.

## **6.10 Database related**

The following parameters are needed when using an RDBMS, but are otherwise not required :

### 6.10.1 `update_db_field_types`

Format : `update_db_field_types` auto | disabled

(Default value: auto)

This parameter defines if Sympa may automatically update database structure to match the expected datafield types. This feature is only available with mysql.

### 6.10.2 `db_type`

Format : `db_type` mysql | Pg | Oracle | Sybase

Database management system used (e.g. MySQL, Pg, Oracle)

This corresponds to the PERL DataBase Driver (DBD) name and is therefore case-sensitive.

### 6.10.3 `db_name`

(Default value: sympa)

Name of the database containing user information. See detailed notes on database structure, ??, page ??.

### 6.10.4 `db_host`

Database host name.

### 6.10.5 `db_port`

Database port.

### 6.10.6 `db_user`

User with read access to the database.

### 6.10.7 db\_passwd

Password for db\_user.

### 6.10.8 db\_options

If these options are defined, they will be appended to the database connect string.

Example for MySQL :

```
db_options mysql_read_default_file=/home/joe/my.cnf
```

### 6.10.9 db\_env

Gives a list of environment variables to set before database connexion. This is a ';' separated list of variable assignments.

Example for Oracle :

```
db_env ORACLE_TERM=vt100;ORACLE_HOME=/var/hote/oracle/7.3.4
```

### 6.10.10 db\_additional\_subscriber\_fields

If your **subscriber\_table** database table has more fields than required by *Sympa* (because other programs access this table), you can make *Sympa* load these fields. You will then be able to use them from within mail/web templates and authorization scenarios (as [subscriber->field]). This parameter is a comma-separated list.

Example :

```
db_additional_subscriber_fields billing_delay,subscription_expiration
```

### 6.10.11 db\_additional\_user\_fields

If your **user\_table** database table has more fields than required by *Sympa* (because other programs access this table), you can make *Sympa* load these fields. You will then be able to use them from within mail/web templates (as [user->field]).

This parameter is a comma-separated list.

Example :

```
db_additional_user_fields  address,gender
```

#### **6.10.12** `purge_user_table_task`

This parameter refers to the name of the task (Example: `monthly`) that will be regularly run by the `task_manager.pl` to remove entries in the `user_table` table that have no corresponding entries in the `subscriber_table` table.

### **6.11 Loop prevention**

The following define your loop prevention policy for commands. (see 14.9, page 130)

#### **6.11.1** `loop_command_max`

(Default value: 200)

The maximum number of command reports sent to an e-mail address. When it is reached, messages are stored with the BAD prefix, and reports are no longer sent.

#### **6.11.2** `loop_command_sampling_delay`

(Default value: 3600)

This parameter defines the delay in seconds before decrementing the counter of reports sent to an e-mail address.

#### **6.11.3** `loop_command_decrease_factor`

(Default value: 0.5)

The decrementation factor (from 0 to 1), used to determine the new report counter after expiration of the delay.



## 6.12 S/MIME configuration

*Sympa* can optionally verify and use S/MIME signatures for security purposes. In this case, the three first following parameters must be set by the listmaster (see 23.4.2, page 207). The two others are optionnal.

### 6.12.1 openssl

The path for the openSSL binary file.

### 6.12.2 capath

The directory path use by openssl for trusted CA certificates.

A directory of trusted certificates. The certificates should have names of the form : hash.0 or have symbolic links to them of this form ("hash" is the hashed certificate subject name : see the -hash option of the openssl x509 utility). This directory should be the same as the directory SSLCACertificatePath specified for mod\_ssl module for Apache.

### 6.12.3 cafile

This parameter sets the all-in-one file where you can assemble the Certificates of Certification Authorities (CA) whose clients you deal with. These are used for Client Authentication. Such a file is simply the concatenation of the various PEM-encoded Certificate files, in order of preference. This can be used alternatively and/or additionally to capath.

### 6.12.4 key\_passwd

The password for list private key encryption. If not defined, *Sympa* assumes that list private keys are not encrypted.

### 6.12.5 chk\_cert\_expiration\_task

States the model version used to create the task which regularly checks the certificate expiration dates and warns users whose certificate have expired or are going to. To

know more about tasks, see 14.10, page 131.

### 6.12.6 `crl_update_task`

Specifies the model version used to create the task which regularly updates the certificate revocation lists.

## 6.13 Antivirus plug-in

*Sympa* can optionally check incoming messages before delivering them, using an external antivirus solution. You must then set two parameters.

### 6.13.1 `antivirus_path`

The path to your favorite antivirus binary file (including the binary file).

Example :

```
antivirus_path /usr/local/bin/uvscan
```

### 6.13.2 `antivirus_args`

The arguments used by the antivirus software to look for viruses. You must set them so as to get the virus name. You should use, if available, the 'unzip' option and check all extensions.

Example with uvscan :

```
antivirus_args --summary --secure
```

Example with fsav :

```
antivirus_args --dumb --archive
```

Exemple with AVP :

```
antivirus_path /opt/AVP/kavscanner
antivirus_args -Y -O- -MP -IO
```

Exemple with Sophos :

```
antivirus_path /usr/local/bin/sweep
antivirus_args -nc -nb -ss -archive
```

Exemple with Clam :

```
antivirus_path /usr/local/bin/clamscan
antivirus_args --stdout
```

### 6.13.3 `antivirus_notify`

`sender` — `nobody`

(Default value: `sender`)

This parameter tells if *Sympa* should notify the email sender when a virus has been detected.



## Chapitre 7

# *Sympa* and its database

Most basic feature of *Sympa* will work without a RDBMS, but WWSympa and bounced require a relational database. Currently you can use one of the following RDBMS : MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, Sybase. Interfacing with other RDBMS requires only a few changes in the code, since the API used, DBI<sup>1</sup> (DataBase Interface), has DBD (DataBase Drivers) for many RDBMS.

*Sympa* stores three kind of information in the database, each in one table :

- User preferences and passwords are stored in the `user_table` table
- List subscription informations are stored in the `subscriber_table` table, along with subscription options. This table also contains the cache for included users (if using `include2` mode).
- List administrative informations are stored in the `admin_table` table if using `include2` mode, along with owner and editor options. This table also contains the cache for included owners and editors.

### 7.1 Prerequisites

You need to have a DataBase System installed (not necessarily on the same host as *Sympa*), and the client libraries for that Database installed on the *Sympa* host ; provided, of course, that a PERL DBD (DataBase Driver) is available for your chosen RDBMS ! Check the DBI Module Availability<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.symbolstone.org/technology/perl/DBI/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.symbolstone.org/technology/perl/DBI/>

## 7.2 Installing PERL modules

*Sympa* will use DBI to communicate with the database system and therefore requires the DBD for your database system. DBI and DBD : :YourDB (Mysql-Mysql-modules for MySQL) are distributed as CPAN modules. Refer to 3.2.3, page 27 for installation details of these modules.

## 7.3 Creating a sympa DataBase

### 7.3.1 Database structure

The sympa database structure is slightly different from the structure of a `subscribers` file. A `subscribers` file is a text file based on paragraphs (similar to the `config` file); each paragraph completely describes a subscriber. If somebody is subscribed to two lists, he/she will appear in both `subscribers` files.

The DataBase distinguishes information relative to a person (e-mail, real name, password) and his/her subscription options (list concerned, date of subscription, reception option, visibility option). This results in a separation of the data into two tables : the `user_table` and the `subscriber_table`, linked by a user/subscriber e-mail.

The table concerning owners and editors, the `admin_table`, is made on the same way as the `subscriber_table` but is used only in `include2` mode. It contains owner and editor options (list concerned, administrative role, date of “subscription”, reception option, private info, gecos and profile option for owners).

### 7.3.2 Database creation

The `create_db` script below will create the sympa database for you. You can find it in the `script/` directory of the distribution (currently scripts are available for MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle and Sybase).

– MySQL database creation script

```
## MySQL Database creation script

CREATE DATABASE sympa;

## Connect to DB
\r sympa

CREATE TABLE user_table (
```

```

        email_user          varchar (100) NOT NULL,
        gecos_user          varchar (150),
        password_user varchar (40),
        cookie_delay_user int,
        lang_user varchar (10),
        attributes_user varchar(255),
        PRIMARY KEY (email_user)
    );

CREATE TABLE subscriber_table (
    list_subscriber          varchar (50) NOT NULL,
    user_subscriber varchar (100) NOT NULL,
    date_subscriber datetime NOT NULL,
    update_subscriber datetime,
    visibility_subscriber varchar (20),
    reception_subscriber varchar (20),
    bounce_subscriber varchar (35),
    comment_subscriber varchar (150),
    subscribed_subscriber enum ('0','1'),
    included_subscriber enum ('0','1'),
    include_sources_subscriber varchar(50),
    bounce_score_subscriber smallint (6),
    PRIMARY KEY (list_subscriber, user_subscriber),
    INDEX (user_subscriber,list_subscriber)
);

CREATE TABLE admin_table (
    list_admin varchar(50) NOT NULL,
    user_admin varchar(100) NOT NULL,
    role_admin enum('listmaster','owner','editor') NOT NULL,
    date_admin datetime NOT NULL,
    update_admin datetime,
    reception_admin varchar(20),
    comment_admin varchar(150),
    subscribed_admin enum('0','1'),
    included_admin enum('0','1'),
    include_sources_admin varchar(50),
    info_admin varchar(150),
    profile_admin enum('privileged','normal'),
    PRIMARY KEY (list_admin, user_admin,role_admin),
    INDEX (list_admin, user_admin,role_admin)
);

# CREATE TABLE log_table (
#   id INT UNSIGNED DEFAULT 0 NOT NULL auto_increment,
#   date int NOT NULL,
#   pid int,
#   process enum ('task','archived','sympa','wwsympa','bounced'),

```

```

#   email_user          varchar (100),
#   auth enum ('smtp','md5','smime','null'),
#   ip varchar (15),
#   operation varchar (40),
#   list varchar (50),
#   robot varchar (60),
#   arg varchar (100),
#   status varchar (100),
#   subscriber_count int,
#   PRIMARY KEY (id),
#   INDEX (date),
#   INDEX (robot),
#   INDEX (list),
#   INDEX (email_user)
# );

```

– PostgreSQL database creation script

```

-- PostgreSQL Database creation script

CREATE DATABASE sympa;

-- Connect to DB
\connect sympa

DROP TABLE user_table;
CREATE TABLE user_table (
    email_user          varchar (100) NOT NULL,
    gecos_user          varchar (150),
    cookie_delay_user   int4,
    password_user       varchar (40),
    lang_user           varchar (10),
    attributes_user     varchar (255),
    CONSTRAINT ind_user PRIMARY KEY (email_user)
);

DROP TABLE subscriber_table;
CREATE TABLE subscriber_table (
    list_subscriber     varchar (50) NOT NULL,
    user_subscriber     varchar (100) NOT NULL,
    date_subscriber     timestamp with time zone NOT NULL,
    update_subscriber   timestamp with time zone,
    visibility_subscriber varchar (20),
    reception_subscriber varchar (20),
    bounce_subscriber   varchar (35),
    bounce_score_subscriber int4,
    comment_subscriber  varchar (150),
    subscribed_subscriber bit(1),
    included_subscriber bit(1),

```



```

include_sources_subscriber varchar(50),
CONSTRAINT ind_subscriber PRIMARY KEY (list_subscriber, user_subscriber)
);
CREATE INDEX subscriber_idx ON subscriber_table (user_subscriber,list_subscriber);

DROP TABLE admin_table;
CREATE TABLE admin_table (
list_admin  varchar(50) NOT NULL,
user_admin  varchar(100) NOT NULL,
role_admin  varchar(15) NOT NULL,
date_admin  timestamp with time zone NOT NULL,
update_admin timestamp with time zone,
reception_admin  varchar(20),
comment_admin  varchar(150),
subscribed_admin  bit(1),
included_admin  bit(1),
include_sources_admin  varchar(50),
info_admin  varchar(150),
profile_admin  varchar(15),
CONSTRAINT ind_admin PRIMARY KEY (list_admin, user_admin,role_admin)
);
CREATE INDEX admin_idx ON admin_table(list_admin, user_admin,role_admin);

```

– Sybase database creation script

```

/* Sybase Database creation script 2.5.2 */
/* Thierry Charles <tcharles@electron-libre.com> */
/* 15/06/01 : extend password_user */

/* sympa database must have been created */
/* eg: create database sympa on your_device_data=10 log on your_device_log=4 */
use sympa
go

create table user_table
(
    email_user          varchar(100)          not null,
    gecos_user          varchar(150)          null   ,
    password_user       varchar(40)           null   ,
    cookie_delay_user   numeric              null   ,
    lang_user           varchar(10)           null   ,
    attributes_user     varchar(255)          null   ,
    constraint ind_user primary key (email_user)
)
go

create index email_user_fk on user_table (email_user)
go

```

```

create table subscriber_table
(
    list_subscriber      varchar(50)          not null,
    user_subscriber      varchar(100)         not null,
    date_subscriber      datetime             not null,
    update_subscriber    datetime             null,
    visibility_subscriber varchar(20)          null ,
    reception_subscriber varchar(20)          null ,
    bounce_subscriber    varchar(35)          null ,
    bounce_score_subscriber numeric           null ,
    comment_subscriber   varchar(150)         null ,
    subscribed_subscriber numeric            null ,
    included_subscriber  numeric              null ,
    include_sources_subscriber varchar(50)     null ,
    constraint ind_subscriber primary key (list_subscriber, user_subscriber)
)
go

create index list_subscriber_fk on subscriber_table (list_subscriber)
go

create index user_subscriber_fk on subscriber_table (user_subscriber)
go

create table admin_table
(
    list_admin  varchar(50)          not null,
    user_admin  varchar(100)         not null,
    role_admin  varchar(15)          not null,
    date_admin  datetime             not null,
    update_admin datetime            null,
    reception_admin varchar(20)       null,
    comment_admin varchar(150)        null,
    subscribed_admin numeric           null,
    included_admin  numeric            null,
    include_sources_admin varchar(50)   null,
    info_admin     varchar(150)        null,
    profile_admin  varchar(15)         null,
    constraint ind_admin primary key (list_admin, user_admin, role_admin)
)
go

create index list_admin_fk on admin_table (list_admin)
go

create index user_admin_fk on admin_table (user_admin)
go

create index role_admin_fk on admin_table (role_admin)

```

go

– Oracle database creation script

```
## Oracle Database creation script
## Fabien Marquois <fmarquois@univ-lr.fr>

/Bases/oracle/product/7.3.4.1/bin/sqlplus loginsystem/passwdoracle <<-!
create user SYMPA identified by SYMPA default tablespace TABLESP
temporary tablespace TEMP;
grant create session to SYMPA;
grant create table to SYMPA;
grant create synonym to SYMPA;
grant create view to SYMPA;
grant execute any procedure to SYMPA;
grant select any table to SYMPA;
grant select any sequence to SYMPA;
grant resource to SYMPA;
!

/Bases/oracle/product/7.3.4.1/bin/sqlplus SYMPA/SYMPA <<-!
CREATE TABLE user_table (
    email_user          varchar2(100) NOT NULL,
    gecos_user          varchar2(150),
    password_user       varchar2(40),
    cookie_delay_user   number,
    lang_user           varchar2(10),
    attributes_user     varchar2(500),
    CONSTRAINT ind_user PRIMARY KEY (email_user)
);
CREATE TABLE subscriber_table (
    list_subscriber     varchar2(50) NOT NULL,
    user_subscriber     varchar2(100) NOT NULL,
    date_subscriber     date NOT NULL,
    update_subscriber   date,
    visibility_subscriber varchar2(20),
    reception_subscriber varchar2(20),
    bounce_subscriber   varchar2 (35),
    bounce_score_subscriber number,
    comment_subscriber  varchar2 (150),
    subscribed_subscriber number NULL    constraint cons_subscribed_subscriber CHECK (subscribed_subscriber <= 1),
    included_subscriber number NULL    constraint cons_included_subscriber CHECK (included_subscriber <= 1),
    include_sources_subscriber varchar2(50),
    CONSTRAINT ind_subscriber PRIMARY KEY (list_subscriber,user_subscriber)
);
CREATE TABLE admin_table (
    list_admin  varchar2(50) NOT NULL,
```

```

        user_admin varchar2(100) NOT NULL,
        role_admin varchar2(20) NOT NULL,
        date_admin date NOT NULL,
        update_admin date,
        reception_admin varchar2(20),
        comment_admin varchar2(150),
        subscribed_admin number NULL constraint cons_subscribed_admin CHECK (subs
        included_admin number NULL constraint cons_included_admin CHECK (included
        include_sources_admin varchar2(50),
        info_admin varchar2(150),
        profile_admin varchar2(20),
        CONSTRAINT ind_admin PRIMARY KEY (list_admin,user_admin,role_admin),
    );

!

```

You can execute the script using a simple SQL shell such as `mysql`, `psql` or `sqlplus`.

Example :

```
# mysql < create_db.mysql
```

## 7.4 Setting database privileges

We strongly recommend you restrict access to *sympa* database. You will then set `db_user` and `db_passwd` in `sympa.conf`.

With MySQL :

```
grant all on sympa.* to sympa@localhost identified by 'your_password';
flush privileges;
```

## 7.5 Importing subscribers data

### 7.5.1 Importing data from a text file

You can import subscribers data into the database from a text file having one entry per line : the first field is an e-mail address, the second (optional) field is the free form name. Fields are spaces-separated.

Example :

```
## Data to be imported
```

```
## email      gecos
john.steward@some.company.com      John - accountant
mary.blacksmith@another.company.com  Mary - secretary
```

To import data into the database :

```
cat /tmp/my_import_file | sympy.pl --import=my_list
```

(see 3.7, page 32).

### 7.5.2 Importing data from subscribers files

If a mailing list was previously setup to store subscribers into subscribers file (the default mode in versions older then 2.2b) you can load subscribers data into the sympy database. The easiest way is to edit the list configuration using *WWSympa* (this requires listmaster privileges) and change the data source from **file** to **database** ; subscribers data will be loaded into the database at the same time.

If the subscribers file is big, a timeout may occur during the FastCGI execution (Note that you can set a longer timeout with the `-idle-timeout` option of the `FastCgiServer` Apache configuration directive). In this case, or if you have not installed *WWSympa*, you should use the `load_subscribers.pl` script.

## 7.6 Management of the include cache

You may dynamically add a list of subscribers, editors or owners to a list with Sympa's **include2** user data source. Sympa is able to query multiple data sources (RDBMS, LDAP directory, flat file, a local list, a remote list) to build a mailing list.

Sympa used to manage the cache of such *included* subscribers in a DB File (**include** mode) but now stores subscribers, editors and owners in the database (**include2** mode). These changes brought the following advantages :

- Sympa processes are smaller when dealing with big mailing lists (in include mode)
- Cache update is now performed regularly by a dedicated process, the task manager
- Mixed lists (included + subscribed users) can now be created
- Sympa can now provide reception options for *included* members
- Bounces information can be managed for *included* members
- Sympa keeps track of the data sources of a member (available on the web REVIEW page)
- *included* members can also subscribe to the list. It allows them to remain in the list though they might no more be included.

## 7.7 Extending database table format

You can easily add other fields to the three tables, they will not disturb *Sympa* because it lists explicitly the field it expects in SELECT queries.

Moreover you can access these database fields from within *Sympa* (in templates), as far as you list these additional fields in `sympa.conf` (See 6.10.10, page 63 and 6.10.11, page 63).

## 7.8 *Sympa* configuration

To store subscriber information in your newly created database, you first need to tell *Sympa* what kind of database to work with, then you must configure your list to access the database.

You define the database source in `sympa.conf` : `db_type`, `db_name`, `db_host`, `db_user`, `db_passwd`.

If you are interfacing *Sympa* with an Oracle database, `db_name` is the SID.

All your lists are now configured to use the database, unless you set list parameter `user_data_source` to **file** or **include**.

*Sympa* will now extract and store user information for this list using the database instead of the `subscribers` file. Note however that subscriber information is dumped to `subscribers.db.dump` at every shutdown, to allow a manual rescue restart (by renaming `subscribers.db.dump` to `subscribers` and changing the `user_data_source` parameter), if ever the database were to become inaccessible.

## Chapitre 8

# WWSympa, Sympa's web interface

WWSympa is *Sympa*'s web interface.

### 8.1 Organization

*WWSympa* is fully integrated with *Sympa*. It uses `sympa.conf` and *Sympa*'s libraries. The default *Sympa* installation will also install *WWSympa*.

Every single piece of HTML in *WWSympa* is generated by the CGI code using template files (See 14.1, page 125). This facilitates internationalization of pages, as well as per-site customization.

The code consists of one single PERL CGI script, `WWSympa.fcgi`. To enhance performance you can configure *WWSympa* to use FastCGI; the CGI will be persistent in memory.

All data will be accessed through the CGI, including web archives. This is required to allow the authentication scheme to be applied systematically.

Authentication is based on passwords stored in the database table `user_table`; if the appropriate Crypt : :CipherSaber is installed, password are encrypted in the database using reversible encryption based on RC4. Otherwise they are stored in clear text. In both cases reminding of passwords is possible. To keep track of authentication information *WWSympa* uses HTTP cookies stored on the client side. The HTTP cookie only indicates that a specified e-mail address has been authenticated; permissions are evaluated when an action is requested.

The same web interface is used by the listmaster, list owners, subscribers and others. Depending on permissions, the same URL may generate a different view.

WWSympa's main loop algorithm is roughly the following :

1. Check authentication information returned by the HTTP cookie
2. Evaluate user's permissions for the requested action
3. Process the requested action
4. Set up variables resulting from the action
5. Parse the HTML template files

## 8.2 Web server setup

### 8.2.1 wwsympa.fcgi access permissions

Because Sympa and WWSympa share a lot of files, `wwsympa.fcgi`, must run with the same uid/gid as `archived.pl`, `bounced.pl` and `sympa.pl`. There are different ways to organize this :

- With some operating systems no special setup is required because `wwsympa.fcgi` is installed with `suid` and `sgid` bits, but this will not work if `suid` scripts are refused by your system.
- Run a dedicated Apache server with `sympa.sympa` as uid.gid (The Apache default is `nobody.nobody`)
- Use a Apache virtual host with `sympa.sympa` as uid.gid ; Apache needs to be compiled with `suexec`. Be aware that the Apache `suexec` usually define a lowest UID/GID allowed to be a target user for `suEXEC`. For most systems including binaries distribution of Apache, the default value 100 is common. So Sympa UID (and Sympa GID) must be higher then 100 or `suexec` must be tuned in order to allow lower UID/GID. Check <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/suexec.html#install> for details

The User and Group directive have to be set before the `FastCgiServer` directive is encountered.

- Otherwise, you can overcome restrictions on the execution of `suid` scripts by using a short C program, owned by `sympa` and with the `suid` bit set, to start `wwsympa.fcgi`. Here is an example (with no guarantee attached) :

```
#include <unistd.h>

#define WWSYMPA "/home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi"

int main(int argn, char **argv, char **envp) {
    argv[0] = WWSYMPA;
    execve(WWSYMPA,argv,envp);
}
```



### 8.2.2 Installing wwsympa.fcgi in your Apache server

If you chose to run `wwsympa.fcgi` as a simple CGI, you simply need to script alias it.

```
Example :  
ScriptAlias /sympa /home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi
```

Running FastCGI will provide much faster responses from your server and reduce load (to understand why, read <http://www.fastcgi.com/fastcgi-devkit-2.1/doc/fastcgi-perf.htm>)

```
Example :  
FastCgiServer /home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi -processes 2  
<Location /sympa>  
    SetHandler fastcgi-script  
</Location>  
  
ScriptAlias /sympa /home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi
```

If you run Virtual robots, then the `FastCgiServer(s)` can serve multiple robots. Therefore you need to define it in the common section of your Apache configuration file.

### 8.2.3 Using FastCGI

FastCGI is an extension to CGI that provides persistency for CGI programs. It is extremely useful with *WWSympa* since source code interpretation and all initialisation tasks are performed only once, at server startup ; then file `wwsympa.fcgi` instances are waiting for clients requests.

*WWSympa* can also work without FastCGI, depending on the `use_fast.cgi` parameter (see 8.3.15, page 84).

To run *WWSympa* with FastCGI, you need to install :

- `mod_fastcgi` : the Apache module that provides FastCGI features
- `FCGI` : the Perl module used by *WWSympa*

## 8.3 wwsympa.conf parameters

### 8.3.1 arc\_path

(Default value: /home/httpd/html/arc)

Where to store html archives. This parameter is used by the `archived.pl` daemon. It is a good idea to install the archive outside the web hierarchy to prevent possible back doors in the access control powered by WWSympa. However, if Apache is configured with a chroot, you may have to install the archive in the Apache directory tree.

### 8.3.2 archive\_default\_index thrd — mail

(Default value: thrd)

The default index organization when entering web archives : either threaded or chronological order.

### 8.3.3 archived\_pidfile

(Default value: `archived.pid`)

The file containing the PID of `archived.pl`.

### 8.3.4 bounce\_path

(Default value: /var/bounce)

Root directory for storing bounces (non-delivery reports). This parameter is used mainly by the `bounced.pl` daemon.

### 8.3.5 bounced\_pidfile

(Default value: `bounced.pid`)

The file containing the PID of `bounced.pl`.

### 8.3.6 cookie\_expire

(Default value: 0) Lifetime (in minutes) of HTTP cookies. This is the default value when not set explicitly by users.

### 8.3.7 cookie\_domain

(Default value: localhost)

Domain for the HTTP cookies. If beginning with a dot ('.'), the cookie is available within the specified internet domain. Otherwise, for the specified host. Example :

```
cookie_domain cru.fr
cookie is available for host 'cru.fr'

cookie_domain .cru.fr
cookie is available for any host within 'cru.fr' domain
```

The only reason for replacing the default value would be where *WWSympa*'s authentication process is shared with an application running on another host.

### 8.3.8 default\_home

(Default value: home)

Organization of the *WWSympa* home page. If you have only a few lists, the default value 'home' (presenting a list of lists organized by topic) should be replaced by 'lists' (a simple alphabetical list of lists).

### 8.3.9 icons\_url

(Default value: /icons)

URL of *WWSympa*'s icons directory.

### 8.3.10 log\_facility

*WWSympa* will log using this facility. Defaults to *Sympa*'s syslog facility. Configure your syslog according to this parameter.

### 8.3.11 mhonarc

(Default value: /usr/bin/mhonarc)

Path to the (superb) MhOnArc program. Required for html archives  
<http://www.oac.uci.edu/indiv/ehood/mhonarc.html>

### 8.3.12 `htmlarea_url`

(Default value: `undefined`)

Relative URL to the (superb) online html editor HTMLarea. If you have installed javascript application you can use it when editing html document in the shared document repository. In order to activate this pluggin the value of this parameter should point to the root directory where HTMLarea is installed. HTMLarea is a free opensource software you can download here : <http://sf.net/projects/itools-htmlarea/>

### 8.3.13 `password_case sensitive — insensitive`

(Default value: `insensitive`)

If set to **insensitive**, WWSympa's password check will be insensitive. This only concerns passwords stored in Sympa database, not the ones in LDAP.

**Be careful :** in previous 3.xx versions of Sympa, passwords were lowercased before database insertion. Therefore changing to case-sensitive password checking could bring you some password checking problems.

### 8.3.14 `title`

(Default value: `Mailing List Service`)

The name of your mailing list service. It will appear in the Title section of WWSympa.

### 8.3.15 `use_fast_cgi 0 — 1`

(Default value: `1`)

Choice of whether or not to use FastCGI. On [listes.cru.fr](http://listes.cru.fr), using FastCGI increases WWSympa performance by as much as a factor of 10. Refer to <http://www.fastcgi.com/> and the Apache config section of this document for details about FastCGI.

## 8.4 MhOnArc

MhOnArc is a neat little converter from mime messages to html. Refer to <http://www.oac.uci.edu/indiv/ehood/mhonarc.html>.

The long mhonarc resource file is used by WWSympa in a particular way. MhOnArc is called to produce not a complete html document, but only a part of it to be included in a complete document (starting with `<HTML>` and terminating with `</HTML>;-)`). The

best way is to use the MhOnArc resource file provided in the *WWSympa* distribution and to modify it for your needs.

The mhonarc resource file is named `mhonarc-ressources`. You may locate this file either in

1. `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/mhonarc-ressources` in order to create a specific archive look for a particular list
2. or `/home/sympa/etc/mhonarc-ressources`

## 8.5 Archiving daemon

`archived.pl` converts messages from *Sympa*'s spools and calls `mhonarc` to create html versions (whose location is defined by the `"arc_path"` *WWSympa* parameter). You should probably install these archives outside the *Sympa* `home_dir` (*Sympa*'s initial choice for storing mail archives : `/home/sympa/expl/mylist`). Note that the html archive contains a text version of each message and is totally separate from *Sympa*'s main archive.

1. create a directory according to the *WWSympa* `"arc_path"` parameter (must be owned by *sympa*, does not have to be in Apache space unless your server uses `chroot`)
2. for each list, if you need a web archive, create a new web archive paragraph in the list configuration. Example :

```
web_archive
access public|private|owner|listmaster|closed
quota 10000
```

If `web_archive` is defined for a list, every message distributed by this list is copied to `/home/sympa/spool/outgoing/`. (No need to create nonexistent subscribers to receive copies of messages). In this example disk quota for the archive is limited to 10 Mo.

3. start `archived.pl`. *Sympa* and Apache
4. check *WWSympa* logs, or alternatively, start `archived.pl` in debug mode (`-d`).
5. If you change `mhonarc` resources and wish to rebuild the entire archive using the new look defined for `mhonarc`, simply create an empty file named `".rebuild.mylist@myhost"` in `/home/sympa/spool/outgoing`, and make sure that the owner of this file is *Sympa*.

```
example : su sympa -c "touch /home/sympa/spool/outgoing/.rebuild.sympa-fr@cru.fr"
```

You can also rebuild web archives from within the admin page of the list.

Furthermore, if you want to get list's archives, you can do it via the List-admin menu-> Archive Management

## 8.6 Database configuration

*WWSympa* needs an RDBMS (Relational Database Management System) in order to run. All database access is performed via the *Sympa* API. *Sympa* currently interfaces with MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle and Sybase.

A database is needed to store user passwords and preferences. The database structure is documented in the *Sympa* documentation ; scripts for creating it are also provided with the *Sympa* distribution (in *script*).

User information (password and preferences) are stored in the «User» table. User passwords stored in the database are encrypted using reversible RC4 encryption controlled with the *cookie* parameter, since *WWSympa* might need to remind users of their passwords. The security of *WWSympa* rests on the security of your database.

## 8.7 Logging in as listmaster

Once *Sympa* is running you should log in on the web interface as a privileged user (listmaster) to explore the admin interface, create mailing lists.

Multiple email addresses can be declared as listmaster via the *sympa.conf* (or *robot.conf*) *listmaster* configuration parameter (see 6, page 43). Note that listmasters on the main robot (declared in *sympa.conf*) also have listmaster privileges on the virtual robots but they will not receive the various mail notifications (list creation, warnings,...) regarding these virtual robots.

The listmasters should log in with their canonical email address as an identifier (not *listmaster@my.host*). The associated password is not declared in *sympa.conf* ; it will be allocated by *Sympa* when first hitting the **Send me a password** button on the web interface. As for any user, the password can then be modified via the **Preferred** menu.

Note that you must start the *sympa.pl* process with the web interface ; it is in responsible for delivering mail messages including password reminders.

## 8.8 RSS channel

See 9, page 87.

## Chapitre 9

# Sympa RSS channel

This service is provided by *WWSympa* (*Sympa*'s web interface). Here is the root of *WWSympa*'s rss channel :

(Default value: `http ://<host>/wws/rss`)

Example: `https ://my.server/wws/rss`

The access control of RSS queries proceed on the same way as *WWSympa* actions referred to. *Sympa* provides the following RSS features :

- the latest created lists on a robot (`latest_lists`);
- the most active lists on a robot(`active_lists`);
- the latest messages of a list (`active_arc`);
- the latest shared documents of a list (`latest_d_read`);

### 9.1 latest\_lists

This provides the latest created lists.

Example: `http ://my.server/wws/rss/latest_lists?for=3&count=6`

This provides the 6 latest created lists for the last 3 days.

Example: `http ://my.server/wws/rss/latest_lists/computing?count=6`

This provides the 6 latest created lists with topic "computing".

Parameters :

- `for` : period of interest (expressed in days). This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.
- `count` : maximum number of expected records. This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.
- `topic` : the topic is indicated in the path info (see example below with topic computing). This parameter is optional.

## 9.2 `active_lists`

This provides the most active lists, based on the number of distributed messages (number of received messages).

Example: `http://my.server/wws/rss/active_lists?for=3&count=6`

This provides the 6 most active lists for the last 3 days.

Example: `http://my.server/wws/rss/active_lists/computing?count=6`

This provides the 6 most active lists with topic “computing”.

Parameters :

- `for` : period of interest (expressed in days). This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.
- `count` : maximum number of expected records. This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.
- `topic` : the topic is indicated in the path info (see example below with topic computing). This parameter is optional.

## 9.3 `latest_arc`

This provides the latest messages of a list.

Example: `http://my.server/wws/rss/latest_arc/mylist?for=3&count=6`

This provides the 6 latest messages received on the mylistlist for the last 3 days.

Parameters :

- `list` : the list is indicated in the path info. This parameter is mandatory.
- `for` : period of interest (expressed in days). This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.
- `count` : maximum number of expected records. This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “`for`” or “`count`” is required.



## 9.4 latest\_d\_read

This provides the latest updated and uploaded shared documents of a list.

Example: `http://my.server/wws/rss/latest_d_read/mylist?for=3&count=6`

This provides the 6 latest documents uploaded or updated on the mylistlist for the last 3 days.

Parameters :

- list : the list is indicated in the path info. This parameter is mandatory.
- for : period of interest (expressed in days). This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “for” or “count” is required.
- count : maximum number of expected records. This is a CGI parameter. It is optional but one of the two parameters “for” or “count” is required.



## Chapitre 10

# Sympa SOAP server

### 10.1 Introduction

SOAP is one protocol (generally over HTTP) that can be used to provide **web services**. Sympa SOAP server allows to access a Sympa service from within another program, written in any programming language and on any computer. SOAP encapsulates procedure calls, input parameters and resulting data in an XML data structure. The Sympa SOAP server's API is published in a **WSDL** document, retrieved via Sympa's web interface.

The SOAP server provides a limited set of high level functions including `login`, `which`, `lists`, `subscribe`, `signoff`. Other functions might be implemented in the future.

The SOAP server uses SOAP : : Lite Perl library. The server is running as a daemon (thanks to FastCGI), receiving the client SOAP requests via a web server (Apache for example).

### 10.2 Web server setup

You **NEED TO** install FastCGI for the SOAP server to work properly because it will run as a daemon.

Here is a sample piece of your Apache `httpd.conf` with a SOAP server configured :

```
FastCgiServer /home/sympa/bin/sympa_soap_server.fcgi -processes 1
ScriptAlias /sympasoap /home/sympa/bin/sympa_soap_server.fcgi
```

```
<Location /sympasoaop>
    SetHandler fastcgi-script
</Location>
```

### 10.3 Sympa setup

The only parameters that you need to set in `sympa.conf/robot.conf` files is the `soap_url` parameter that defines the URL of the SOAP service corresponding to the `ScriptAlias` you've previously setup in Apache config.

This parameter is used to publish the SOAP service URL in the WSDL file (defining the API) but also for the SOAP server to deduce what Virtual Robot is concerned by the current SOAP request (a single SOAP server will serve all Sympa Virtual robots).

### 10.4 The WSDL service description

Here is what the WSDL file looks like before it is parsed by WWSympa :

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<definitions name="Sympa"
xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/soap/"
targetNamespace="[% conf.wwsympa_url %]/wsdl"
xmlns:tns="[% conf.wwsympa_url %]/wsdl"
xmlns="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/"
xmlns:xsdl="[% conf.soap_url %]/wsdl">

<!-- types part -->

<types>
<schema targetNamespace="[% conf.wwsympa_url %]/wsdl"
xmlns:SOAP-ENC="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/"
xmlns:wsdl="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/"
xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">

<complexType name="ArrayOfLists">
<complexContent>
<restriction base="SOAP-ENC:Array">
<attribute ref="SOAP-ENC:arrayType" wsdl:arrayType="tns:listType[]" />
</restriction>
```

```

</complexContent>
</complexType>

<complexType name="ArrayOfString">
  <complexContent>
    <restriction base="SOAP-ENC:Array">
      <attribute ref="SOAP-ENC:arrayType" wsdl:arrayType="string[]" />
    </restriction>
  </complexContent>
</complexType>

<complexType name="listType">
  <all>
    <element name="listAddress" minOccurs="1" type="string"/>
    <element name="homepage" minOccurs="0" type="string"/>
    <element name="isSubscriber" minOccurs="0" type="boolean"/>
    <element name="isOwner" minOccurs="0" type="boolean"/>
    <element name="isEditor" minOccurs="0" type="boolean"/>
    <element name="subject" minOccurs="0" type="string"/>
  </all>
</complexType>
</schema>
</types>

<!-- message part -->

<message name="infoRequest">
  <part name="listName" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="infoResponse">
  <part name="return" type="tns:listType"/>
</message>

<message name="complexWhichRequest">
</message>

<message name="complexWhichResponse">
  <part name="return" type="tns:ArrayOfLists"/>
</message>

<message name="whichRequest">
</message>

<message name="whichResponse">
  <part name="return" type="tns:ArrayOfString"/>
</message>

<message name="amIRequest">

```

```
<part name="list" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="function" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="user" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="amIResponse">
<part name="return" type="xsd:boolean"/>
</message>

<message name="reviewRequest">
<part name="list" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="reviewResponse">
<part name="return" type="tns:ArrayOfString"/>
</message>

<message name="signoffRequest">
<part name="list" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="email" type="xsd:string" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
</message>

<message name="signoffResponse">
<part name="return" type="xsd:boolean"/>
</message>

<message name="subscribeRequest">
<part name="list" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="gecos" type="xsd:string" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
</message>

<message name="subscribeResponse">
<part name="return" type="xsd:boolean"/>
</message>

<message name="loginRequest">
<part name="email" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="password" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="loginResponse">
<part name="return" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="authenticateAndRunRequest">
<part name="email" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="cookie" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="service" type="xsd:string"/>
<part name="parameters" type="tns:ArrayOfString" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
</message>
```

```

<message name="authenticateAndRunResponse">
  <part name="return" type="tns:ArrayOfString" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
</message>

<message name="casLoginRequest">
  <part name="proxyTicket" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="casLoginResponse">
  <part name="return" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="listsRequest">
  <part name="topic" type="xsd:string" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
  <part name="subtopic" type="xsd:string" xsd:minOccurs="0"/>
</message>

<message name="listsResponse">
  <part name="listInfo" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<message name="complexListsRequest">
</message>

<message name="complexListsResponse">
  <part name="return" type="tns:ArrayOfLists"/>
</message>

<message name="checkCookieRequest">
</message>

<message name="checkCookieResponse">
  <part name="email" type="xsd:string"/>
</message>

<!-- portType part -->

<portType name="SympaPort">
  <operation name="info">
    <input message="tns:infoRequest" />
    <output message="tns:infoResponse" />
  </operation>
  <operation name="complexWhich">
    <input message="tns:complexWhichRequest" />
    <output message="tns:complexWhichResponse" />
  </operation>
  <operation name="which">
    <input message="tns:whichRequest" />

```

```

<output message="tns:whichResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="amI">
<input message="tns:amIRequest" />
<output message="tns:amIResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="review">
<input message="tns:reviewRequest" />
<output message="tns:reviewResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="subscribe">
<input message="tns:subscribeRequest" />
<output message="tns:subscribeResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="signoff">
<input message="tns:signoffRequest" />
<output message="tns:signoffResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="login">
<input message="tns:loginRequest" />
<output message="tns:loginResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="casLogin">
<input message="tns:casLoginRequest" />
<output message="tns:casLoginResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="authenticateAndRun">
<input message="tns:authenticateAndRunRequest" />
<output message="tns:authenticateAndRunResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="lists">
<input message="tns:listsRequest" />
<output message="tns:listsResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="complexLists">
<input message="tns:complexListsRequest" />
<output message="tns:complexListsResponse" />
</operation>
<operation name="checkCookie">
<input message="tns:checkCookieRequest" />
<output message="tns:checkCookieResponse" />
</operation>
</portType>

<!-- Binding part -->

<binding name="SOAP" type="tns:SympaPort">
<soap:binding style="rpc" transport="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/http"/>
<operation name="info">

```



```

<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#info"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="complexWhich">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#complexWhich"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="which">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#which"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="amI">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#amI"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>

```

```

</operation>
<operation name="review">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#review"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="subscribe">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#subscribe"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="signoff">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#signoff"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="login">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#login"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"

```

```

encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="casLogin">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#casLogin"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="authenticateAndRun">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#authenticateAndRun"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="lists">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#lists"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="complexLists">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#complexLists"/>
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
</input>
<output>

```

```

<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
<operation name="checkCookie">
<soap:operation soapAction="urn:sympassoap#checkCookie" />
<input>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</input>
<output>
<soap:body use="encoded"
namespace="urn:sympassoap"
encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/" />
</output>
</operation>
</binding>

<!-- service part -->

<service name="SympaSOAP">
<port name="SympaPort" binding="tns:SOAP">
<soap:address location="[% conf.soap_url %]" />
</port>
</service>

</definitions>

```

## 10.5 Client-side programming

Sympa is distributed with 2 sample clients written in Perl and in PHP. Sympa SOAP server has also been successfully tested with a UPortal Chanel as a Java client (using Axis). The sample PHP SOAP client has been installed on our demo server : <http://demo.sympa.org/sampleClient.php>.

Depending on your programming language and the SOAP library you're using, you will either directly contact the SOAP service (as with Perl SOAP : :Lite library) or first load the WSDL description of the service (as with PHP nusoap or Java Axis). Axis is able to create a stub from the WSDL document.

The WSDL document describing the service should be fetch through WWSympa's dedicated URL : **http ://your.server/sympa/wsdl**.

Note : the **login()** function maintains a login session using HTTP cookies. If you are not able to maintain this session by analysing and sending appropriate cookies under SOAP, then you should use the **authenticateAndRun()** function that does not require cookies to authenticate.

### 10.5.1 Writting a Java client with Axis

First, download jakarta-axis ([http ://ws.apache.org/axis/](http://ws.apache.org/axis/))

You must add the libraries provided with jakarta axis (v 1.1) to you CLASSPATH. These libraries are :

- axis.jar
- saaj.jar
- commons-discovery.jar
- commons-logging.jar
- xercesImpl.jar
- jaxrpc.jar
- xml-apis.jar
- jaas.jar
- wsdl4j.jar
- soap.jar

Next, you have to generate client java classes files from the sympa WSDL url. Use the following command :

```
java org.apache.axis.wsdl.WSDL2Java -av WSDL_URL
```

For example :

```
java org.apache.axis.wsdl.WSDL2Java -av http://demo.sympa.org/sympa/wsdl
```

Exemple of screen output during generation of java files :

```
Parsing XML file: http://demo.sympa.org/sympa/wsdl
Generating org/sympa/demo/sympa/msdl/ListType.java
Generating org/sympa/demo/sympa/msdl/SympaPort.java
```

```
Generating org/sympa/demo/sympa/msdl/SOAPStub.java
Generating org/sympa/demo/sympa/msdl/SympaSOAP.java
Generating org/sympa/demo/sympa/msdl/SympaSOAPLocator.java
```

If you need more information or more generated classes (to have the server-side classes or junit testcase classes for example), you can get a list of switches :

```
java org.apache.axis.wsdl.WSDL2Java -h
```

The reference page is :  
<http://ws.apache.org/axis/java/reference.html>

Take care of Test classes generated by axis, there are not useable as is. You have to stay connected between each test. To use junit testcases, before each soap operation tested, you must call the authenticated connexion to sympa instance.

Here is a simple Java code that invokes the generated stub to perform a casLogin() and a which() on the remote Sympa SOAP server :

```
SympaSOAP loc = new SympaSOAPLocator();
((SympaSOAPLocator)loc).setMaintainSession(true);
SympaPort tmp = loc.getSympaPort();
String _value = tmp.casLogin(_ticket);
String _cookie = tmp.checkCookie();
String[] _abonnements = tmp.which();
```

## Chapitre 11

# Authentication

*Sympa* needs to authenticate users (subscribers, owners, moderators, listmaster) on both its mail and web interface to then apply appropriate privileges (authorization process) to subsequent requested actions. *Sympa* is able to cope with multiple authentication means on the client side and when using user+password it can validate these credentials against LDAP authentication backends.

When contacted on the mail interface *Sympa* has 3 authentication levels. Lower level is to trust the From: SMTP header field. A higher level of authentication will require that the user confirms his/her message. The strongest supported authentication method is S/MIME (note that *Sympa* also deals with S/MIME encrypted messages).

On the *Sympa* web interface (*WWSympa*) the user can authenticate in 4 different ways (if appropriate setup has been done on *Sympa* serveur). Default authentication mean is via the user's email address and a password managed by *Sympa* itself. If an LDAP authentication backend (or multiple) has been defined, then the user can authentication with his/her LDAP uid and password. *Sympa* is also able to delegate the authentication job to a web Single SignOn system ; currently CAS (the Yale University system) or a generic SSO setup, adapted to SSO products providing an Apache module. When contacted via HTTPS, *Sympa* can make use of X509 client certificates to authenticate users.

The authorization process in *Sympa* (authorization scenarios) refers to authentication methods. The same authorization scenarios are used for both mail and web access ; therefore some authentication methods are considered as equivalent : mail confirmation (on the mail interface) is equivalent to password authentication (on the web interface) ; S/MIME authentication is equivalent to HTTPS with client certificate authentication. Each rule in authorization scenarios requires an authentication method (smtp,md5 or smime) ; if the required authentication method was not used, a higher authentication mode can be requested.

## 11.1 S/MIME and HTTPS authentication

Chapter 23.2 (page 206) deals with *Sympa* and S/MIME signature. *Sympa* uses OpenSSL library to work on S/MIME messages, you need to configure some related *Sympa* parameters : 23.4.2 (page 207).

*Sympa* HTTPS authentication is based on Apache+mod\_SSL that provide the required authentication information via CGI environment variables. You will need to edit Apache configuration to allow HTTPS access and require X509 client certificate. Here is a sample Apache configuration

```
SSLEngine on
SSLVerifyClient optional
SSLVerifyDepth 10
...
<Location /sympa>
    SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
    SetHandler fastcgi-script
</Location>
```

## 11.2 Authentication with email address, uid or alternate email address

*Sympa* stores the data relative to the subscribers in a DataBase. Among these data : password, email exploited during the Web authentication. The module of LDAP authentication allows to use *Sympa* in an intranet without duplicating user passwords.

This way users can indifferently authenticate with their `ldap_uid`, their `alternate_email` or their canonic email stored in the LDAP directory.

*Sympa* gets the canonic email in the LDAP directory with the `ldap_uid` or the `alternate_email`. *Sympa* will first attempt an anonymous bind to the directory to get the user's DN, then *Sympa* will bind with the DN and the user's `ldap_password` in order to perform an efficient authentication. This last bind will work only if the good `ldap_password` is provided. Indeed the value returned by the `bind(DN,ldap_password)` is tested.

Example : a person is described by

```
Dn:cn=Fabrice Rafart,
ou=Siege ,
o=MaSociete ,
c=FR Objectclass:
```



```

person Cn: Fabrice Rafart
Title: Network Responsible
O: Siege
Or: Data processing
Telephonenumber: 01-00-00-00-00
Facsimiletelephonenumber:01-00-00-00-00
L:Paris
Country: France

```

```

uid: frafart
mail: Fabrice.Rafart@MaSociete.fr
alternate_email: frafart@MaSociete.fr
alternate:rafart@MaSociete.fr

```

So Fabrice Rafart can be authenticated with : frafart, Fabrice.Rafart@MaSociete.fr, frafart@MaSociete.fr, Rafart@MaSociete.fr. After this operation, the address in the field FROM will be the Canonic email, in this case Fabrice.Rafart@MaSociete.fr. That means that *Sympa* will get this email and use it during all the session until you clearly ask *Sympa* to change your email address via the two pages : which and pref.

## 11.3 Generic SSO authentication

The authentication method has first been introduced to allow interaction with Shibboleth, Internet2's inter-institutional authentication system. But it should be usable with any SSO system that provides an Apache authentication module being able to protect a specified URL on the site (not the whole site). Here is a sample httpd.conf that shibprotects the associated Sympa URL :

```

...
<Location /sympa/sso_login/inqueue>
  AuthType shibboleth
  require affiliation ~ ^member@.+
</Location>
...

```

*Sympa* will get user attributes via environment variables. In the most simple case the SSO will provide the user email address. If not, Sympa can be configured to look for the user email address in a LDAP directory (the search filter will make use of user information inherited from the SSO Apache module).

To plug a new SSO server in your Sympa server you should add a **generic.sso** paragraph (describing the SSO service) in your `auth.conf` configuration file (See 11.5.3, page 111). Once this paragraph has been added, the SSO service name will be automatically added to the web login menu.

Apart from the user email address, the SSO can provide other user attributes that *Sympa* will store in the `user_table` DB table (for persistancy) and make them available in the `[user_attributes]` structure that you can use within authorization scenarios (see 12.1, page 116) or in web templates via the `[% user.attributes %]` structure.

## 11.4 CAS-based authentication

CAS is Yale university SSO software. Sympa can use CAS authentication service.

The listmaster should define at least one or more CAS servers (**cas** paragraph) in `auth.conf`. If **non.blocking.redirection** parameter was set for a CAS server then Sympa will try a transparent login on this server when the user accesses the web interface. If one CAS server redirect the user to Sympa with a valid ticket Sympa receives a user ID from the CAS server. It then connects to the related LDAP directory to get the user email address. If no CAS server returns a valid user ID, Sympa will let the user either select a CAS server to login or perform a Sympa login.

## 11.5 auth.conf

The `/home/sympa/etc/auth.conf` configuration file contains numerous parameters which are read on start-up of *Sympa*. If you change this file, do not forget that you will need to restart `wwsympa.fcgi` afterwards.

The `/home/sympa/etc/auth.conf` is organised in paragraphs. Each paragraph describes an authentication service with all required parameters to perform an authentication using this service. Current version of *Sympa* can perform authentication through LDAP directories, using an external Single Sign-On Service (like CAS or Shibboleth), or using internal `user_table`.

The login page contains 2 forms : the login form and the SSO. When users hit the login form, each ldap or `user_table` authentication paragraph is applied unless email adress input from form match the `negative_regexp` or do not match `regexp`. `negative_regexp` and `regexp` can be defined for earch ldap or `user_table` authentication service so administrator can block some authentication methode for class of users.

The second form in login page contain the list of CAS server so user can choose explicitly his CAS service.

Each paragraph start with one of the keyword `cas`, `ldap` or `user_table`

The `/home/sympa/etc/auth.conf` file contains directives in the following format :

```
paragraphs
keyword value

paragraphs
keyword value
```

Comments start with the # character at the beginning of a line.

Empty lines are also considered as comments and are ignored at the beginning. After the first paragraph they are considered as paragraphs separators. There should only be one directive per line, but their order in the paragraph is of no importance.

Example :

```
#Configuration file auth.conf for the LDAP authentication
#Description of parameters for each directory
```

```
cas
base_url https://sso-cas.cru.fr
non_blocking_redirection      on
auth_service_name cas-cru
ldap_host ldap.cru.fr:389
    ldap_get_email_by_uid_filter    (uid=[uid])
ldap_timeout 7
ldap_suffix dc=cru,dc=fr
ldap_scope sub
ldap_email_attribute mail
```

```
## The URL corresponding to the service_id should be protected by the SSO (Shibboleth in t
## The URL would look like http://yourhost.yourdomain/sympa/sso_login/inqueue in the follo
generic_sso
```

```
    service_name      InQueue Federation
    service_id        inqueue
    http_header_prefix HTTP_SHIB
    email_http_header HTTP_SHIB_EMAIL_ADDRESS
```

```
ldap
regexp univ-rennes1\.fr
host ldap.univ-rennes1.fr:389
timeout 30
suffix dc=univ-rennes1,dc=fr
get_dn_by_uid_filter (uid=[sender])
get_dn_by_email_filter (|(mail=[sender])(mailalternateaddress=[sender]))
email_attribute mail
alternative_email_attribute mailalternateaddress,urlmail
scope sub
use_ssl                      1
ssl_version                  sslv3
ssl_ciphers                  MEDIUM:HIGH
```

```
ldap
```

```
host ldap.univ-nancy2.fr:392,ldap1.univ-nancy2.fr:392,ldap2.univ-nancy2.fr:392
timeout 20
```

```

bind_dn                                cn=sympa,ou=people,dc=cru,dc=fr
bind_password                          sympapASSWD
suffix dc=univ-nancy2,dc=fr
get_dn_by_uid_filter (uid=[sender])
get_dn_by_email_filter (|(mail=[sender])(n2atraliasmail=[sender]))
alternative_email_attribute n2atrmaildrop
email_attribute mail
scope sub
    authentication_info_url            http://sso.univ-nancy2.fr/

user_table
negative_regexp ((univ-rennes1)|(univ-nancy2))\.fr

```

### 11.5.1 user\_table paragraph

The `user_table` paragraph is related to `sympa` internal authentication by email and password. It is the simplest one the only parameters are `regexp` or `negative_regexp` which are perl regular expressions applied on a provided email address to select or block this authentication method for a subset of email addresses.

### 11.5.2 ldap paragraph

- `regexp` and `negative_regexp` Same as in `user_table` paragraph : if a provided email address (does not apply to an uid), then the regular expression will be applied to find out if this LDAP directory can be used to authenticate a subset of users.
- `host`

This keyword is **mandatory**. It is the domain name used in order to bind to the directory and then to extract informations. You must mention the port number after the server name. Server replication is supported by listing several servers separated by commas.

Example :

```

host ldap.univ-rennes1.fr:389
host ldap0.university.com:389,ldap1.university.com:389,ldap2.university.com:389

```

- `timeout`

It corresponds to the `timelimit` in the `Search` fonction. A `timelimit` that restricts the maximum time (in seconds) allowed for a search. A value of 0 (the default), means that no `timelimit` will be requested.

- `suffix`

The root of the DIT (Directory Information Tree). The DN that is the base object entry relative to which the search is to be performed.

Example: `dc=university,dc=fr`

– `bind_dn`

If anonymous bind is not allowed on the LDAP server, a DN and password can be used.

– `bind_password`

This password is used, combined with the `bind_dn` above.

– `get_dn_by_uid_filter`

Defines the search filter corresponding to the `ldap_uid`. (RFC 2254 compliant). If you want to apply the filter on the user, use the variable ' `[sender]` '. It will work with every type of authentication (`uid`, `alternate_email`..).

Example :

```
(Login = [sender])
(|(ID = [sender])(UID = [sender]))
```

– `get_dn_by_email_filter`

Defines the search filter corresponding to the email addresses (canonic and alternative).(RFC 2254 compliant). If you want to apply the filter on the user, use the variable ' `[sender]` '. It will work with every type of authentication (`uid`, `alternate_email`..).

Example : a person is described by

```
Dn:cn=Fabrice Rafart,
ou=Siege ,
o=MaSociete ,
c=FR Objectclass:
person Cn: Fabrice Rafart
Title: Network Responsible
O: Siege
Or: Data processing
Telephonenumber: 01-00-00-00-00
Facsimiletelephonenumber:01-00-00-00-00
L:Paris
Country: France
```

```
uid: frafart
```

```
mail: Fabrice.Rafart@MaSociete.fr
```

```
alternate_email: frafart@MaSociete.fr
```

```
alternate:rafart@MaSociete.fr
```

The filters can be :

```
(mail = [sender])
(| (mail = [sender])(alternate_email = [sender])) )
(| (mail = [sender])(alternate_email = [sender])(alternate = [sender])) )
```

– email\_attribute

The name of the attribute for the canonic email in your directory : for instance mail, canonic\_email, canonic\_address ... In the previous example the canonic email is 'mail'.

– alternative\_email\_attribute

The name of the attribute for the alternate email in your directory : for instance alternate\_email, mailalternateaddress, ... You make a list of these attributes separated by commas.

With this list *Sympa* creates a cookie which contains various information : the user is authenticated via Ldap or not, his alternate email. To store the alternate email is interesting when you want to canonify your preferences and subscriptions. That is to say you want to use a unique address in User\_table and Subscriber\_table which is the canonic email.

– scope

(Default value: sub) By default the search is performed on the whole tree below the specified base object. This may be changed by specifying a scope :

– base

Search only the base object.

– one

Search the entries immediately below the base object.

– sub

Search the whole tree below the base object. This is the default.

– authentication\_info\_url

Defines the URL of a document describing LDAP password management. When hitting Sympa's *Send me a password* button, LDAP users will be redirected to this URL.

– use\_ssl

If set to 1, connection to the LDAP server will use SSL (LDAPS).

– ssl\_version

This defines the version of the SSL/TLS protocol to use. Defaults of Net : :LDAPS to sslv2/3, other possible values are sslv2, sslv3, and tlsv1.

– ssl\_ciphers

Specify which subset of cipher suites are permissible for this connection, using the standard OpenSSL string format. The default value of Net : :LDAPS for ciphers is ALL, which permits all ciphers, even those that don't encrypt !

### 11.5.3 generic\_sso paragraph

- `service_name`  
This is the SSO service name that will be proposed to the user in the login banner menu.
- `service_id`  
This service ID is used as a parameter by sympa to refer to the SSO service (instead of the service name).  
A corresponding URL on the local web server should be protected by the SSO system; this URL would look like `http://yourhost.yourdomain/sympa/sso.login/inqueue` if the `service_id` is **inqueue**.
- `http_header_prefix`  
Sympa gets user attributes from environment variables coming from the web server. These variables are then stored in the `user_table` DB table for later use in authorization scenarios (in structure). Only environment variables starting with the defined prefix will be kept.
- `email_http_header`  
This parameter defines the environment variable that will contain the authenticated user's email address.

The following parameters define how Sympa can retrieve the user email address ; **these are only useful if the `email_http_header` entry was not defined :**

- `ldap_host`  
The LDAP host Sympa will connect to fetch user email. The `ldap_host` include the port number and it may be a comma separated list of redundant host.
- `ldap_bind_dn`  
The DN used to bind to this server. Anonymous bind is used if this parameter is not defined.
- `ldap_bind_password`  
The password used unless anonymous bind is used.
- `ldap_suffix`  
The LDAP suffix used when searching user email
- `ldap_scope`  
The scope used when searching user email, possible values are `sub`, `base`, and `one`.
- `ldap_get_email_by_uid_filter`  
The filter to perform the email search. It can refer to any environment variables inherited from the SSO module, as shown below. Example :  

```
ldap_get_email_by_uid_filter    (mail=[SSL_CLIENT_S_DN_Email])
```
- `ldap_email_attribute`  
The attribute name to be used as user canonical email. In the current version of sympa only the first value returned by the LDAP server is used.
- `ldap_timeout`  
The time out for the search.
- `ldap_use_ssl`  
If set to 1, connection to the LDAP server will use SSL (LDAPS).
- `ldap_ssl_version`

This defines the version of the SSL/TLS protocol to use. Defaults of Net : :LDAPS to `sslv2/3`, other possible values are `sslv2`, `sslv3`, and `tlsv1`.

- `ldap_ssl_ciphers`  
Specify which subset of cipher suites are permissible for this connection, using the OpenSSL string format. The default value of Net : :LDAPS for ciphers is `ALL`, which permits all ciphers, even those that don't encrypt !

### 11.5.4 cas paragraph

- `auth_service_name`  
The friendly user service name as shown by *Sympa* in the login page.
- `host` (OBSOLETE)  
This parameter has been replaced by **`base_url`** parameter
- `base_url`

The base URL of the CAS server.

- `non_blocking_redirection`

This parameter concern only the first access to Sympa services by a user, it activate or not the non blocking redirection to the related cas server to check automatically if the user as been previously authenticated with this CAS server. Possible values are **`on`** **`off`**, default is **`on`**. The redirection to CAS is use with the cgi parameter **`gateway=1`** that specify to CAS server to always redirect the user to the origine URL but just check if the user is logged. If active, the SSO service is effective and transparent, but in case the CAS server is out of order the access to Sympa services is impossible.

- `login_uri` (OBSOLETE)  
This parameter has been replaced by **`login_path`** parameter.
- `login_path` (OPTIONAL)  
The login service path
- `check_uri` (OBSOLETE)  
This parameter has been replaced by **`service.validate_path`** parameter
- `service.validate_path` (OPTIONAL)  
The ticket validation service path
- `logout_uri` (OBSOLETE)  
This parameter has been replaced by **`logout_path`** parameter
- `logout_path` (OPTIONAL)  
The logout service path
- `proxy_path` (OPTIONAL)  
The proxy service path, used by Sympa SOAP server only.
- `proxy.validate_path` (OPTIONAL)  
The proxy validate service path, used by Sympa SOAP server only.
- `ldap_host`  
The LDAP host Sympa will connect to fetch user email when user uid is return by CAS service. The `ldap_host` include the port number and it may be a comma separated list of redondant host.
- `ldap_bind_dn`  
The DN used to bind to this server. Anonymous bind is used if this parameter is not defined.



- `ldap_bind_password`  
The password used unless anonymous bind is used.
- `ldap_suffix`  
The LDAP suffix used when searching user email
- `ldap_scope`  
The scope used when searching user email, possible values are `sub`, `base`, and `one`.
- `ldap_get_email_by_uid_filter`  
The filter to perform the email search.
- `ldap_email_attribute`  
The attribute name to be used as user canonical email. In the current version of *sympa* only the first value returned by the LDAP server is used.
- `ldap_timeout`  
The time out for the search.
- `ldap_use_ssl`  
If set to 1, connection to the LDAP server will use SSL (LDAPS).
- `ldap_ssl_version`  
This defines the version of the SSL/TLS protocol to use. Defaults of Net : :LDAPS to `sslsv2/3`, other possible values are `sslsv2`, `sslsv3`, and `tlsv1`.
- `ldap_ssl_ciphers`  
Specify which subset of cipher suites are permissible for this connection, using the OpenSSL string format. The default value of Net : :LDAPS for ciphers is `ALL`, which permits all ciphers, even those that don't encrypt !

## 11.6 Sharing WWSympa authentication with other applications

If you are not using a web Single SignOn system you might want to make other web applications collaborate with *Sympa*, and share the same authentication system. *Sympa* uses HTTP cookies to carry users' auth information from page to page. This cookie carries no information concerning privileges. To make your application work with *Sympa*, you have two possibilities :

- Delegating authentication operations to *WWSympa*  
If you want to avoid spending a lot of time programming a CGI to do Login, Logout and Remindpassword, you can copy *WWSympa*'s login page to your application, and then make use of the cookie information within your application. The cookie format is :  
`sympauser=<user_email>:<checksum>`  
 where `<user_email>` is the user's complete e-mail address, and `<checksum>` are the 8 last bytes of the MD5 checksum of the `<user_email>+Sympa cookie configuration parameter`. Your application needs to know what the `cookie` parameter is, so it can check the HTTP cookie validity ; this is a secret shared between *WWSympa* and your application. *WWSympa*'s *loginrequest* page can be called to return to the referer URL when an action is performed. Here is a sample HTML anchor :  
`<A HREF="/sympa/loginrequest/referer">Login page</A>`  
 You can also have your own HTML page submitting data to `wwsympa.fcgi` CGI. If you're doing so, you can set the `referer` variable to another URI. You can also set

the `failure_referer` to make *WWSympa* redirect the client to a different URI if login fails.

- Using *WWSympa*'s HTTP cookie format within your auth module

To cooperate with *WWSympa*, you simply need to adopt its HTTP cookie format and share the secret it uses to generate MD5 checksums, i.e. the cookie configuration parameter. In this way, *WWSympa* will accept users authenticated through your application without further authentication.

## 11.7 Provide a Sympa login form in another application

You can easily trigger a Sympa login from within another web page. The login form should look like this :

```
<FORM ACTION="http://listes.cru.fr/sympa" method="post">
  <input type="hidden" name="previous_action" value="arc" />
  Accès web archives of list
  <select name="previous_list">
    <option value="sympa-users" >sympa-users</option>
  </select><br/>

  <input type="hidden" name="action" value="login" />
  <label for="email">email address :
  <input type="text" name="email" id="email" size="18" value="" /></label><br/>
  <label for="passwd" >password :
  <input type="password" name="passwd" id="passwd" size="8" /></label> <br/>
  <input class="MainMenuLinks" type="submit" name="action_login" value="Login" />
</FORM>
```

The example above does not only perform the login action but also redirects the user to another sympa page, a list web archives here. The `previous_action` and `previous_list` variable define the action that will be performed after the login is done.

## Chapitre 12

# Authorization scenarios

List parameters controlling the behavior of commands are linked to different authorization scenarios. For example : the `send private` parameter is related to the `send.private` scenario. There are four possible locations for a authorization scenario. When *Sympa* seeks to apply an authorization scenario, it looks first in the related list directory `/home/sympa/expl/<list>/scenari`. If it does not find the file there, it scans the current robot configuration directory `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/scenari`, then the site's configuration directory `/home/sympa/etc/scenari`, and finally `/home/sympa/bin/etc/scenari`, which is the directory installed by the Makefile.

An authorization scenario is a small configuration language to describe who can perform an operation and which authentication method is requested for it. An authorization scenario is an ordered set of rules. The goal is to provide a simple and flexible way to configure authorization and required authentication method for each operation.

Each authorization scenario rule contains :

- a condition : the condition is evaluated by *Sympa*. It can use variables such as `[sender]` for the sender e-mail, `[list]` for the listname etc.
- an authentication method. The authentication method can be `smtp`, `md5` or `smime`. The rule is applied by *Sympa* if both condition and authentication method match the runtime context. `smtp` is used if *Sympa* use the SMTP `from` : header, `md5` is used if a unique md5 key as been returned by the requestor to validate her message, `smime` is used for signed messages (see 23.4.3, page 207).
- a returned atomic action that will be executed by *Sympa* if the rule matches

Example

```
del.auth
```

```
title.us deletion performed only by list owners, need authentication
```

```
title.fr suppression réservée au propriétaire avec authentification
```

```
title.es eliminacin reservada slo para el propietario, necesita autentificacin
```

```

is_owner([listname],[sender]) smtp      -> request_auth
is_listmaster([sender])      smtp      -> request_auth
true()                      md5,smime -> do_it

```

## 12.1 rules specifications

An authorization scenario consists of rules, evaluated in order beginning with the first. Rules are defined as follows :

```

<rule> ::= <condition> <auth_list> -> <action>

<condition> ::= [!] <condition>
                | true ()
                | all ()
                | equal (<var>, <var>)
                | match (<var>, /perl_regex/)
| search (<filter.ldap>,<var>)
                | is_subscriber (<listname>, <var>)
                | is_owner (<listname>, <var>)
                | is_editor (<listname>, <var>)
                | is_listmaster (<var>)
                | older (<date>, <date>)      # true if first date is anterior to
                | newer (<date>, <date>)      # true if first date is posterior to

<var> ::= [email] | [sender] | [user-><user_key_word>] | [previous_email]
          | [remote_host] | [remote_addr] | [user_attributes-><user_attr>]
          | [subscriber-><subscriber_key_word>] | [list-><list_key_word>] | [env-><env>]
          | [conf-><conf_key_word>] | [msg_header-><smtp_key_word>] | [msg_body]
          | [msg_part->type] | [msg_part->body] | [msg_encrypted] | [is_bcc] | [current]

[is_bcc] ::= set to 1 if the list is neither in To: nor Cc:

[sender] ::= email address of the current user (used on web or mail interface).

[previous_email] ::= old email when changing subscription email in preference page

[msg_encrypted] ::= set to 'smime' if the message was S/MIME encrypted

<date> ::= '<date_element> [ +|- <date_element>]'

<date_element> ::= <epoch_date> | <var> | <date_expr>

<epoch_date> ::= <integer>

<date_expr> ::= <integer>y<integer>m<integer>d<integer>h<integer>min<integer>sec

```

```

<listname> ::= [listname] | <listname_string>

<auth_list> ::= <auth>,<auth_list> | <auth>

<auth> ::= smtp|md5|smime

<action> ::=  do_it [,notify]
              | do_it [,quiet]
              | reject(<tpl_name>)
              | request_auth
              | owner
              | editor
              | editorkey
              | listmaster

<tpl_name> ::= corresponding template (<tpl_name>.tt2) is send to the sender

<user_key_word> ::= email | gecost | lang | password | cookie_delay_user
                  | <additional_user_fields>

<user_attributes_key_word> ::= one of the user attributes provided by the SSO system via e

<subscriber_key_word> ::= email | gecost | bounce | reception
                        | visibility | date | update_date
                        | <additional_subscriber_fields>

<list_key_word> ::= name | host | lang | max_size | priority | reply_to |
                  status | subject | account | total

<conf_key_word> ::= domain | email | listmaster | default_list_priority |
                  sympa_priority | request_priority | lang | max_size

```

(Refer to 14.10, page 131 for date format definition)

perl\_regex can contain the string [host] (interpreted at run time as the list or robot domain). The variable notation [msg\_header-><smtp\_key\_word>] is interpreted as the SMTP header value only when evaluating the authorization scenario for sending messages. It can be used, for example, to require editor validation for multipart messages. [msg\_part->type] and [msg\_part->body] are the MIME parts content-types and bodies ; the body is available for MIME parts in text/xxx format only.

The difference between editor and editorkey is, that with editor the message is simply forwarded to the moderator. He then can forward it to the list, if he wishes. editorkey assigns a key to the message and sends it to the moderator together with the message. So the moderator can just send back the key to distribute the message. Please note, that moderation from the webinterface is only possible when using editorkey, because otherwise there is no copy of the message saved on the server.

A bunch of authorization scenarios is provided with the *Sympa* distribution ; they provide a large set of configuration that allow to create lists for most usage. But you will probably create authorization scenarios for your own need. In this case, don't forget to restart *Sympa* and *wwsympa* because authorization scenarios are not reloaded dynamically.

These standard authorization scenarios are located in the `/home/sympa/bin/etc/scenari/` directory. Default scenarios are named `<command>.default`.

You may also define and name your own authorization scenarios. Store them in the `/home/sympa/etc/scenari` directory. They will not be overwritten by *Sympa* release. Scenarios can also be defined for a particular virtual robot (using directory `/home/sympa/etc/<robot>/scenari`) or for a list (`/home/sympa/expl/<robot>/<list>/scenari`).

Example :

Copy the previous scenario to `scenari/subscribe.rennes1` :

```
equal([sender], 'userxxx@univ-rennes1.fr') smtp,smime -> reject
match([sender], /univ-rennes1\.fr\$/) smtp,smime -> do_it
true()                                     smtp,smime -> owner
```

You may now refer to this authorization scenario in any list configuration file, for example :

```
subscribe rennes1
```

## 12.2 LDAP Named Filters

At the moment Named Filters are only used in authorization scenarios. They enable to select a category of people who will be authorized or not to realise some actions.

As a consequence, you can grant privileges in a list to people belonging to an LDAP directory thanks to an authorization scenario.

### 12.2.1 Definition

People are selected through an LDAP filter defined in a configuration file. This file must have the extension `'.ldap'`. It is stored in `/home/sympa/etc/search.filters/`.

You must give several informations in order to create a Named Filter :

- host  
A list of host :port LDAP directories (replicates) entries.
- suffix  
Defines the naming space covered by the search (optional, depending on the LDAP server).
- filter  
Defines the LDAP search filter (RFC 2254 compliant). But you must absolutely take into account the first part of the filter which is : ('mail\_attribute' = [sender]) as shown in the example. you will have to replace 'mail\_attribute' by the name of the attribute for the email. *Sympa* verifies if the user belongs to the category of people defined in the filter.
- scope  
By default the search is performed on the whole tree below the specified base object. This may be changed by specifying a scope :
  - base : Search only the base object.
  - one  
Search the entries immediately below the base object.
  - sub  
Search the whole tree below the base object. This is the default.
- bind\_dn  
If anonymous bind is not allowed on the LDAP server, a DN and password can be used.
- bind\_password  
This password is used, combined with the bind\_dn above.

example.ldap : we want to select the professors of mathematics in the university of Rennes1 in France

```
host ldap.univ-rennes1.fr:389,ldap2.univ-rennes1.fr:390
suffix dc=univ-rennes1.fr,dc=fr
filter (&(canonical_mail = [sender])(EmployeeType = prof)(subject = math))
scope sub
```

### 12.2.2 Search Condition

The search condition is used in authorization scenarios which are defined and described in (see 12)

The syntax of this rule is :

```
search(example.ldap,[sender])      smtp,smime,md5      -> do_it
```

The variables used by 'search' are :

- the name of the LDAP Configuration file
- the [sender]  
That is to say the sender email address.

Note that *Sympa* processes maintain a cache of processed search conditions to limit access to the LDAP directory ; each entry has a lifetime of 1 hour in the cache.

The method of authentication does not change.

## 12.3 scenario inclusion

Scenarios can also contain includes :

```

subscribe
  include commonreject
  match(, /cru\.fr\$/)      smtp,smime -> do_it
true()                     smtp,smime -> owner

```

In this case *sympa* applies recursively the scenario named `include.commonreject` before introducing the other rules. This possibility was introduced in order to facilitate the administration of common rules.

You can define a set of common scenario rules, used by all lists. `include.<action>.header` is automatically added to evaluated scenarios.

## 12.4 Hidding scenario files

Because *Sympa* is distributed with many default scenario files, you may want to hide some of them to list owners (to make list admin menus shorter and readable). To hide a scenario file you should create an empty file with the `:ignore` suffix. Depending on where this file has been created will make it ignored at either a global, robot or list level.

*Example :*

```
/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/scenari/send.intranetorprivate :ignore
```

The `intranetorprivate send` scenario will be hidden (on the web admin interface), at the `my.domain.orgrobot` level only.



## Chapitre 13

# Virtual robot

Sympa is designed to manage multiple distinct mailing list servers on a single host with a single Sympa installation. Sympa virtual robots are like Apache virtual hosting. Sympa virtual robot definition includes a specific email address for the robot itself and its lists and also a virtual http server. Each robot provides access to a set of lists, each list is related to only one robot.

Most configuration parameters can be redefined for each robot except general Sympa installation parameters (binary and spool location, smtp engine, antivirus plugging,...).

The Virtual robot name as defined in *Sympa* documentation and configuration file refers to the Internet domaine of the Virtual robot.

Note that the main limitation of virtual robots in Sympa is that you cannot create 2 lists with the same name (local part) among your virtual robots.

### 13.1 How to create a virtual robot

You don't need to install several Sympa servers. A single `sympa.pl` daemon and one or more fastcgi servers can serve all virtual robot. Just configure the server environment in order to accept the new domain definition.

- **The DNS** must be configured to define a new mail exchanger record (MX) to route message to your server. A new host (A record) or alias (CNAME) are mandatory to define the new web server.
- Configure your **MTA (sendmail, postfix, exim, ...)** to accept incoming messages for the new robot domain. Add mail aliases for the robot :

*Examples (with sendmail) :*

```
sympa@your.virtual.domain:      "| /home/sympa/bin/queue sympa@your.virtual.domain"
listmaster@your.virtual.domain: "| /home/sympa/bin/queue listmaster@your.virtual.domain"
```

- Define a **virtual host in your HTTPD server**. The fastcgi servers defined in the common section of you httpd server can be used by each virtual host. You don't need to run dedicated fastcgi server for each virtual robot.

*Examples :*

```
FastCgiServer /home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi -processes 3 -idle-timeout 120
.....
<VirtualHost 195.215.92.16>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@your.virtual.domain
    DocumentRoot /var/www/your.virtual.domain
    ServerName your.virtual.domain

    <Location /sympa>
        SetHandler fastcgi-script
    </Location>

    ScriptAlias /sympa /home/sympa/bin/wwsympa.fcgi

</VirtualHost>
```

- Create a robot.conf for the virtual robot (current web interface does not provide Virtual robot creation yet).

## 13.2 robot.conf

A robot is named by its domain, let's say my.domain.org and defined by a directory /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org. This directory must contain at least a robot.conf file. This file has the same format as /etc/sympa.conf (have a look at robot.conf in the sample dir). Only the following parameters can be redefined for a particular robot :

- http\_host  
This hostname will be compared with 'SERVER\_NAME' environment variable in wwsympa.fcgi to determine the current Virtual Robot. You can add a path at the end of this parameter if you are running multiple Virtual robots on the same host.

```
Examples: \\
http_host myhost.mydom
http_host myhost.mydom/sympa
```

- wwsympa\_url  
The base URL of WWSympa
- soap\_url  
The base URL of Sympa's SOAP server (if it is running ; see 10, page 91)
- cookie\_domain
- email
- title
- default\_home
- create\_list

```

- lang
- supported_lang
- log_smtp
- listmaster
- max_size
- css_path
- css_url
- logo_html_definition
- color_0, color_1 ... color_15
- deprecated color definition dark_color, light_color, text_color, bg_color,
  error_color, selected_color, shaded_color

```

These settings overwrite the equivalent global parameter defined in `/etc/sympa.conf` for `my.domain.orgrobot`; the main `listmaster` still has privileges on Virtual Robots though. The `http_host` parameter is compared by `wwsympa` with the `SERVER_NAME` environment variable to recognize which robot is in used.

### 13.2.1 Robot customization

In order to customize the web look and feel, you may edit the CSS definition. CSS are defined in a template named `css.tt2`. Any robot can use static css file for making Sympa web interface faster. Then you can edit this static definition and change web style. Please refer to `css_path` `css_url`. You can also quickly introduce a logo in left top corner of all pages configuring `logo_html_definition` parameter in `robot.conf` file.

In addition, if needed, you can customize each virtual robot using its set of templates and authorization scenarios.

`/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/web.tt2/`, `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/mail.tt2/`, `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/scenari/` directories are searched when loading templates or `scenari` before searching into `/home/sympa/etc` and `/home/sympa/bin/etc`. This allows to define different privileges and a different GUI for a Virtual Robot.

## 13.3 Managing multiple virtual robots

If you are managing more than 2 virtual robots, then you might consider moving all the mailing lists in the default robot to a dedicated virtual robot located in the `/home/sympa/expl/my.domain.org/` directory. The main benefit of this organisation is the ability to define default configuration elements (templates or authorization scenarios) for this robot without inheriting them within other virtual robots.

To create such a virtual robot, you need to create

`/home/sympa/expl/my.domain.org/` and `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/` directories; customize `host`, `http_host` and `wwsympa_url` parameters in the `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/robot.conf` with the same values as the default robot (as defined in `sympa.conf` and `wwsympa.conf` files).

## Chapitre 14

# Customizing *Sympa*/*WWSympa*

### 14.1 Template file format

Template files within *Sympa* used to be in a proprietary format that has been replaced with the TT2<sup>1</sup> template format.

You will find detailed documentation about the TT2 syntax on the web site : <http://www.tt2.org>

Here are some aspects regarding templates that are specific to *Sympa* :

- References to PO catalogue are noted with the [% loc %] tag that may include parameters. Example: [%|loc(list.name,list.host)%]Welcome to list %1%2[%END%].
- Few exceptions apart, templates cannot insert or parse a file given its full or relative path, for security reason. Only the file name should be provided ; the TT2 parser will then use the INCLUDE\_PATH provided by *Sympa* to find the relevant file to insert/parse.
- The **qencode** filter should be used if a template includes SMTP header fields that should be Q-encoded. Example: [% FILTER qencode %]Message à modérer[%END%]
- You can write different versions of a template file in different language, each of them being located in a subdirectory of the **tt2** directory. Example: /web\_tt2/fr\_FR/helpfile.tt2

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.tt2.org>

## 14.2 Site template files

These files are used by Sympa as service messages for the HELP, LISTS and REMIND \* commands. These files are interpreted (parsed) by *Sympa* and respect the TT2 template format ; every file has a **.tt2** extension. See 14.1, page 125.

Sympa looks for these files in the following order (where <list> is the listname if defined, <action> is the name of the command, and <lang> is the preferred language of the user) :

1. /home/sympa/expl/<list>/mail\_tt2/<lang>/<action>.tt2.
2. /home/sympa/expl/<list>/mail\_tt2/<action>.tt2.
3. /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/mail\_tt2/<lang>/<action>.tt2.
4. /home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/mail\_tt2/<action>.tt2.
5. /home/sympa/etc/mail\_tt2/<lang>/<action>.tt2.
6. /home/sympa/etc/mail\_tt2/<action>.tt2.
7. /home/sympa/bin/etc/mail\_tt2/<lang>/<action>.tt2.
8. /home/sympa/bin/etc/mail\_tt2/<action>.tt2.

If the file starts with a From : line, it is considered as a full message and will be sent (after parsing) without adding SMTP headers. Otherwise the file is treated as a text/plain message body.

The following variables may be used in these template files :

- [% conf.email %] : sympa e-mail address local part
- [% conf.domain %] : sympa robot domain name
- [% conf.sympa %] : sympa's complete e-mail address
- [% conf.wwsympa\_url %] : *WWSympa* root URL
- [% conf.listmaster %] : listmaster e-mail addresses
- [% user.email %] : user e-mail address
- [% user.gecos %] : user geccos field (usually his/her name)
- [% user.password %] : user password
- [% user.lang %] : user language

### 14.2.1 helpfile.tt2

This file is sent in response to a HELP command. You may use additional variables

- [% is\_owner %] : TRUE if the user is list owner
- [% is\_editor %] : TRUE if the user is list editor

### 14.2.2 lists.tt2

File returned by LISTS command. An additional variable is available :

- [% lists %] : this is a hash table indexed by list names and containing lists' subjects. Only lists visible to this user (according to the visibility list parameter) are listed.

*Example :*

```
These are the public lists for [conf->email]@[conf->domain]

[% FOREACH l = lists %]
[% l.key %]@[% l.value.host %] : [% l.value.subject %]

[% END %]
```

### 14.2.3 global\_remind.tt2

This file is sent in response to a REMIND \* command. (see 24.2, page 214) You may use additional variables

- [% lists %] : this is an array containing the list names the user is subscribed to.

*Example :*

```
This is a subscription reminder.

You are subscribed to the following lists :
[% FOREACH l = lists %]

[% l %] : [% conf.wwsympa\_url %]/info/[% l %]

[% END %]

Your subscriber e-mail : [% user.email %]
Your password : [% user.password %]
```

### 14.2.4 your\_infected\_msg.tt2

This message is sent to warn the sender of a virus infected mail, indicating the name of the virus found (see ??, page ??).

### 14.3 Web template files

You may define your own web template files, different from the standard ones. *WW-Sympa* first looks for list specific web templates, then for site web templates, before falling back on its defaults.

Your list web template files should be placed in the `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/web_tt2` directory; your site web templates in `~/home/sympa/etc/web_tt2` directory.

Note that web colors are defined in *Sympa*'s main Makefile (see 3.3, page 29).

### 14.4 Sharing data with other applications

You may extract subscribers, owners and editors for a list from any of :

- a text file
- a Relational database
- a LDAP directory

See `user_data_source` liste parameter 18.2.1, page 166.

The three tables can have more fields than the one used by *Sympa*, by defining these additional fields, they will be available from within *Sympa*'s authorization scenarios and templates (see 6.10.10, page 63 and 6.10.11, page 63).

### 14.5 Sharing *WWSympa* authentication with other applications

See 11.6, page 113.

### 14.6 Internationalization

*Sympa* was originally designed as a multilingual Mailing List Manager. Even in its earliest versions, *Sympa* separated messages from the code itself, messages being stored in NLS catalogues (according to the XPG4 standard). Later a `lang` list parameter was introduced. Nowadays *Sympa* is able to keep track of individual users' language preferences.

If you are willing to provide *Sympa* into your native language, please check the **trans-**



**lation howto** (<http://www.sympa.org/howtotranslate.html>);

### 14.6.1 *Sympa* internationalization

Every message sent by *Sympa* to users, owners and editors is outside the code, in a message catalog. These catalogs are located in the `/home/sympa/locale` directory.

To tell *Sympa* to use a particular message catalog, you can should set the `lang` parameter in `sympa.conf`.

### 14.6.2 List internationalization

The `lang` list parameter defines the language for a list. It is currently used by *WWSympa* and to initialize users' language preferences at subscription time.

In future versions, all messages returned by *Sympa* concerning a list should be in the list's language.

### 14.6.3 User internationalization

The user language preference is currently used by *WWSympa* only. There is no e-mail-based command for a user to set his/her language. The language preference is initialized when the user subscribes to his/her first list. *WWSympa* allows the user to change it.

## 14.7 Topics

*WWSympa*'s homepage shows a list of topics for classifying mailing lists. This is dynamically generated using the different lists' `topics` configuration parameters. A list may appear in multiple categories.

The list of topics is defined in the `topics.conf` configuration file, located in the `/home/sympa/etc` directory. The format of this file is as follows :

```
<topic1_name>
title <topic1 title>
title.fr <topic french title>
visibility <topic1 visibility>
....
<topicn_name/subtopic_name>
title <topicn title>
```

```
title.de <topicn german title>
```

You will notice that subtopics can be used, the separator being /. The topic name is composed of alphanumerics (0-1a-zA-Z) or underscores (\_). The order in which the topics are listed is respected in *WWSympa*'s homepage. The **visibility** line defines who can view the topic (now available for subtopics). It refers to the associated `topics_visibility` authorization scenario. You will find a sample `topics.conf` in the `sample` directory; `NONE` is installed as the default.

A default topic is hard-coded in *Sympa* : *default*. This default topic contains all lists for which a topic has not been specified.

## 14.8 Authorization scenarios

See 12, page 115.

## 14.9 Loop detection

*Sympa* uses multiple heuristics to avoid loops in Mailing lists

First, it rejects messages coming from a robot (as indicated by the `From :` and other header fields), and messages containing commands.

Secondly, every message sent by *Sympa* includes an `X-Loop` header field set to the listname. If the message comes back, *Sympa* will detect that it has already been sent (unless `X-Loop` header fields have been erased).

Thirdly, *Sympa* keeps track of Message IDs and will refuse to send multiple messages with the same message ID to the same mailing list.

Finally, *Sympa* detect loops arising from command reports (i.e. *sympa*-generated replies to commands). This sort of loop might occur as follows :

- 1 - X sends a command to Sympa
- 2 - Sympa sends a command report to X
- 3 - X has installed a home-made vacation program replying to programs
- 4 - Sympa processes the reply and sends a report
- 5 - Looping to step 3

*Sympa* keeps track (via an internal counter) of reports sent to any particular address. The loop detection algorithm is :

- Increment the counter
- If we are within the sampling period (as defined by the `loop_command_sampling_delay` parameter)
  - If the counter exceeds the `loop_command_max` parameter, then do not send the report, and notify the listmaster
  - Else, start a new sampling period and reinitialize the counter, i.e. multiply it by the `loop_command_decrease_factor` parameter

## 14.10 Tasks

A task is a sequence of simple actions which realize a complex routine. It is executed in background by the task manager daemon and allow the list master to automate the processing of recurrent tasks. For example a task sends every year the subscribers of a list a message to remind their subscription.

A task is created with a task model. It is a text file which describes a sequence of simple actions. It may have different versions (for instance reminding subscribers every year or semester). A task model file name has the following format : `<model name>.<model version>.task`. For instance `remind.annual.task` or `remind.semestrial.task`.

*Sympa* provides several task models stored in `/home/sympa/bin/etc/global_task_models` and `/home/sympa/bin/etc/list_task_models` directories. Others can be designed by the listmaster.

A task is global or related to a list.

### 14.10.1 List task creation

You define in the list config file the model and the version you want to use (see 18.3.5, page 175). Then the task manager daemon will automatically create the task by looking for the appropriate model file in different directories in the following order :

1. `/home/sympa/expl/<list name>/`
2. `/home/sympa/etc/list_task_models/`
3. `/home/sympa/bin/etc/list_task_models/`

See also 15.10, page 142, to know more about standard list models provided with *Sympa*.

### 14.10.2 Global task creation

The task manager daemon checks if a version of a global task model is specified in `sympa.conf` and then creates a task as soon as it finds the model file by looking in different directories in the following order :

1. `/home/sympa/etc/global_task_models/`
2. `/home/sympa/bin/etc/global_task_models/`

### 14.10.3 Model file format

Model files are composed of comments, labels, references, variables, date values and commands. All those syntactical elements are composed of alphanumerics (0-9a-zA-Z) and underscores (`_`).

- Comment lines begin by `'#'` and are not interpreted by the task manager.
- Label lines begin by `'/'` and are used by the next command (see below).
- References are enclosed between brackets `'[]'`. They refer to a value depending on the object of the task (for instance `[list->name]`). Those variables are instantiated when a task file is created from a model file. The list of available variables is the same as for templates (see 15.8, see page 139) plus `[creation_date]` (see below).
- Variables store results of some commands and are paramaters for others. Their name begins with `'@'`.
- A date value may be written in two ways :
  - absolute dates follow the format : `xxxxYxxMxxDxxHxxMin`. Y is the year, M the month (1-12), D the day (1-28|30|31, leap-years are not managed), H the hour (0-23), Min the minute (0-59). H and Min are optionnals. For instance, `2001y12m4d44min` is the 4th of December 2001 at 00h44.
  - relative dates use the `[creation_date]` or `[execution_date]` references. `[creation_date]` is the date when the task file is created, `[execution_date]` when the command line is executed. A duration may follow with `'+'` or `'-'` operators. The duration is expressed like an absolute date whose all parameters are optionnals. Examples : `[creation_date]`, `[execution_date]+1y`, `[execution_date]-6m4d`
- Command arguments are separated by commas and enclosed between parenthesis `'()'`.

Here is the list of current available commands :

- `stop ()`  
Stops the execution of the task and delete the task file
- `next (<date value>, <label>)`  
Stop the execution. The task will go on at the date value and begin at the label line.
- `<@deleted_users> = delete_subs (<@user_selection>)`  
Delete `@user_selection` email list and stores user emails successfully deleted in `@deleted_users`.
- `send_msg (<@user_selection>, <template>)`  
Send the template message to emails stored in `@user_selection`.

- @user\_selection = select\_subs (<condition>)  
Store emails which match the condition in @user\_selection. See 8.6 Authorization Scenarios section to know how to write conditions. Only available for list models.
- create (global — list (<list name>), <model type>, <model>)  
Create a task for object with model file ~model\_type.model.task.
- chk\_cert\_expiration (<template>, <date value>)  
Send the template message to emails whose certificate has expired or will expire before the date value.
- update\_crl (<file name>, <date value>)  
Update certificate revocation lists (CRL) which are expired or will expire before the date value. The file stores the CRL's URLs.
- purge\_orphan\_bounces()  
Clean bounces by removing unsubscribed-users archives.
- eval\_bouncers()  
Evaluate all bouncing users of all list and give them a score from 0 to 100. (0 = no bounces for this user, 100 is for users who should be removed).
- process\_bouncers()  
Execute actions defined in list configuration on each bouncing users, according to their score.

Model files may have a scenario-like title line at the beginning.

When you change a configuration file by hand, and a task parameter is created or modified, it is up to you to remove existing task files in the task/ spool if needed. Task file names have the following format :

<date>.<label>.<model name>.<list name | global> where :

- date is when the task is executed, it is an epoch date
- label states where in the task file the execution begins. If empty, starts at the beginning

#### 14.10.4 Model file examples

- remind.annual.task

- expire.annual.task

- crl\_update.daily.task

```
title.gettext daily update of the certificate revocation list

/ACTION
update_crl (CA_list, [execution_date]+1d)
next ([execution_date] + 1d, ACTION)
```



## Chapitre 15

# Mailing list definition

This chapter describes what a mailing list is made of within Sympa environment.

### 15.1 Mail aliases

See list aliases section, 15.1, page 135)

### 15.2 List configuration file

The configuration file for the `mylist` list is named `/home/sympa/expl/my.domain.org/mylist/config` (or `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/config` if no virtual robot is defined). *Sympa* reads it into memory the first time the list is referred to. This file is not rewritten by *Sympa*, so you may put comment lines in it. It is possible to change this file when the program is running. Changes are taken into account the next time the list is accessed. Be careful to provide read access for *Sympa* user to this file !

You will find a few configuration files in the `sample` directory.

List configuration parameters are described in the list creation section, 18, page 161.

## 15.3 Examples of configuration files

This first example is for a list open to everyone :

```
subject First example (an open list)

visibility noconceal

owner
email Pierre.David@prism.uvsq.fr

send public

review public
```

The second example is for a moderated list with authenticated subscription :

```
subject Second example (a moderated list)

visibility noconceal

owner
email moi@ici.fr

editor
email big.prof@ailleurs.edu

send editor

subscribe auth

review owner

reply_to_header
value list

cookie 142cleliste
```

The third example is for a moderated list, with subscription controlled by the owner, and running in digest mode. Subscribers who are in digest mode receive messages on Mondays and Thursdays.

```
owner
email moi@ici.fr

editor
```



```

email prof@ailleurs.edu

send editor

subscribe owner

review owner

reply_to_header
value list

digest 1,4 12:00

```

## 15.4 Subscribers file

**Be careful :** Since version 3.3.6 of *Sympa*, a RDBMS is required for internal data storage. Flat file should not be use anymore except for testing purpose. *Sympa* will not use this file if the list is configured with `include` or `database user_data_source`.

The `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/subscribers` file is automatically created and populated. It contains information about list subscribers. It is not advisable to edit this file. Main parameters are :

- `email address`  
E-mail address of subscriber.
- `gecos data`  
Information about subscriber (last name, first name, etc.) This parameter is optional at subscription time.
- `reception nomail | digest | summary | notice | txt | html | urlize | not_me |`  
Special receive modes which the subscriber may select. Special modes can be either *nomail*, *digest*, *summary*, *notice*, *txt*, *html*, *urlize*, *not\_me* . In normal receive mode, the receive attribute for a subscriber is not displayed. See the SET LISTNAME SUMMARY (24.1, page 212), the SET LISTNAME NOMAIL command (24.1, page 213), and the digest parameter (18.4.8, page 181).
- `visibility conceal`  
Special mode which allows the subscriber to remain invisible when a REVIEW command is issued for the list. If this parameter is not declared, the subscriber will be visible for REVIEW. Note : this option does not affect the results of a REVIEW command issued by an owner. See the SET LISTNAME MAIL command (24.1, page 213) for details.

## 15.5 Info file

`/home/sympa/expl/mylist/info` should contain a detailed text description of the list, to be displayed by the `INFO` command. It can also be referenced from template files for service messages.

## 15.6 Homepage file

`/home/sympa/expl/mylist/homepage` is the HTML text on the *WWSympa* info page for the list.

## 15.7 Data inclusion file

Sympa will use these files only if the list is configured in `include2 user_data_source` mode. Every file has the `.incl` extension. More over, these files must be declared in paragraphs `owner_include` or `editor_include` in the list configuration file without the `.incl` extension (see 18, page 161). These files can be template file.

Sympa looks for them in the following order :

1. `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/data_sources/<file>.incl`.
2. `/home/sympa/etc/data_sources/<file>.incl`.
3. `/home/sympa/etc/my.domain.org/data_sources/<file>.incl`.

These files are used by Sympa to load administrative data in a relational database : Owners or editors are defined *intensively* (definition of criteria owners or editors must satisfy). Includes can be performed by extracting e-mail addresses using an SQL or LDAP query, or by including other mailing lists.

A data inclusion file is composed of paragraphs separated by blank lines and introduced by a keyword. Valid paragraphs are `include_file`, `include_list`, `include_remote_sympa_list`, `include_sql_query` and `include_ldap_query`. They are described in the list configuration parameters chapitre, 18, page 161.

When this file is a template, used variables are array elements (`param array`). This array is instantiated by values contained in the subparameter `source_parameter` of `owner_include` or `editor_include`.

*Example :*

- in the list configuration file :

```
owner_include
source myfile
source_parameters mysql,rennes1,stduser,mysecret,studentbody,student
```

– in myfile.incl :

```
include_sql_query
db_type [% param.0 %]
host sqlserv.admin.univ-[% param.1 %].fr
user [% param.2 %]
passwd [% param.3 %]
      db_name [% param.4 %]
sql_query SELECT DISTINCT email FROM [% param.5 %]
```

– resulting data inclusion file :

```
include_sql_query
db_type mysql
host sqlserv.admin.univ-rennes1.fr
      user stduser
      passwd mysecret
      db_name studentbody
      sql_query SELECT DISTINCT email FROM student
```

## 15.8 List template files

These files are used by Sympa as service messages for commands such as SUB, ADD, SIG, DEL, REJECT. These files are interpreted (parsed) by *Sympa* and respect the template format ; every file has the .tt2 extension. See 14.1, page 125.

Sympa looks for these files in the following order :

1. /home/sympa/expl/mylist/mail\_tt2/<file>.tt2
2. /home/sympa/etc/mail\_tt2/<file>.tt2.
3. /home/sympa/bin/etc/mail\_tt2/<file>.tt2.

If the file starts with a From : line, it is taken to be a full message and will be sent (after parsing) without the addition of SMTP headers. Otherwise the file is treated as a text/plain message body.

The following variables may be used in list template files :

- [% conf.email %] : sympa e-mail address local part
- [% conf.domain %] : sympa robot domain name
- [% conf.sympa %] : sympa's complete e-mail address
- [% conf.wwsympa\_url %] : *WWSympa* root URL

- [% conf.listmaster %] : listmaster e-mail addresses
- [% list.name %] : list name
- [% list.host %] : list hostname (default is sympa robot domain name)
- [% list.lang %] : list language
- [% list.subject %] : list subject
- [% list.owner %] : list owners table hash
- [% user.email %] : user e-mail address
- [% user.gecos %] : user gecoss field (usually his/her name)
- [% user.password %] : user password
- [% user.lang %] : user language
- [% execution\_date %] : the date when the scenario is executed

You may also dynamically include a file from a template using the [% INSERT %] directive.

*Example :*

```

Dear [% user.email %],

Welcome to list [% list.name %]@[% list.host %].

Presentation of the list :
[% INSERT 'info' %]

The owners of [% list.name %] are :
[% FOREACH ow = list.owner %]
    [% ow.value.gecos %] <[% ow.value.email %]>
[% END %]
```

### 15.8.1 welcome.tt2

*Sympa* will send a welcome message for every subscription. The welcome message can be customized for each list.

### 15.8.2 bye.tt2

*Sympa* will send a farewell message for each SIGNOFF mail command received.

### 15.8.3 removed.tt2

This message is sent to users who have been deleted (using the DELETE command) from the list by the list owner.

### 15.8.4 reject.tt2

*Sympa* will send a reject message to the senders of messages rejected by the list editor. If the editor prefixes her REJECT with the keyword QUIET, the reject message will not be sent.

### 15.8.5 invite.tt2

This message is sent to users who have been invited (using the INVITE command) to subscribe to a list.

You may use additional variables

- [% requested\_by %] : e-mail of the person who sent the INVITE command
- [% url %] : the mailto : URL to subscribe to the list

### 15.8.6 remind.tt2

This file contains a message sent to each subscriber when one of the list owners sends the REMIND command (see 24.2, page 214).

### 15.8.7 summary.tt2

Template for summaries (reception mode close to digest), see 24.1, page 212.

### 15.8.8 list\_aliases.tt2

Template that defines list mail aliases. It is used by the alias\_manager script.

## 15.9 Stats file

`/home/sympa/expl/mylist/stats` is a text file containing statistics about the list. Data are numerics separated by white space within a single line :

- Number of messages sent, used to generate X-sequence headers
- Number of messages X number of recipients
- Number of bytes X number of messages
- Number of bytes X number of messages X number of recipients
- Number of subscribers
- Last update date (epoch format) of the subscribers cache in DB, used by lists in **include2** mode only

## 15.10 List model files

These files are used by *Sympa* to create task files. They are interpreted (parsed) by the task manager and respect the task format. See 14.10, page 131.

### 15.10.1 remind.annual.task

Every year *Sympa* will send a message (the template `remind.tt2`) to all subscribers of the list to remind them of their subscription.

### 15.10.2 expire.annual.task

Every month *Sympa* will delete subscribers older than one year who haven't answered two warning messages.

## 15.11 Message header and footer

You may create `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/message.header` and `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/message.footer` files. Their content is added, respectively at the beginning and at the end of each message before the distribution process. You may also include the content-type of the appended part (when `footer.type` list parameter is set to **mime**) by renaming the files to `message.header.mime` and `message.footer.mime`.

The `footer_type` list parameter defines whether to attach the header/footer content as a MIME part (except for multipart/alternative messages), or to append them to the message body (for text/plain messages).

Under certain circumstances, Sympa will NOT add headers/footers, here is its algorithm :

```
if message is not multipart/signed
    if footer_type==append
        if message is text/plain
            append header/footer to it
else if message is multipart AND first part is text/plain
    append header/footer to first part

    if footer_type==mime
        if message is not multipart/alternative
            add header/footer as a new MIME part
```

### 15.11.1 Archive directory

The `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/archives/` directory contains the archived messages for lists which are archived ; see 18.6.1, page 186. The files are named in accordance with the archiving frequency defined by the `archive` parameter.





## Chapitre 16

# List creation, families and list edition

The list creation can be done by two ways, according to listmaster needs :

- instantiation family to create and manage large number of related lists. In this case, lists are linked to their family all along their life.
- command line creation of individual list with `sympa.pl` or on the Web interface according to privileges defined by listmasters. Here lists are free from their model creation.

Management of mailing lists by list owners is usually done via the Web interface : when a list is created, whatever its status (pending or open), the owner can use WWSympa admin features to modify list parameters, or to edit the welcome message, and so on.

WWSympa keeps logs of the creation and all modifications to a list as part of the list's `config` file (old configuration files are archived). A complete installation requires some careful planning, although default values should be acceptable for most sites.

### 16.1 List creation

Mailing lists can have many different uses. *Sympa* offers a wide choice of parameters to adapt a list behavior to different situations. Users might have difficulty selecting all the correct parameters to make the list configuration, so instead of selecting each parameters, list configuration is made with a list profile. This is an almost complete list configuration, but with a number of unspecified fields (such as owner e-mail) to be replaced by *Sympa* at list creation time. It is easy to create new list templates by modifying existing ones. (Contributions to the distribution are welcome...)

### 16.1.1 Data for list creation

To create a list, some data concerning list parameters are required :

- **listname** : name of the list,
- **subject** : subject of the list (a short description),
- **owner(s)** : by static definition and/or dynamic definition. In case of static definition, the parameter **owner** and its subparameter **email** are required. For dynamic definition, the parameter **owner.include** and its subparameter **source** are required, indicating source file of data inclusion.
- **list creation template** : the typical list profile.

Moreover of these required data, provided values are assigned to vars being in the list creation template. Then the result is the list configuration file :

On the Web interface, these data are given by the list creator in the web form. On command line these data are given by an xml file.

### 16.1.2 XML file format

The xml file provides information on :

- the list name,
- values to assign vars in the list creation template
- the list description in order to be written in the list file info
- the name of the list creation template (only for list creation on command line with `sympa.pl`, in a family context, the template is specified by the family name)

Here is an example of XML document that you can map with the following example of list creation template. :

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<list>
<listname>example</listname>
  <type>my_profile</type>
  <subject>a list example</subject>
  <description/>
  <status>open</status>
  <shared_edit>editor</shared_edit>
  <shared_read>private</shared_read>
<language>fr</language>
<owner multiple="1">
  <email>serge.aumont@cru.fr</email>
  <gecos>C.R.U.</gecos>
</owner>
<owner multiple="1">
  <email>olivier.salaun@cru.fr</email>
</owner>
```

```

<owner_include multiple="1">
  <source>my_file</source>
</owner_include>
<sql>
  <type>oracle</type>
  <host>sqlserv.admin.univ-x.fr</host>
  <user>stdutilisateur</user>
  <pwd>monsecret</pwd>
  <name>les_etudiants</name>
  <query>SELECT DISTINCT email FROM etudiant</query>
</sql>
</list>

```

```

subject [% subject %]

status [% status %]

[% IF topic %]
topics [% topic %]

[% END %]
visibility noconceal

send privateeditorkey

Web_archive
  access public

subscribe open_notify

shared_doc
  d_edit [% shared_edit %]
  d_read [% shared_read %]

lang [% language %]

[% FOREACH o = owner %]
owner
  email [% o.email %]
  profile privileged
  [% IF o.gecos %]
  geccos [% o.gecos %]
  [% END %]

[% END %]
[% IF moderator %]
  [% FOREACH m = moderator %]
editor

```

```

    email [% m.email %]

    [% END %]
[% END %]

[% IF sql %]
include_sql_query
    db_type [% sql.type %]
    host [% sql.host %]
    user [% sql.user %]
    passwd [% sql.pwd %]
    db_name [% sql.name %]
    sql_query [% sql.query %]

[% END %]
ttl 360

```

The XML file format should comply with the following rules :

- The root element is <list>
- One XML element is mandatory : <listname> contains the name of the list. That not excludes mandatory parameters for list creation (listname, subject,owner.email and/or owner.include.source).
- <type> : this element contains the name of template list creation, it is used for list creation on command line with sympa.pl. In a family context, this element is no used.
- <description> : the text contained in this element is written in list info file(it can be a CDATA section).
- For other elements, its name is the name of the var to assign in the list creation template.
- Each element concerning multiple parameters must have the multiple attribute set to "1", example : <owner multiple='1'>.
- For composed and multiple parameters, sub-elements are used. Example for owner parameter : <email> and <gecos> elements are contained in the <owner>element. An element can only have homogeneous content.
- A list requires at least one owner, defined in the XML input file with one of the following elements :
  - <owner multiple='1'> <email> ... </email> </owner>
  - <owner\_include multiple='1'> <source> ... </source> </owner\_include>

## 16.2 List families

See chapter 17, page 153

## 16.3 List creation on command line with `sympa.pl`

This way to create lists is independent of family.

Here is a sample command to create one list .:

```
sympa.pl      -create_list      -robot      my.domain.org-input_file
/path/to/my_file.xml
```

The list is created under the `my_robot` robot and the list is described in the file `my_file.xml`. The XML file is described before, see 16.1.2, page 146.

By default, the status of the created list is open.

### typical list profile (list template creation)

The list creator has to choose a profile for the list and put its name in the XML element `<type>`.

List profiles are stored in `/home/sympa/etc/create_list_templates` or in `/home/sympa/bin/etc/create_list_templates` (default of distrib).

You might want to hide or modify profiles (not useful, or dangerous for your site). If a profile exists both in the local site directory `/home/sympa/etc/create_list_templates` and `/home/sympa/bin/etc/create_list_templates` directory, then the local profile will be used by WWSympa.

## 16.4 Creating and editing mailing using the web

The management of mailing lists is based on a strict definition of privileges which pertain respectively to the listmaster, to the main list owner, and to basic list owners. The goal is to allow each listmaster to define who can create lists, and which parameters may be set by owners.

### 16.4.1 List creation on the Web interface

Listmasters have all privileges. The listmaster is defined in `sympa.conf` and others are defined at the virtual robot level. By default, newly created lists must be activated by the listmaster. List creation is possible for all intranet users (i.e. : users with an e-mail address within the same domain as Sympa). This is controlled by the `create_list` authorization scenario.

List rejection message and list creation notification message are both templates that you can customize (`list_rejected.tt2` and `list_created.tt2`).

### 16.4.2 Who can create lists on the Web interface

This is defined by the `create_list` `sympa.conf` parameter (see 6.1.15, page 47). This parameter refers to a **create\_list** authorization scenario. It will determine if the *create list* button is displayed and if it requires a listmaster confirmation.

The authorization scenario can accept any condition concerning the [sender] (i.e. WW-Sympa user), and it returns `reject`, `do_it` or `listmaster` as an action.

Only in cases where a user is authorized by the `create_list` authorization scenario will the "create" button be available in the main menu. If the scenario returns `do_it`, the list will be created and installed. If the scenario returns "listmaster", the user is allowed to create a list, but the list is created with the pending status, which means that only the list owner may view or use it. The listmaster will need to open the list of pending lists using the "pending list" button in the "server admin" menu in order to install or refuse a pending list.

### 16.4.3 typical list profile and Web interface

As on command line creation, the list creator has to choose a list profile and to fill in the owner's e-mail and the list subject together with a short description. But in this case, you don't need any XML file. Concerning these typical list profiles, they are described before, see 16.3, page 149. You can check available profile. On the Web interface, another way to control publicly available profiles is to edit the `create_list.conf` file (the default for this file is in the `/home/sympa/bin/etc` directory, and you may create your own customized version in `/home/sympa/etc`). This file controls which of the available list templates are to be displayed. Example :

```
# Do not allow the public_anonymous profile
public_anonymous hidden
* read
```

### 16.4.4 List edition

For each parameter, you may specify (via the `/home/sympa/etc/edit_list.conf` configuration file) who has the right to edit the parameter concerned; the default `/home/sympa/bin/etc/edit_list.conf` is reasonably safe.

Each line is a set of 3 field

```
<Parameter> <Population> <Privilege>
<Population> : <listmaster|privileged_owner|owner>
<Privilege> : <write|read|hidden>
parameter named "default" means any other parameter
```

There is no hierarchical relation between populations in this configuration file. You need to explicitly list populations.

Eg : listmaster will not match rules referring to owner or privileged\_owner

examples :

```
# only listmaster can edit user_data_source, priority, ...
user_data_source listmaster write

priority owner,privileged_owner read
priority listmaster write

# only privileged owner can modify editor parameter, send, ...
editor privileged_owner write

send owner read
send privileged_owner,listmaster write

# other parameters can be changed by simple owners
default owner write
```

Privileged owners are defined in the list's config file as follows :

```
owner
email owners.email@foo.bar
profile privileged
```

The following rules are hard coded in WWSympa :

- only listmaster can edit the "profile privileged" owner attribute
- owners can edit their own attributes (except profile and e-mail)
- the requestor creating a new list becomes a privileged owner
- privileged owners can edit any gecos/reception/info attribute of any owner
- privileged owners can edit owners' e-mail addresses (but not privileged owners' e-mail addresses)

Sympa aims to define two levels of trust for owners (some being entitled simply to edit secondary parameters such as "custom\_subject", others having the right to manage more important parameters), while leaving control of crucial parameters (such as the list of privileged owners and user\_data\_sources) in the hands of the listmaster. Consequently, privileged owners can change owners' e-mails, but they cannot grant the responsibility of list management to others without referring to the listmaster.

Concerning list edition in a family context, see 17.2.8, page 160





## Chapitre 17

# Lists Families

A list can have from three parameters to many tens of them. Some listmasters need to create a set of lists that have the same profile. In order to simplify the apprehension of these parameters, list families define a lists typology. Families provide a new level for defaults : in the past, defaults in Sympa were global and most sites using Sympa needed multiple defaults for different group of lists. Moreover families allow listmaster to delegate a part of configuration list to owners, in a controlled way according to family properties. Distribution will provide defaults families.

### 17.1 Family concept

A family provides a model for all of its lists. It is specified by the following characteristics :

- a list creation template providing a common profile for each list configuration file.
- an degree of independence between the lists and the family : list parameters edition rights and constraints on these parameters can be *free* (no constraint), *controlled* (a set of available values is defined for these parameters) or *fixed* (the value for the parameter is imposed by the family). That prevents lists from diverging from the original and it allows list owner customizations in a controlled way.
- a filiation kept between lists and family all along the list life : family modifications are applied on lists while keeping listowners customizations.

Here is a list of operation performed on a family :

- definition : definition of the list creation template, the degree of independence and family customizations.
- instantiation : lists creation or modifications of existing lists while respecting family properties. The set of data defining the lists is an XML document.

- modification : modification of family properties. The modification is effective at the next instantiation time, that have consequences on every list.
- closure : closure of each list.
- adding one list to a family.
- closing one family list.
- modifying one family list.

## 17.2 Using family

### 17.2.1 Definition

Families can be defined at the robot level, at the site level or on the distribution level (where default families are provided). So, you have to create a sub directory named after the family's name in a families directory :

*Examples :*

```
/home/sympa/etc/families/my_family
/home/sympa/etc/my_robot/families/my_family
```

In this directory you must provide these files :

- config.tt2 (mandatory)
- param\_constraint.conf (mandatory)
- edit\_list.conf
- customizable files

#### config.tt2

This is a list creation template, this file is mandatory. It provides default values for parameters. This file is an almost complete list configuration, with a number of missing fields (such as owner e-mail) to be replaced by data obtained at the time of family instantiation. It is easy to create new list templates by modifying existing ones. See 15.8, page 139 and 14.1, page 125.

*Example :*

```
subject [% subject %]

status [% status %]

[% IF topic %]
topics [% topic %]

[% END %]
```

```

visibility noconceal

send privateeditorkey

web_archive
    access public

subscribe open_notify

shared_doc
    d_edit [% shared_edit %]
    d_read [% shared_read %]

lang [% language %]

[% FOREACH o = owner %]
owner
    email [% o.email %]
    profile privileged
    [% IF o.gecos %]
    gecos [% o.gecos %]
    [% END %]

[% END %]
[% IF moderator %]
    [% FOREACH m = moderator %]
editor
    email [% m.email %]

    [% END %]
[% END %]

[% IF sql %]
include_sql_query
    db_type [% sql.type %]
    host [% sql.host %]
    user [% sql.user %]
    passwd [% sql.pwd %]
    db_name [% sql.name %]
    sql_query [% sql.query %]

[% END %]
ttl 360

```

**param\_constraint.conf**

This file is obligatory. It defines constraints on parameters. There are three kind of constraints :

- *free* parameters : no constraint on these parameters, they are not written in the `param_constraint.conf` file.
- *controlled* parameters : these parameters must select their values in a set of available values indicated in the `param_constraint.conf` file.
- *fixed* parameters : these parameters must have the imposed value indicated in the `param_constraint.conf` file.

The parameters constraints will be checked at every list loading.

*Example :*

```
lang                fr,us
archive.period      days,week,month
visibility           conceal,noconceal
shared_doc.d_read   public
shared_doc.d_edit   editor
```

**edit\_list.conf**

This is an optional file. It defines which parameters/files are editable by owners. See 16.4.4, page 150. If the family does not have this file, *Sympa* will look for the one defined on robot level, server site level or distribution level. (This file already exists without family context)

Notes that by default parameter `family_name` is not writable, you should not change this edition right.

**customizable files**

Families provides a new level of customization for scenarios (see 12, page 115), templates for service messages (see 14.2, page 126) and templates for web pages (see 14.3, page 128). *Sympa* looks for these files in the following level order : list, family, robot, server site or distribution.

**17.2.2 Instantiation**

Instantiation permits to generate lists. You must provide an XML file that is composed of lists description, the root element is *family* and is only composed of *list* elements. List elements are described in section 16.1.2, page 146. Each list is described by the set of values for affectation list parameters.

Here is an sample command to instantiate a family :

```
sympa.pl --instantiate\_family my_family --robot \samplerobot --input\_file /path/to/my\_f
```

This means lists that belong to family `my_family` will be created under the robot `my_robot` and these lists are described in the file `my_file.xml`. Sympa will split this file into several xml files describing lists. Each list XML file is put in each list directory.

*Example :*

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<family>
  <list>
    <listname>liste1</listname>
    <subject>a list example</subject>
    <description/>
    <status>open</status>
    <shared_edit>editor</shared_edit>
    <shared_read>private</shared_read>
    <language>fr</language>
    <owner multiple="1">
      <email>serge.aumont@cru.fr</email>
      <gecos>C.R.U.</gecos>
    </owner>
    <owner multiple="1">
      <email>olivier.salaun@cru.fr</email>
    </owner>
    <owner_include multiple="1">
      <source>my_file</source>
    </owner_include>
    <sql>
      <type>oracle</type>
      <host>sqlserv.admin.univ-x.fr</host>
      <user>stdutilisateur</user>
      <pwd>monsecret</pwd>
      <name>les_etudiants</name>
      <query>SELECT DISTINCT email FROM etudiant</query>
    </sql>
  </list>
  <list>
    <listname>liste2</listname>
    <subject>a list example</subject>
    <description/>
    <status>open</status>
    <shared_edit>editor</shared_edit>
    <shared_read>private</shared_read>
    <language>fr</language>
    <owner multiple="1">
      <email>serge.aumont@cru.fr</email>
      <gecos>C.R.U.</gecos>
    </owner>
```

```

<owner multiple="1">
  <email>olivier.salaun@cru.fr</email>
</owner>
<owner_include multiple="1">
  <source>my_file</source>
</owner_include>
<sql>
  <type>oracle</type>
  <host>sqlserv.admin.univ-x.fr</host>
  <user>stdutilisateur</user>
  <pwd>monsecret</pwd>
  <name>les_etudiants</name>
  <query>SELECT DISTINCT email FROM etudiant</query>
</sql>
</list>
...
</family>

```

Each instantiation describes lists. Compared to the previous instantiation, there are three cases :

- lists creation : new lists described by the new instantiation
- lists modification : lists already existing but possibly changed because of changed parameters values in the XML file or because of changed family's properties.
- lists removal : lists anymore described by the new instantiation. In this case, the listmaster must valid his choice on command line. If the list is removed, it is set in status `family_closed`, or if the list is recovered, the list XML file from the previous instantiation is got back to go on as a list modification then.

After list creation or modification, parameters constraints are checked :

- *fixed* parameter : the value must be the one imposed.
- *controlled* parameter : the value must be one of the set of available values.
- *free* parameter : there is no checking.

diagram

In case of modification (see diagram), allowed customizations can be preserved :

- (1) : for every modified parameters (via Web interface), noted in the `config_changes` file, values can be collected in the old list configuration file, according to new family properties :
  - *fixed* parameter : the value is not collected.
  - *controlled* parameter : the value is collected only if constraints are respected.
  - *free* parameter : the value is collected.
- (2) : a new list configuration file is made with the new family properties
- (3) : collected values are set in the new list configuration file.

Notes :

- For each list problem (as family file error, error parameter constraint, error instantiation ...), the list is set in status `error_config` and the listmaster is notified. He will have to do necessary to put list in use.
- For each list closing in family context, the list is set in status `family_closed` and the owner is notified.
- For each overwritten list customization, the owner is notified.

### 17.2.3 Modification

To modify a family, you have to edit family files manually. The modification will be effective while the next instantiation.

**WARNING :** The family modification must be done just before an instantiation. If it is not, alive lists wouldn't respect new family properties and they would be set in status `error_config` immediately.

### 17.2.4 Closure

Closes every list (installed under the indicated robot) of this family : lists status are set to `family_closed`, aliases are removed and subscribers are removed from DB. (a dump is created in the list directory to allow restoration of the list).

Here is a sample command to close a family :

```
sympa.pl --close_family my_family --robot my.domain.org
```

### 17.2.5 Adding one list

Adds a list to the family without instantiate all the family. The list is created as if it was created during an instantiation, under the indicated robot. The XML file describes the list and the root element is `<list>`. List elements are described in section 16.3, page 149.

Here is a sample command to add a list to a family :

```
sympa.pl --add_list my_family --robot my.domain.org --input_file  
/path/to/my_file.xml
```

### 17.2.6 Removing one list

Closes the list installed under the indicated robot : the list status is set to `family_closed`, aliases are removed and subscribers are removed from DB. (a dump is created in the list directory to allow restoring the list).

Here is a sample command to close a list family (same as an orphan list) :

```
sympa.pl --close_list my_list@my.domain.org
```

### 17.2.7 Modifying one list

Modifies a family list without instantiating the whole family. The list (installed under the indicated robot) is modified as if it was modified during an instantiation. The XML file describes the list and the root element is `<list>`. List elements are described in section 16.3, page 149.

Here is a sample command to modify a list to a family :

```
sympa.pl --modify_list my_family --robot my.domain.org--input_file  
/path/to/my_file.xml
```

### 17.2.8 List parameters edition in a family context

According to file `edit_list.conf`, edition rights are controlled. See 16.4.4, page 150. But in a family context, constraints parameters are added to edition right as it is summarized in this array :

array

Note : In order to preserve list customization for instantiation, every modified parameter (via the Web interface) is noted in the `config_changes` file.



## Chapitre 18

# List configuration parameters

The configuration file is composed of paragraphs separated by blank lines and introduced by a keyword.

Even though there are a very large number of possible parameters, the minimal list definition is very short. The only required parameters are `owner` (or `owner_include`) and `subject`. All other parameters have a default value.

*keyword value*

**WARNING** : configuration parameters must be separated by blank lines and BLANK LINES ONLY !

### 18.1 List description

#### 18.1.1 editor

The `config` file contains one `editor` paragraph per moderator (or editor). It concerns static editor definition. For dynamic definition and more information about editors see 18.1.2, page 162.

*Example :*

```
editor
email Pierre.David@prism.uvsq.fr
gecos Pierre (Universite de Versailles St Quentin)
```

Only the editor of a list is authorized to send messages to the list when the `send` parameter (see 18.3.8, page 176) is set to either `editor`, `editorkey`, or `editorkeyonly`. The `editor` parameter is also consulted in certain other cases (`privateoreditorkey`).

The syntax of this directive is the same as that of the `owner` parameter (see 18.1.5, page 163), even when several moderators are defined.

### 18.1.2 `editor_include`

The config file contains one `editor_include` paragraph per data inclusion file (see 15.7, page 138). It concerns dynamic editor definition : inclusion of external data. For static editor definition and more information about moderation see 18.1.1, page 161.

*Example :*

```
editor_include
reception mail
source myfile
source_parameters a,b,c
```

The syntax of this directive is the same as that of the `owner_include` parameter (see 18.1.6, page 164), even when several moderators are defined.

### 18.1.3 `host`

(Default value: `domain robot` parameter)

`host` *fully-qualified-domain-name*

Domain name of the list, default is the robot domain name set in the related `robot.conf` file or in file `/etc/sympa.conf`.

### 18.1.4 `lang`

(Default value: `lang robot` parameter)

*Example :*

```
lang en_US
```

This parameter defines the language used for the list. It is used to initialize a user's language preference ; *Sympa* command reports are extracted from the associated message catalog.

See 14.6, page 128 for available languages.

### 18.1.5 owner

The config file contains one owner paragraph per owner. It concerns static owner definition. For dynamic definition see 18.1.6, page 164.

*Example :*

```
owner
email serge.aumont@cru.fr
gecos C.R.U.
info Tel: 02 99 76 45 34
reception nomail
```

The list owner is usually the person who has the authorization to send ADD (see 24.2, page 214) and DELETE (see 24.2, page 214) commands on behalf of other users.

When the subscribe parameter (see 18.3.1, page 173) specifies a restricted list, it is the owner who has the exclusive right to subscribe users, and it is therefore to the owner that SUBSCRIBE requests will be forwarded.

There may be several owners of a single list ; in this case, each owner is declared in a paragraph starting with the owner keyword.

The owner directive is followed by one or several lines giving details regarding the owner's characteristics :

- email *address*  
Owner's e-mail address
- reception nomail  
Optional attribute for an owner who does not wish to receive mails. Useful to define an owner with multiple e-mail addresses : they are all recognized when *Sympa* receives mail, but thanks to reception nomail, not all of these addresses need receive administrative mail from *Sympa*.
- gecos *data*  
Public information on the owner
- info *data*  
Available since release 2.3  
Private information on the owner
- profile privileged | normal

Available since release 2.3.5

Profile of the owner. This is currently used to restrict access to some features of WWSympa, such as adding new owners to a list.

### 18.1.6 owner\_include

The config file contains one `owner_include` paragraph per data inclusion file (see 15.7, page 138). It concerns dynamic owner definition : inclusion of external data. For static owner definition and more information about owners see 18.1.5, page 163.

*Example :*

```
owner_include
source myfile
source_parameters a,b,c
reception nomail
profile normal
```

The `owner_include` directive is followed by one or several lines giving details regarding the owner(s) included characteristics :

- `source myfile`  
This is an mandatory field : it indicates the data inclusion file `myfile.incl` (but declared `myfile`). This file can be a template. In this case, it will be interpreted with values given by subparameter `source_parameter`.
- `source_parameters a,b,c`  
It contains values enumeration that will be affected to the `param` array used in the template file (see 15.7, page 138).
- `reception nomail`  
Optional attribute for owner(s) who does not wish to receive mails.
- `profile privileged | normal`  
Profile of the owner(s).

### 18.1.7 subject

`subject` *subject-of-the-list*

This parameter indicates the subject of the list, which is sent in response to the `LISTS` mail command. The subject is a free form text limited to one line.

### 18.1.8 topics

`topics computing/internet,education/university`

This parameter allows the classification of lists. You may define multiple topics as well as hierarchical ones. *WWSympa*'s list of public lists uses this parameter.

### 18.1.9 visibility

(Default value: `conceal`)

`visibility` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter indicates whether the list should feature in the output generated in response to a `LISTS` command.

- `visibility conceal`
- `visibility intranet`
- `visibility noconceal`
- `visibility secret`

## 18.2 Data source related

### 18.2.1 user\_data\_source

(Default value: `file|database`, if using an RDBMS)

`user_data_source file | database | include | include2`

Sympa allows the mailing list manager to choose how *Sympa* loads subscriber and administrative data. User information can be stored in a text file or relational database, or included from various external sources (list, flat file, result of LDAP or SQL query).

- `user_data_source file`

When this value is used, subscriber data are stored in a file whose name is defined by the `subscribers` parameter in `sympa.conf`. This is maintained for backward compatibility.

- `user_data_source database`  
This mode was been introduced to enable data to be stored in a relational database. This can be used for instance to share subscriber data with an HTTP interface, or simply to facilitate the administration of very large mailing lists. It has been tested with MySQL, using a list of 200 000 subscribers. We strongly recommend the use of a database in place of text files. It will improve performance, and solve possible conflicts between *Sympa* and *WWSympa*. Please refer to the “*Sympa* and its database” section (7, page 69).
- `user_data_source include`  
Here, subscribers are not defined *extensively* (enumeration of their e-mail addresses) but *intensively* (definition of criteria subscribers must satisfy). Includes can be performed by extracting e-mail addresses using an SQL or LDAP query, or by including other mailing lists. At least one include paragraph, defining a data source, is needed. Valid include paragraphs (see below) are `include_file`, `include_list`, `include_remote_sympa_list`, `include_sql_query` and `include_ldap_query`.
- `user_data_source include2`  
This is a replacement for the include mode. In this mode, the members cache is no more maintained in a DB File but in the main database instead. The behavior of the cache is detailed in the database chapter (see 7.6, page 77). This is the only mode that run the database for administrative data in the database

### 18.2.2 ttl

(Default value: 3600)

`ttl delay_in_seconds`

*Sympa* caches user data extracted using the include parameter. Their TTL (time-to-live) within *Sympa* can be controlled using this parameter. The default value is 3600.

### 18.2.3 include\_list

`include_list listname`

This parameter will be interpreted only if `user_data_source` is set to `include`. All subscribers of list `listname` become subscribers of the current list. You may include as many lists as required, using one `include_list listname` line for each included list. Any list at all may be included ; the `user_data_source` definition of the included list is irrelevant, and you may therefore include lists which are also defined by the inclusion of other lists. Be careful, however, not to include list A in list B and then list B in list A, since this will give rise an infinite loop.

### 18.2.4 include\_remote\_sympa\_list

`include_remote_sympa_list`

Sympa can contact another *Sympa* service using https to fetch a remote list in order to include each member of a remote list as subscriber. You may include as many lists as required, using one `include_remote_sympa_list` paragraph for each included list. Be careful, however, not to give rise an infinite loop making cross includes.

For this operation, one *Sympa* site act as a server while the other one act as client. On the server side, the only setting needed is to give permission to the remote *Sympa* to review the list. This is controled by the review authorization scenario.

From the client side you must define the remote list dump URI.

- `remote_host` *remote\_host\_name*
- `port` *port* (Default 443)
- `path` *absolute path* (In most cases, for a list name foo `/sympa/dump/foo` )

Because https offert a easy and secure client authentication, https is the only one protocole currently supported. A additional parameter is needed : the name of the certificate (and the private key) to be used :

- `cert list` the certificate to be use is the list certificate (the certificate subject distinguished name email is the list adress). Certificate and private key are located in the list directory.
- `cert robot` the certificate used is then related to sympa itself : the certificate subject distinguished name email look like `sympa@my.domain` and files are located in virtual robot etc dir if virtual robot is used otherwise in `/home/sympa/etc`.

### 18.2.5 include\_sql\_query

`include_sql_query`

This parameter will be interpreted only if the `user_data_source` value is set to `include`, and is used to begin a paragraph defining the SQL query parameters :

- `db_type` *dbd\_name*  
The database type (mysql, Pg, Oracle, Sybase, CSV ...). This value identifies the PERL DataBase Driver (DBD) to be used, and is therefore case-sensitive.
- `host` *hostname*  
The Database Server *Sympa* will try to connect to.
- `db_name` *sympa\_db\_name*  
The hostname of the database system.
- `user` *user\_id*

The user id to be used when connecting to the database.

- `passwd` *some secret*

The user passwd for user.

- `sql_query` *a query string* The SQL query string. No fields other than e-mail addresses should be returned by this query !
- `connect_options` *option1=x;option2=y*

This parameter is optional and specific to each RDBMS.

These options are appended to the connect string.

Example :

```
user_data_source include

include_sql_query
    db_type mysql
    host sqlserv.admin.univ-x.fr
    user stduser
    passwd mysecret
    db_name studentbody
    sql_query SELECT DISTINCT email FROM student
    connect_options mysql_connect_timeout=5
```

Connexion timeout is set to 5 seconds.

- `db_env` *list\_of\_var\_def*

This parameter is optional ; it is needed for some RDBMS (Oracle).

Sets a list of environment variables to set before database connexion. This is a ';' separated list of variable assignment.

Example for Oracle :

```
db_env ORACLE_TERM=vt100;ORACLE_HOME=/var/hote/oracle/7.3.4
```

- `name` *short name*

This parameter is optional.

It provides a human-readable name to this datasource. It will be used within the REVIEW page to indicate what datasource each list member comes from (usefull when having multiple data sources).

- `f_dir` */var/csvdir*

This parameter is optional, only used when accessing a CSV datasource.

When connecting to a CSV datasource, this parameter indicates the directory where the CSV files are located.

Example :

```
user_data_source include

include_sql_query
    db_type oracle
    host sqlserv.admin.univ-x.fr
    user stduser
    passwd mysecret
    db_name studentbody
```



```
sql_query SELECT DISTINCT email FROM student
```

### 18.2.6 include\_ldap\_query

```
include_ldap_query
```

This paragraph defines parameters for a LDAP query returning a list of subscribers. This paragraph is used only if `user_data_source` is set to `include`. This feature requires the Net : :LDAP (perlldap) PERL module.

- `host ldap_directory_hostname`  
Name of the LDAP directory host or a comma separated list of host :port. The second form is usefull if you are using some replication ldap host.  
Example :  

```
host ldap.cru.fr:389,backup-ldap.cru.fr:389
```
- `port ldap_directory_port` (OBSOLETE)  
Port on which the Directory accepts connections.
- `user ldap_user_name`  
Username with read access to the LDAP directory.
- `passwd LDAP_user_password`  
Password for user.
- `suffix directory_name`  
Defines the naming space covered by the search (optional, depending on the LDAP server).
- `timeout delay_in_seconds`  
Timeout when connecting the remote server.
- `filter search_filter`  
Defines the LDAP search filter (RFC 2254 compliant).
- `attrs mail_attribute` (Default value: mail)  
The attribute containing the e-mail address(es) in the returned object.
- `select first / all` (Default value: first)  
Defines whether to use only the first address, or all the addresses, in cases where multiple values are returned.
- `scope base / one / sub` (Default value: sub)  
By default the search is performed on the whole tree below the specified base object. This may be changed by specifying a scope parameter with one of the following values.
  - **base** : Search only the base object.
  - **one** : Search the entries immediately below the base object.
  - **sub** : Search the whole tree below the base object.

Example :

```

include_ldap_query
host ldap.cru.fr
suffix dc=cru, dc=fr
timeout 10
filter (&(cn=aumont) (c=fr))
attrs mail
select first
scope one

```

### 18.2.7 include\_ldap\_2level\_query

```
include_ldap_2level_query
```

This paragraph defines parameters for a two-level LDAP query returning a list of subscribers. Usually the first-level query returns a list of DNs and the second-level queries convert the DNs into e-mail addresses. This paragraph is used only if `user_data_source` is set to `include`. This feature requires the Net : :LDAP (perlldap) PERL module.

– *host ldap\_directory\_hostname*

Name of the LDAP directory host or a comma separated list of host :port. The second form is usefull if you are using some replication ldap host.

Example :

```
host ldap.cru.fr:389,backup-ldap.cru.fr:389
```

– *port ldap\_directory\_port* (OBSOLETE)

Port on which the Directory accepts connections (this parameter is ignored if host definition include port specification).

– *user ldap\_user\_name*

Username with read access to the LDAP directory.

– *passwd LDAP\_user\_password*

Password for user.

– *suffix1 directory name*

Defines the naming space covered by the first-level search (optional, depending on the LDAP server).

– *timeout1 delay\_in\_seconds*

Timeout for the first-level query when connecting to the remote server.

– *filter1 search\_filter*

Defines the LDAP search filter for the first-level query (RFC 2254 compliant).

– *attrs1 attribute*

The attribute containing the data in the returned object that will be used for the second-level query. This data is referenced using the syntax “[attrs1]”.

– *select1 first / all / regex* (Default value: *first*)

Defines whether to use only the first attribute value, all the values, or only those values matching a regular expression.

- `regex1` *regular\_expression* (Default value: )  
The Perl regular expression to use if “select1” is set to “regex”.
- `scope1` *base / one / sub* (Default value: sub)  
By default the first-level search is performed on the whole tree below the specified base object. This may be changed by specifying a scope parameter with one of the following values.
  - **base** : Search only the base object.
  - **one** : Search the entries immediately below the base object.
  - **sub** : Search the whole tree below the base object.
- `suffix2` *directory name*  
Defines the naming space covered by the second-level search (optional, depending on the LDAP server). The “[attrs1]” syntax may be used to substitute data from the first-level query into this parameter.
- `timeout2` *delay\_in\_seconds*  
Timeout for the second-level queries when connecting to the remote server.
- `filter2` *search\_filter*  
Defines the LDAP search filter for the second-level queries (RFC 2254 compliant). The “[attrs1]” syntax may be used to substitute data from the first-level query into this parameter.
- `attrs2` *mail\_attribute* (Default value: mail)  
The attribute containing the e-mail address(es) in the returned objects from the second-level queries.
- `select2` *first / all / regex* (Default value: first)  
Defines whether to use only the first address, all the addresses, or only those addresses matching a regular expression in the second-level queries.
- `regex2` *regular\_expression* (Default value: )  
The Perl regular expression to use if “select2” is set to “regex”.
- `scope2` *base / one / sub* (Default value: sub)  
By default the second-level search is performed on the whole tree below the specified base object. This may be changed by specifying a scope2 parameter with one of the following values.
  - **base** : Search only the base object.
  - **one** : Search the entries immediately below the base object.
  - **sub** : Search the whole tree below the base object.

Example : (cn=testgroup,dc=cru,dc=fr should be a groupOfUniqueNames here)

```
include_ldap_2level_query
host ldap.univ.fr
port 389
suffix1 ou=Groups,dc=univ,dc=fr
scope1 one
filter1 (&(objectClass=groupOfUniqueNames) (| (cn=cru)(cn=ufrmi)))
attrs1 uniquemember
select1 all
suffix2 [attrs1]
scope2 base
filter2 (objectClass=n2pers)
```

```

attrs2 mail
select2 first

```

### 18.2.8 include\_file

`include_file path_to_file`

This parameter will be interpreted only if the `user_data_source` value is set to `include`. The file should contain one e-mail address per line with an optional user description, separated from the email address by spaces (lines beginning with a `"#"` are ignored).

*Sample included file :*

```

## Data for Sympa member import
john.smith@sample.edu  John Smith - math department
sarah.hanrahan@sample.edu  Sarah Hanrahan - physics department

```

### 18.2.9 include\_remote\_file

`include_remote_file`

This parameter (organized as a paragraph) does the same as the `include_file` parameter, except that it gets a remote file. This paragraph is used only if `user_data_source` is set to `include`. Using this method you should be able to include any *exotic* data source that is not supported by Sympa. The paragraph is made of the following entries :

- `url url_of_remote_file`  
This is the URL of the remote file to include.
- `user user_name`  
This entry is optional, only used if HTTP basic authentication is required to access the remote file.
- `passwd user_passwd`  
This entry is optional, only used if HTTP basic authentication is required to access the remote file.

*Example :*

```

include_remote_file
url      http://www.myserver.edu/myfile
user     john_netid

```

```
passwd john_passwd
```

## 18.3 Command related

### 18.3.1 subscribe

(Default value: open)

subscribe parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

The subscribe parameter defines the rules for subscribing to the list. Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- subscribe auth
- subscribe auth\_notify
- subscribe auth\_owner
- subscribe closed
- subscribe intranet
- subscribe intranetorowner
- subscribe open
- subscribe open\_notify
- subscribe open\_quiet
- subscribe owner
- subscribe smime
- subscribe smimeorowner

### 18.3.2 unsubscribe

(Default value: open)

unsubscribe parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies the unsubscription method for the list. Use `open_notify` or `auth_notify` to allow owner notification of each unsubscribe command. Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- `unsubscribe auth`
- `unsubscribe auth_notify`
- `unsubscribe closed`
- `unsubscribe open`
- `unsubscribe open_notify`
- `unsubscribe owner`

### 18.3.3 `add`

(Default value: `owner`)

`add` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who is authorized to use the `ADD` command. Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- `add auth`
- `add closed`
- `add owner`
- `add owner_notify`

### 18.3.4 `del`

(Default value: `owner`)

`del` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who is authorized to use the `DEL` command. Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- del auth
- del closed
- del owner
- del owner\_notify

### 18.3.5 remind

(Default value: owner)

remind parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who is authorized to use the remind command. Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- remind\_listmaster
- remind\_owner

### 18.3.6 remind\_task

(Default value: no default value)

This parameter states which model is used to create a remind task. A remind task regularly sends to the subscribers a message which reminds them their subscription to list.

example :

remind annual

### 18.3.7 expire\_task

(Default value: no default value)

This parameter states which model is used to create a remind task. A expire task regularly checks the inscription or reinscription date of subscribers and asks them to

renew their subscription. If they don't they are deleted.

example :

expire annual

### 18.3.8 send

(Default value: private)

send parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who can send messages to the list. Valid values for this parameter are pointers to *scenarios*.

- send closed
- send editorkey
- send editorkeyonly
- send editorkeyonlyauth
- send intranet
- send intranetorprivate
- send newsletter
- send newsletterkeyonly
- send private
- send private\_smime
- send privateandeditorkey
- send privateandnomultipartoreditorkey
- send privatekey
- send privatekeyandeditorkeyonly
- send privateoreditorkey
- send privateorpublickey



- send public
- send public nobcc
- send publickey
- send publicnoattachment
- send publicnomultipart

### 18.3.9 review

(Default value: owner)

review parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who can use REVIEW (see 24.1, page 212), administrative requests.

Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- review closed
- review intranet
- review listmaster
- review owner
- review private
- review public

### 18.3.10 shared\_doc

This paragraph defines read and edit access to the shared document repository.

**d\_read**

(Default value: `private`)

`d_read` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who can read shared documents (access the contents of a list's shared directory).

Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- `d_read owner`
- `d_read private`
- `d_read p`
- `d_read public`

**d\_edit**

(Default value: `owner`)

`d_edit` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

This parameter specifies who can perform changes within a list's shared directory (i.e. upload files and create subdirectories).

Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- `d_edit editor`
- `d_edit owner`
- `d_edit private`
- `d_edit p`
- `d_edit public`

Example :

```
shared_doc
d_read public
```

```
d_edit private
```

### quota

quota *number-of-Kbytes*

This parameter specifies the disk quota for the document repository, in kilobytes. If quota is exceeded, file uploads fail.

## 18.4 List tuning

### 18.4.1 reply\_to\_header

The `reply_to_header` parameter starts a paragraph defining what *Sympa* will place in the Reply-To: SMTP header field of the messages it distributes.

- value `sender` | `list` | `all` | `other_email` (Default value: `sender`)  
This parameter indicates whether the Reply-To: field should indicate the sender of the message (`sender`), the list itself (`list`), both list and sender (`all`) or an arbitrary e-mail address (defined by the `other_email` parameter).  
Note : it is inadvisable to change this parameter, and particularly inadvisable to set it to `list`. Experience has shown it to be almost inevitable that users, mistakenly believing that they are replying only to the sender, will send private messages to a list. This can lead, at the very least, to embarrassment, and sometimes to more serious consequences.
- other\_email *an\_email\_address*  
If value was set to `other_email`, this parameter defines the e-mail address used.
- apply `respect` | `forced` (Default value: `respect`)  
The default is to respect (preserve) the existing Reply-To: SMTP header field in incoming messages. If set to `forced`, Reply-To: SMTP header field will be overwritten.

Example :

```
reply_to_header
value other_email
other_email listowner@my.domain
apply forced
```

### 18.4.2 max\_size

(Default value: `max_size` robot parameter)

`max_size` *number-of-bytes*

Maximum size of a message in 8-bit bytes. The default value is set in the `/etc/sympa.conf` file.

### 18.4.3 anonymous\_sender

`anonymous_sender` *value*

If this parameter is set for a list, all messages distributed via the list are rendered anonymous. SMTP `From :` headers in distributed messages are altered to contain the value of the `anonymous_sender` parameter. Various other fields are removed (`Received :`, `Reply-To :`, `Sender :`, `X-Sender :`, `Message-id :`, `Resent-From :`

### 18.4.4 custom\_header

`custom_header` *header-field : value*

This parameter is optional. The headers specified will be added to the headers of messages distributed via the list. As of release 1.2.2 of *Sympa*, it is possible to put several custom header lines in the configuration file at the same time.

Example: `custom_header X-url : http://www.cru.fr/listes/apropos/sedesabonner.faq.html.`

### 18.4.5 rfc2369\_header\_fields

(Default value: `rfc2369_header_fields` `sympa.conf` parameter)  
`rfc2369_header_fields` *help,archive*

RFC2369 compliant header fields (`List-xxx`) to be added to distributed messages. These header-fields should be implemented by MUA's, adding menus.

Example: `custom_header X-url : http://www.cru.fr/listes/apropos/sedesabonner.faq.html.`

### 18.4.6 custom\_subject

`custom_subject` *value*

This parameter is optional. It specifies a string which is added to the subject of distribu-

ted messages (intended to help users who do not use automatic tools to sort incoming messages). This string will be surrounded by [] characters.

The custom subject can also refer to list variables ([list->sequence] in the example below).

Example: `custom_subject sympa-users`.

Example: `custom_subject newsletter num [list->sequence]`.

### 18.4.7 footer\_type

(Default value: mime)

`footer_type` (optional, default value is mime) mime | append

List owners may decide to add message headers or footers to messages sent via the list. This parameter defines the way a footer/header is added to a message.

- `footer_type mime`  
The default value. Sympa will add the footer/header as a new MIME part. If the message is in multipart/alternative format, no action is taken (since this would require another level of MIME encapsulation).
- `footer_type append`  
Sympa will not create new MIME parts, but will try to append the header/footer to the body of the message. `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/message.footer.mime` will be ignored. Headers/footers may be appended to text/plain messages only.

### 18.4.8 digest

`digest daylist hour :minutes`

Definition of `digest` mode. If this parameter is present, subscribers can select the option of receiving messages in multipart/digest MIME format. Messages are then grouped together, and compilations of messages are sent to subscribers in accordance with the rhythm selected with this parameter.

*Daylist* designates a list of days in the week in number format (from 0 for Sunday to 6 for Saturday), separated by commas.

Example: `digest 1,2,3,4,5 15 :30`

In this example, *Sympa* sends digests at 3 :30 PM from Monday to Friday.

**WARNING** : if the sending time is too late, *Sympa* may not be able to process it. It is essential that *Sympa* could scan the digest queue at least once between the time laid down for sending the digest and 12 :00 AM (midnight). As a rule of thumb, do not use a digest time later than 11 :00 PM.

#### 18.4.9 `digest_max_size`

(Default value: 25)

Maximum number of messages in a digest. If the number of messages exceeds this limit, then multiple digest messages are sent to each recipient.

#### 18.4.10 `available_user_options`

The `available_user_options` parameter starts a paragraph to define available options for the subscribers of the list.

- `reception modelist`  
(Default value: `reception mail,notice,digest,summary,nomail`)  
*modelist* is a list of modes (mail, notice, digest, summary, nomail), separated by commas. Only these modes will be allowed for the subscribers of this list. If a subscriber has a reception mode not in the list, *sympa* uses the mode specified in the *default\_user\_options* paragraph.

Example :

```
## Nomail reception mode is not available
available_user_options
reception    digest,mail
```

#### 18.4.11 `default_user_options`

The `default_user_options` parameter starts a paragraph to define a default profile for the subscribers of the list.

- `reception notice | digest | summary | nomail | mail`  
Mail reception mode.
- `visibility conceal | noconceal`  
Visibility of the subscriber with the `REVIEW` command.

Example :

```
default_user_options
```

```
reception    digest
visibility   noconceal
```

### 18.4.12 cookie

(Default value: `cookie robot parameter`)

*cookie random-numbers-or-letters*

This parameter is a confidential item for generating authentication keys for administrative commands (ADD, DELETE, etc.). This parameter should remain concealed, even for owners. The cookie is applied to all list owners, and is only taken into account when the owner has the auth parameter (owner parameter, see 18.1.5, page 163).

Example: `cookie secret22`

### 18.4.13 priority

(Default value: `default_list_priority robot parameter`)

*priority 0-9*

The priority with which *Sympa* will process messages for this list. This level of priority is applied while the message is going through the spool.

0 is the highest priority. The following priorities can be used : 0 . . . 9 z. z is a special priority causing messages to remain spooled indefinitely (useful to hang up a list).

Available since release 2.3.1.

## 18.5 Bounce related

### 18.5.1 bounce

This paragraph defines bounce management parameters :

- `warn_rate`

(Default value: `bounce_warn_rate robot parameter`)

The list owner receives a warning whenever a message is distributed and the number (percentage) of bounces exceeds this value.

- `halt_rate`  
(Default value: `bounce_halt_rate` robot parameter)  
NOT USED YET  
If bounce rate reaches the `halt_rate`, messages for the list will be halted, i.e. they are retained for subsequent moderation. Once the number of bounces exceeds this value, messages for the list are no longer distributed.
- `expire_bounce_task`  
(Default value: `daily`)  
Name of the task template use to remove old bounces. Usefull to remove bounces for a subscriber email if some message are distributed without receiving new bounce. In this case, the subscriber email seems to be OK again. Active if `task_manager.pl` is running.

*Example :*

```
## Owners are warned with 10% bouncing addresses
## message distribution is halted with 20% bouncing rate
bounce
warn_rate 10
halt_rate 20
```

### 18.5.2 bouncers\_level1

- `rate`  
(Default value: `bouncers_level1_rate` config parameter)  
Each bouncing user have a score (from 0 to 100). This parameter define the lower score for a user to be a level1 bouncing user. For example, with default values : Users with a score between 45 and 80 are level1 bouncers.
- `action`  
(Default value: `bouncers_level1_action` config parameter)  
This parameter define which task is automatically applied on level 1 bouncing users : for exemple, automatically notify all level1 users.
- `Notification`  
(Default value: `owner`)  
When automatic task is executed on level 1 bouncers, a notification email can be send to listowner or listmaster. This email contain the adresses of concerned users and the name of the action executed.

### 18.5.3 bouncers\_level2

- `rate`  
(Default value: `bouncers_level2_rate` config parameter)  
Each bouncing user have a score (from 0 to 100). This parameter define the lower score for a user to be a level 2 bouncing user. For example, with default values :



Users with a score between 75 and 100 are level 2 bouncers.

- **action**  
(Default value: `bouncers_level1_action` config parameter)  
This parameter define which task is automatically applied on level 2 bouncing users :  
for exemple, automatically notify all level1 users.
- **Notification**  
(Default value: `owner`)  
When automatic task is executed on level 2 bouncers, a notification email can be  
send to listowner or listmaster. This email contain the adresses of concerned users  
and the name of the action executed.

*Example :*

```
## All bouncing adresses with a score between 75 and 100
## will be unsubscribed, and listmaster will recieve an email
Bouncers level 2
rate :75 Points
action : remove\_bouncers
Notification : Listmaster
```

#### 18.5.4 welcome\_return\_path

(Default value: `welcome_return_path` robot parameter) `welcome_return_path`  
unique | owner

If set to unique, the welcome message is sent using a unique return path in order to remove the subscriber immediately in the case of a bounce. See `welcome_return_path` `sympa.conf` parameter (6.8.3, page 58).

#### 18.5.5 remind\_return\_path

(Default value: `remind_return_path` robot parameter) `remind_return_path`  
unique | owner

Same as `welcome_return_path`, but applied to remind messages. See `remind_return_path` `sympa.conf` parameter (6.8.4, page 58).

## 18.6 Archive related

*Sympa* maintains 2 kinds of archives : mail archives and web archives.

Mail archives can be retrieved via a mail command send to the robot, they are stored in `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/archives/` directory.

Web archives are accessed via the web interface (with access control), they are stored in a directory defined in `wwsympa.conf`.

### 18.6.1 archive

If the `config` file contains an `archive` paragraph *Sympa* will manage an archive for this list.

*Example :*

```
archive
period week
access private
```

If the `archive` parameter is specified, archives are accessible to users through the `GET` command, and the index of the list archives is provided in reply to the `INDEX` command (the last message of a list can be consulted using the `LAST` command).

`period day | week | month | quarter | year`

This parameter specifies how archiving is organized : by day, week, month, quarter, or year. Generation of automatic list archives requires the creation of an archive directory at the root of the list directory (`/home/sympa/expl/mylist/archives/`), used to store these documents.

`access private | public | owner | closed |`

This parameter specifies who is authorized to use the `GET`, `LAST` and `INDEX` commands.

### 18.6.2 web\_archive

If the `config` file contains a `web_archive` paragraph *Sympa* will copy all messages distributed via the list to the "queueoutgoing" spool. It is intended to be used with WW-Sympa html archive tools. This paragraph must contain at least the `access` parameter to control who can browse the web archive.

*Example :*

```
web_archive
access private
quota 10000
```

#### **access**

`access_web_archive` parameter is defined by an authorization scenario (see 12, page 115)

Predefined authorization scenarios are :

- access closed
- access intranet
- access listmaster
- access owner
- access private
- access public

#### **quota**

`quota` *number-of-Kbytes*

This parameter specifies the disk quota for the list's web archives, in kilobytes. This parameter's default is `default_archive_quota` `sympa.conf` parameter. If quota is exceeded, messages are no more archived, list owner is notified. When archives are 95% full, the list owner is warned.

### **18.6.3 archive\_crypted\_msg**

(Default value: cleartext)

`archive_crypted_msg` cleartext | decrypted

This parameter defines Sympa behavior while archiving S/MIME crypted messages. If

set to `cleartext` the original crypted form of the message will be archived ; if set to `decrypted` a decrypted message will be archived. Note that this apply to both mail and web archives ; also to digests.

## 18.7 Spam protection

### 18.7.1 `spam_protection`

(Default value: `spam_protection robot parameter`)

There is a need to protection Sympa web site against spambot which collect email adresse in public web site. Various method are available into Sympa and you can choose it with `spam_protection` and `web_archive_spam_protection` parameters. Possible value are :

- `javascript` : the adresse is hidden using a javascript. User who enable javascript can see a nice mailto addresses where others have nothing.
- `at` : the `@` char is replaced by the string " AT ".
- `none` : no protection against spammer.

### 18.7.2 `web_archive_spam_protection`

(Default value: `web_archive_spam_protection robot parameter`)

Idem `spam_protection` but restricted to web archive. A additional value is available : `cookie` which mean that users must submit a small form in order to receive a cookie before browsing archives. This block all robot, even google and co.

## 18.8 Intern parameters

### 18.8.1 `family_name`

This parameter indicates the name of the family that the list belongs to.

*Example :*

```
family_name my_family
```

### 18.8.2 latest\_instantiation

This parameter indicates the date of the latest instantiation.

*Example :*

```
latest_instantiation
email serge.aumont@cru.fr
date 27 jui 2004 at 09:04:38
date_epoch 1090911878
```



## Chapitre 19

# Shared documents

Shared documents are documents that different users can manipulate on-line via the web interface of *Sympa*, provided that they are authorized to do so. A shared space is associated with a list, and users of the list can upload, download, delete, etc, documents in the shared space.

*WWSympa* shared web features are fairly rudimentary. It is not our aim to provide a sophisticated tool for web publishing, such as are provided by products like *Rearsite*. It is nevertheless very useful to be able to define privilege on web documents in relation to list attributes such as *subscribers*, *list owners*, or *list editors*.

All file and directory names are lowercased by *Sympa*. It is consequently impossible to create two different documents whose names differ only in their case. The reason *Sympa* does this is to allow correct URL links even when using an HTML document generator (typically Powerpoint) which uses random case for file names !

In order to have better control over the documents and to enforce security in the shared space, each document is linked to a set of specific control information : its access rights.

A list's shared documents are stored in the `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/shared` directory.

This chapter describes how the shared documents are managed, especially as regards their access rights. We shall see :

- the kind of operations which can be performed on shared documents
- access rights management
- access rights control specifications
- actions on shared documents
- template files

## 19.1 The three kind of operations on a document

Where shared documents are concerned, there are three kinds of operation which have the same constraints relating to access control :

- The read operation :
  - If applied on a directory, opens it and lists its contents (only those sub-documents the user is authorized to “see”).
  - If applied on a file, downloads it, and in the case of a viewable file (*text/plain*, *text/html*, or image), displays it.
- The edit operation allows :
  - Subdirectory creation
  - File uploading
  - File unzipping
  - Description of a document (title and basic information)
  - On-line editing of a text file
  - Document (file or directory) removal. If on a directory, it must be empty.

These different edit actions are equivalent as regards access rights. Users who are authorized to edit a directory can create a subdirectory or upload a file to it, as well as describe or delete it. Users authorized to edit a file can edit it on-line, describe it, replace or remove it.

- The control operation :

The control operation is directly linked to the notion of access rights. If we wish shared documents to be secure, we have to control the access to them. Not everybody must be authorized to do everything to them. Consequently, each document has specific access rights for reading and editing. Performing a control action on a document involves changing its Read/Edit rights.

The control operation has more restrictive access rights than the other two operations. Only the owner of a document, the privileged owner of the list and the listmaster have control rights on a document. Another possible control action on a document is therefore specifying who owns it.

## 19.2 The description file

The information (title, owner, access rights...) relative to each document must be stored, and so each shared document is linked to a special file called a description file, whose name includes the `.desc` prefix.

The description file of a directory having the path `mydirectory/mysubdirectory` has the path `mydirectory/mysubdirectory/.desc` . The description file of a file having the path `mydirectory/mysubdirectory/myfile.myextension` has the path `mydirectory/mysubdirectory/.desc.myfile.myextension` .



### 19.2.1 Structure of description files

The structure of a document (file or directory) description file is given below. You should *never* have to edit a description file.

```
title
  <description of the file in a few words>

creation
  email      <e-mail of the owner of the document>
  date_epoch <date_epoch of the creation of the document>

access
  read <access rights for read>
  edit <access rights for edit>
```

The following example is for a document that subscribers can read, but which only the owner of the document and the owner of the list can edit.

```
title
  module C++ which uses the class List

creation
  email foo@some.domain.com
  date_epoch 998698638

access
  read  private
  edit  owner
```

## 19.3 The predefined authorization scenarios

### 19.3.1 The public scenario

The **public** scenario is the most permissive scenario. It enables anyone (including unknown users) to perform the corresponding action.

### 19.3.2 The private scenario

The **private** scenario is the basic scenario for a shared space. Every subscriber of the list is authorized to perform the corresponding action. The **private** scenario is the default read scenario for shared when this shared space is created. This can be modified by editing the list configuration file.

### 19.3.3 The scenario owner

The scenario **owner** is the most restrictive scenario for a shared space. Only the listmaster, list owners and the owner of the document (or those of a parent document) are allowed to perform the corresponding action. The **owner** scenario is the default scenario for editing.

### 19.3.4 The scenario editor

The scenario **editor** is for a moderated shared space for editing. Every subscriber of the list is allowed to editing a document. But this document will have to be installed or rejected by the editor of the list. Documents awaiting for moderation are visible by their author and the editor(s) of the list in the shared space. The editor has also an interface with all documents awaiting. When there is a new document, the editor is notified and when the document is installed, the author is notified too. In case of reject, the editor can notify the author or not.

## 19.4 Access control

Access control is an important operation performed every time a document within the shared space is accessed.

The access control relative to a document in the hierarchy involves an iterative operation on all its parent directories.

### 19.4.1 Listmaster and privileged owners

The listmaster and privileged list owners are special users in the shared web. They are allowed to perform every action on every document in the shared space. This privilege enables control over the shared space to be maintained. It is impossible to prevent the listmaster and privileged owners from performing whatever action they please on any document in the shared space.

### 19.4.2 Special case of the shared directory

In order to allow access to a root directory to be more restrictive than that of its sub-directories, the shared directory (root directory) is a special case as regards access control. The access rights for read and edit are those specified in the list configuration

file. Control of the root directory is specific. Only those users authorized to edit a list's configuration may change access rights on its shared directory.

### 19.4.3 General case

`mydirectory/mysubdirectory/myfile` is an arbitrary document in the shared space, but not in the *root* directory. A user **X** wishes to perform one of the three operations (read, edit, control) on this document. The access control will proceed as follows :

– Read operation

To be authorized to perform a read action on `mydirectory/mysubdirectory/myfile`, **X** must be authorized to read every document making up the path ; in other words, she must be allowed to read `myfile` (the authorization scenario of the description file of `myfile` must return *do\_it* for user **X**), and the same goes for `mysubdirectory` and `mydirectory`).

In addition, given that the owner of a document or one of its parent directories is allowed to perform **all actions on that document**, `mydirectory/mysubdirectory/myfile` may also have read operations performed on it by the owners of `myfile`, `mysubdirectory`, and `mydirectory`.

This can be schematized as follows :

```
X can read <a/b/c>

if

(X can read <c>
AND X can read <b>
AND X can read <a>)

OR

(X owner of <c>
OR X owner of <b>
OR X owner of <a>)
```

– Edit operation

The access algorithm for edit is identical to the algorithm for read :

```
X can edit <a/b/c>

if

(X can edit <c>
AND X can edit <b>
AND X can edit <a>)

OR

(X owner of <c>
OR X owner of <b>
OR X owner of <a>)
```

- Control operation

The access control which precedes a control action (change rights or set the owner of a document) is much more restrictive. Only the owner of a document or the owners of a parent document may perform a control action :

```
X can control <a/b/c>
```

```
if
```

```
(X owner of <c>
```

```
OR X owner of <b>
```

```
OR X owner of <a>)
```

## 19.5 Shared document actions

The shared web feature has called for some new actions.

- action D\_ADMIN

Create the shared web, close it or restore it. The d\_admin action is accessible from a list's **admin** page.

- action D\_READ

Reads the document after read access control. If a folder, lists all the subdocuments that can be read. If a file, displays it if it is viewable, else downloads it to disk. If the document to be read contains a file named `index.html` or `index.htm`, and if the user has no permissions other than read on all contained subdocuments, the read action will consist in displaying the index. The d\_read action is accessible from a list's **info** page.

- action D\_CREATE\_DIR

Creates a new subdirectory in a directory that can be edited without moderation. The creator is the owner of the directory. The access rights are those of the parent directory.

- action D\_DESCRIBE

Describes a document that can be edited.

- action D\_DELETE

Deletes a document after edit access control. If applied to a folder, it has to be empty.

- action D\_UPLOAD

Uploads a file into a directory that can be edited.

- action D\_UNZIP

Unzip a file into a directory that can be edited without moderation. The whole file hierarchy contained in the zip file is installed into the directory.

- action D\_OVERWRITE

Overwrites a file if it can be edited. The new owner of the file is the one who has done the overwriting operation.

- actions D\_EDIT\_FILE and D\_SAVE\_FILE

Edits a file and saves it after edit access control. The new owner of the file is the one who has done the saving operation.

- action D\_CHANGE\_ACCESS

Changes the access rights of a document (read or edit), provided that control of this

- document is authorized.
- action D\_SET\_OWNER  
Changes the owner of a directory, provided that control of this document is authorized. The directory must be empty. The new owner can be anyone, but authentication is necessary before any action may be performed on the document.

## 19.6 Template files

The following template files have been created for the shared web :

### 19.6.1 d\_read.tt2

The default page for reading a document. If for a file, displays it (if viewable) or downloads it. If for a directory, displays all readable subdocuments, each of which will feature buttons corresponding to the different actions this subdocument allows. If the directory is editable, displays buttons to describe it or upload a file to it. If the directory is editable without moderation, it displays button to create a new subdirector or to upload a zip file in order to install a file hierarchy. If access to the document is editable, displays a button to edit the access to it.

### 19.6.2 d\_editfile.tt2

The page used to edit a file. If for a text file, allows it to be edited on-line. This page also enables another file to be substituted in its place.

### 19.6.3 d\_control.tt2

The page to edit the access rights and the owner of a document.

### 19.6.4 d\_upload.tt2

This page to upload a file is only used when the name of the file already exists.

### **19.6.5 d\_properties.tt2**

This page is used to edit description file and to rename it.

## Chapitre 20

# Bounce management

*Sympa* allows bounce (non-delivery report) management. This prevents list owners from receiving each bounce (1 per message sent to a bouncing subscriber) in their own mailbox. Without automatic processing of bounces, list owners either go mad, or just delete them without further attention.

Bounces are received at mylist-owner address, which should be sent to the bouncequeue program via aliases :

```
\samplelist-owner: "|/home/sympa/bin/bouncequeue \samplelist"
```

bouncequeue (see 2.2, page 20) stores bounces in a /home/sympa/spool/bounce/spool.

Bounces are then processed by the bounced.pl daemon. This daemon analyses bounces to find out which e-mail addresses are concerned and what kind of error was generated. If bouncing addresses match a subscriber's address, information is stored in the *Sympa* database (in subscriber\_table). Moreover, the most recent bounce itself is archived in bounce\_path/mylist/email (where bounce\_path is defined in a wwwsympa.conf parameter and email is the user e-mail address).

When reviewing a list, bouncing addresses are tagged as bouncing. You may access further information such as dates of first and last bounces, number of received bounces for the address, the last bounce itself.

With these informations, the automatic bounce management is possible :

- The automatic task eval\_bouncer gives a score foreach bouncing user. The score, between 0 to 100, allows the classification of bouncing users in two levels. (Level 1 or 2). According to the level, automatic actions are executed periodically by

`process_bouncers` task.

- The score evaluation main parameters are :  
`Bounces count` : The number of bouncing messages received by sympa for the user.  
`Type rate` : Bounces are classified depending on the type of errors generated on the user side. If the error type is "mailbox is full" (ie a temporary 4.2.2 error type) the type rate will be 0.5 whereas permanent errors (5.x.x) have a type rate equal to 1.  
`Regularity rate` : This rate tells if the bounces were received regularly, compared to list traffic. The list traffic is deduced from `msg_count` file data.

The score formula is :

$$\text{Score} = \text{bounce\_count} * \text{type\_rate} * \text{regularity\_rate}$$

To avoid making decisions (ie defining a score) without enough relevant data, the score is not evaluated if :

- The number of the number of received bounces is lower than `minimum_bouncing_count` (see 6.8.9, page 59)
- The bouncing period is shorter than `minimum_bouncing_period` (see 6.8.10, page 59)
- You can define the limit between each level via the **List configuration pannel**, in subsection **Bounce settings**. (see 18.5.2) The principle consists in associating a score interval with a level.
- You can also define which action must be applied on each category of user. (see 18.5.2) Each time an action will be done, a notification email will be sent to the person of your choice. (see 18.5.2)



## Chapitre 21

# Antivirus

*Sympa* lets you use an external antivirus solution to check incoming mails. In this case you must set the `antivirus_path` and `antivirus_args` configuration parameters (see 6.13, page 66. *Sympa* is already compatible with McAfee/uvscan, Fsecure/fsav, Sophos, AVP, Trend Micro/VirusWall and Clam Antivirus. For each mail received, *Sympa* extracts its MIME parts in the `/home/sympa/spool/tmp/antivirus` directory and then calls the antivirus software to check them. When a virus is detected, *Sympa* looks for the virus name in the virus scanner STDOUT and sends a `your_infected_msg.tt2` warning to the sender of the mail. The mail is saved as 'bad' and the working directory is deleted (except if *Sympa* is running in debug mode).



## Chapitre 22

# Using *Sympa* with LDAP

LDAP is a client-server protocol for accessing a directory service. Sympa provide various features based on access to one or more LDAP directories :

- authentication using LDAP directory instead of sympy internal storage of password  
see 11.5, page 106
- named filters used in authorization scenario condition  
see 12.2, page 118
- LDAP extraction of list subscribers (see 18.2.1)
- LDAP extraction of list owners or editors  
see 15.7, page 138
- mail aliases stored in LDAP  
see 5.3, page 41



## Chapitre 23

# *Sympa* with S/MIME and HTTPS

S/MIME is a cryptographic method for Mime messages based on X509 certificates. Before installing *Sympa* S/Mime features (which we call S/*Sympa*), you should be under no illusion about what the S stands for : “S/MIME” means “Secure MIME”. That S certainly does not stand for “Simple”.

The aim of this chapter is simply to describe what security level is provided by *Sympa* while using S/MIME messages, and how to configure *Sympa* for it. It is not intended to teach anyone what S/Mime is and why it is so complex ! RFCs numbers 2311, 2312, 2632, 2633 and 2634, along with a lot of literature about S/MIME, PKCS#7 and PKI is available on the Internet. *Sympa* 2.7 is the first version of *Sympa* to include S/MIME features as beta-testing features.

### 23.1 Signed message distribution

No action required. You probably imagine that any mailing list manager (or any mail forwarder) is compatible with S/MIME signatures, as long as it respects the MIME structure of incoming messages. You are right. Even Majordomo can distribute a signed message ! As *Sympa* provides MIME compatibility, you don’t need to do anything in order to allow subscribers to verify signed messages distributed through a list. This is not an issue at all, since any processe that distributes messages is compatible with end user signing processes. *Sympa* simply skips the message footer attachment (ref 15.11, page 142) to prevent any body corruption which would break the signature.

## 23.2 Use of S/MIME signature by Sympa itself

Sympa is able to verify S/MIME signatures in order to apply S/MIME authentication methods for message handling. Currently, this feature is limited to the distribution process, and to any commands *Sympa* might find in the message body. The reasons for this restriction are related to current S/MIME usage. S/MIME signature structure is based on the encryption of a digest of the message. Most S/MIME agents do not include any part of the message headers in the message digest, so anyone can modify the message header without signature corruption ! This is easy to do : for example, anyone can edit a signed message with their preferred message agent, modify whatever header they want (for example Subject : , Date : and To : , and redistribute the message to a list or to the robot without breaking the signature.

So Sympa cannot apply the S/MIME authentication method to a command parsed in the Subject : field of a message or via the -subscribe or -unsubscribe e-mail address.

## 23.3 Use of S/MIME encryption

S/Sympa is not an implementation of the “S/MIME Symmetric Key Distribution” internet draft. This sophisticated scheme is required for large lists with encryption. So, there is still some scope for future developments :)

We assume that S/Sympa distributes message as received, i.e. unencrypted when the list receives an unencrypted message, but otherwise encrypted.

In order to be able to send encrypted messages to a list, the sender needs to use the X509 certificate of the list. Sympa will send an encrypted message to each subscriber using the subscriber's certificate. To provide this feature, *Sympa* needs to manage one certificate for each list and one for each subscriber. This is available in Sympa version 2.8 and above.

## 23.4 S/Sympa configuration

### 23.4.1 Installation

The only requirement is OpenSSL (<http://www.openssl.org>) version 0.9.5a and above. OpenSSL is used by *Sympa* as an external plugin (like sendmail or postfix), so it must be installed with the appropriate access (x for sympa.sympa).

### 23.4.2 configuration in sympa.conf

S/Sympa configuration is very simple. If you are used to Apache SSL, you should not feel lost. If you are an OpenSSL guru, you will feel at home, and there may even be changes you will wish to suggest to us.

The basic requirement is to let *Sympa* know where to find the binary file for the OpenSSL program and the certificates of the trusted certificate authority. This is done using the optional parameters `openssl` and `capath` and / or `cafile`.

- `openssl` : the path for the OpenSSL binary file, usually `/usr/local/ssl/bin/openssl`
- `cafile` : the path of a bundle of trusted ca certificates. The file `~/home/sympa/bin/etc/cabundle.crt` included in Sympa distribution can be used.  
Both the `cafile` file and the `capath` directory should be shared with your `Apache+mod_ssl` configuration. This is useful for the S/Sympa web interface. Please refer to the OpenSSL documentation for details.
- `key_password` : the password used to protect all list private keys. xxxxxxxx

### 23.4.3 configuration to recognize S/MIME signatures

Once OpenSSL has been installed, and `sympa.conf` configured, your S/Sympa is ready to use S/Mime signatures for any authentication operation. You simply need to use the appropriate authorization scenario for the operation you want to secure. (see 12, page 115).

When receiving a message, *Sympa* applies the authorization scenario with the appropriate authentication method parameter. In most cases the authentication method is “smtp”, but in cases where the message is signed and the signature has been checked and matches the sender e-mail, *Sympa* applies the “smime” authentication method.

It is vital to ensure that if the authorization scenario does not recognize this authentication method, the operation requested will be rejected. Consequently, authorization scenarios distributed prior to version 2.7 are not compatible with the OpenSSL configuration of Sympa. All standard authorization scenarios (those distributed with sympa) now include the `smime` method. The following example is named `send.private.smime`, and restricts sends to subscribers using an S/mime signature :

```
title.us restricted to subscribers check smime signature
title.fr limité aux abonnés, vérif de la signature smime

is_subscriber([listname],[sender])          smime -> do_it
is_editor([listname],[sender])              smime -> do_it
is_owner([listname],[sender])               smime -> do_it
```

It is also possible to mix various authentication methods in a single authorization scenario. The following example, `send.private_key`, requires either an md5 return key or an S/Mime signature :

```
title.us restricted to subscribers with previous md5 authentication
title.fr réservé aux abonnés avec authentication MD5 préalable

is_subscriber([listname],[sender]) smtp          -> request_auth
true()                               md5,smime    -> do_it
```

### 23.4.4 distributing encrypted messages

In this section we describe S/Sympa encryption features. The goal is to use S/MIME encryption for distribution of a message to subscribers whenever the message has been received encrypted from the sender.

Why is S/Sympa concerned by the S/MIME encryption distribution process ? It is because encryption is performed using the **recipient** X509 certificate, whereas the signature requires the sender's private key. Thus, an encrypted message can be read by the recipient only if he or she is the owner of the private key associated with the certificate. Consequently, the only way to encrypt a message for a list of recipients is to encrypt and send the message for each recipient. This is what S/Sympa does when distributing an encrypted message.

The S/Sympa encryption feature in the distribution process supposes that Sympa has received an encrypted message for some list. To be able to encrypt a message for a list, the sender must have some access to an X509 certificate for the list. So the first requirement is to install a certificate and a private key for the list. The mechanism whereby certificates are obtained and managed is complex. Current versions of S/Sympa assume that list certificates and private keys are installed by the listmaster using `/home/sympa/bin/p12topem.pl` script. This script allows you to install a PKCS#12 bundle file containing a private key and a certificate using the appropriate format.

It is a good idea to have a look at the OpenCA (<http://www.openssl.org>) documentation and/or PKI providers' web documentation. You can use commercial certificates or home-made ones. Of course, the certificate must be approved for e-mail applications, and issued by one of the trusted CA's described in the `cafile` file or the `capath` Sympa configuration parameter.

The list private key must be installed in a file named `/home/sympa/expl/mylist/private_key`. All the list private keys must be encrypted using a single password defined by the `password` parameter in `sympa.conf`.



### Use of navigator to obtain X509 list certificates

In many cases e-mail X509 certificates are distributed via a web server and loaded into the browser using your mouse :) Mozilla or internet explorer allows certificates to be exported to a file.

Here is a way to install a certificat for a list :

- Get a list certificate is to obtain an personal e-mail certificate for the canonical list address in your browser as if it was your personal certificate,
- export the intended certificate it. The format used by Netscape is "pkcs#12". Copy this file to the list home directory.
- convert the pkcs#12 file into a pair of pem files : `cert.pem` and `private_key` using the `/home/sympa/bin/p12topem.pl` script. Use `p12topem.pl -help` for details.
- be sure that `cert.pem` and `private_key` are owned by `sympa` with "r" access.
- As soon as a certificate is installed for a list, the list home page includes a new link to load the certificate to the user's browser, and the welcome message is signed by the list.

## 23.5 Managing certificates with tasks

You may automate the management of certificates with two global task models provided with *Sympa*. See 14.10, page 131 to know more about tasks. Report to 6.12.4, page 65 to configure your *Sympa* to use these facilities.

### 23.5.1 `chk_cert_expiration.daily.task` model

A task created with the model `chk_cert_expiration.daily.task` checks every day the expiration date of certificates stored in the `/home/sympa/expl/X509-user-certs/` directory. The user is warned with the `daily_cert_expiration` template when his certificate has expired or is going to expire within three days.

### 23.5.2 `crl_update.daily.task` model

You may use the model `crl_update.daily.task` to create a task which daily updates the certificate revocation lists when needed.



## Chapitre 24

# Using *Sympa* commands

Users interact with *Sympa*, of course, when they send messages to one of the lists, but also indirectly through administrative requests (subscription, list of users, etc.).

This section describes administrative requests, as well as interaction modes in the case of private and moderated lists. Administrative requests are messages whose body contains commands understood by *Sympa*, one per line. These commands can be indiscriminately placed in the `Subject:` or in the body of the message. The `To:` address is generally the `sympa@domain` alias, although it is also advisable to recognize the `listserv@domain` address.

Example :

```
From: pda@prism.uvsq.fr
To: sympa@cru.fr

LISTS
INFO sympa-users
REVIEW sympa-users
QUIT
```

Most user commands have three-letter abbreviations (e.g. `REV` instead of `REVIEW`).

### 24.1 User commands

- `HELP`  
Provides instructions for the use of *Sympa* commands. The result is the content of the `helpfile.tt2` template file.
- `INFO listname`

- Provides the parameters of the specified list (owner, subscription mode, etc.) and its description. The result is the content of `~welcome[.mime]`.
- **LISTS**  
Provides the names of lists managed by *Sympa*. This list is generated dynamically, using the `visibility` (see 18.1.9, page 165). The `lists.tt2` template defines the message return by the **LISTS** command.
- **REVIEW *listname***  
Provides the addresses of subscribers if the run mode authorizes it. See the `review` parameter (18.3.9, page 177) for the configuration file of each list, which controls consultation authorizations for the subscriber list. Since subscriber addresses can be abused by spammers, it is strongly recommended that you **only authorize owners to access the subscriber list**.
- **WHICH**  
Returns the list of lists to which one is subscribed, as well as the configuration of his or her subscription to each of the lists (**DIGEST**, **NOMAIL**, **SUMMARY**, **CONCEAL**).
- **STATS *listname***  
Provides statistics for the specified list : number of messages received, number of messages sent, megabytes received, megabytes sent. This is the contents of the `stats` file.  
Access to this command is controlled by the `review` parameter.
- **INDEX *listname***  
Provides index of archives for specified list. Access rights to this function are the same as for the **GET** command.
- **GET *listname archive***  
To retrieve archives for list (see above). Access rights are the same as for the **REVIEW** command. See `review` parameter (18.3.9, page 177).
- **LAST *listname***  
To receive the last message distributed in a list (see above). Access rights are the same as for the **GET** command.
- **SUBSCRIBE *listname firstname name***  
Requests sign-up to the specified list. The *firstname* and *name* are optional. If the list is parameterized with a restricted subscription (see `subscribe` parameter, 18.3.1, page 173), this command is sent to the list owner for approval.
- **INVITE *listname user@host name***  
Invite someone to subscribe to the specified list. The *name* is optional. The command is similar to the **ADD** but the specified person is not added to the list but invited to subscribe to it in accordance with the `subscribe` parameter, 18.3.1, page 173).
- **SIGNOFF *listname [ user@host ]***  
Requests unsubscription from the specified list. **SIGNOFF \*** means unsubscription from all lists.
- **SET *listname* DIGEST**  
Puts the subscriber in *digest* mode for the *listname* list. Instead of receiving mail from the list in a normal manner, the subscriber will periodically receive it in a **DIGEST**. This **DIGEST** compiles a group of messages from the list, using multi-part/digest mime format.  
The sending period for these **DIGEST**s is regulated by the list owner using the `digest` parameter (see 18.4.8, page 181). See the **SET LISTNAME MAIL** command (24.1, page 213) and the `reception` parameter (15.4, page 137).
- **SET *listname* SUMMARY**

Puts the subscriber in *summary* mode for the *listname* list. Instead of receiving mail from the list in a normal manner, the subscriber will periodically receive the list of messages. This mode is very close to the DIGEST reception mode but the subscriber receives only the list of messages.

This option is available only if the digest mode is set.

– SET *listname* NOMAIL

Puts subscriber in *nomail* mode for the *listname* list. This mode is used when a subscriber no longer wishes to receive mail from the list, but nevertheless wishes to retain the possibility of posting to the list. This mode therefore prevents the subscriber from unsubscribing and subscribing later on. See the SET LISTNAME MAIL command (24.1, page 213) and the reception (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* TXT

Puts subscriber in *txt* mode for the *listname* list. This mode is used when a subscriber wishes to receive mails sent in both format txt/html and txt/plain only in txt/plain format. See the reception (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* HTML

Puts subscriber in *html* mode for the *listname* list. This mode is used when a subscriber wishes to receive mails sent in both format txt/html and txt/plain only in txt/html format. See the reception (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* URLIZE

Puts subscriber in *urlize* mode for the *listname* list. This mode is used when a subscriber wishes not to receive attached files. The attached files are replaced by an URL leading to the file stored on the list site.

See the reception (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* NOT\_ME

Puts subscriber in *not\_me* mode for the *listname* list. This mode is used when a subscriber wishes not to receive back the message that he has sent to the list.

See the reception (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* MAIL

Puts the subscriber in normal mode (default) for the *listname* list. This option is mainly used to cancel the *nomail*, *summary* or *digest* modes. If the subscriber was in *nomail* mode, he or she will again receive mail from the list in a normal manner. See the SET LISTNAME NOMAIL command (24.1, page 213) and the reception parameter (15.4, page 137).

– SET *listname* CONCEAL

Puts the subscriber in *conceal* mode for the *listname* list. The subscriber will then become invisible during REVIEW on this list. Only owners will see the whole subscriber list.

See the SET LISTNAME NOCONCEAL command (24.1, page 213) and the visibility parameter (18.1.9, page 165).

– SET *listname* NOCONCEAL

Puts the subscriber in *noconceal* mode (default) for *listname* list. The subscriber will then become visible during REVIEW of this list. The *conceal* mode is then cancelled. See SET LISTNAME CONCEAL command (24.1, page 213) and visibility parameter (18.1.9, page 165).

– QUIT

Ends acceptance of commands. This can prove useful when the message contains additional lines, as for example in the case where a signature is automatically added by the user's mail program (MUA).

– CONFIRM *key*

If the `send` parameter of a list is set to `privatekey`, `publickey` or `privateorpublickey`, messages are only distributed in the list after an authentication phase by return mail, using a one-time password (numeric key). For this authentication, the sender of the message is requested to post the “CONFIRM *key*” command to *Sympa*.

- QUIET

This command is used for silent (mute) processing : no performance report is returned for commands prefixed with QUIET.

## 24.2 Owner commands

Some administrative requests are only available to list owner(s). They are indispensable for all procedures in limited access mode, and to perform requests in place of users. These commands are :

- ADD *listname user@host firstname name*

Add command similar to SUBSCRIBE. You can avoid user notification by using the QUIET prefix (ie : QUIET ADD).

- DELETE *listname user@host*

Delete command similar to SIGNOFF. You can avoid user notification by using the QUIET prefix (ie : QUIET DELETE).

- REMIND *listname*

REMIND is used by list owners in order to send an individual service reminder message to each subscriber. This message is made by parsing the `remind.tt2` file.

- REMIND \*

REMIND is used by the listmaster to send to each subscriber of any list a single message with a summary of his/her subscriptions. In this case the message sent is constructed by parsing the `global_remind.tt2` file. For each list, *Sympa* tests whether the list is configured as hidden to each subscriber (parameter `lparam visibility`). By default the use of this command is restricted to listmasters. Processing may take a lot of time !

- EXPIRE

*listname age (in days) deadline (in days) (listname) (age (in days)) (deadline (in days)) explanatory text to be sent to the subscribers concerned*

This command activates an expiration process for former subscribers of the designated list. Subscribers for which no procedures have been enabled for more than *age* days receive the explanatory text appended to the EXPIRE command. This text, which must be adapted by the list owner for each subscriber population, should explain to the people receiving this message that they can update their subscription date so as to not be deleted from the subscriber list, within a deadline of *deadline* days.

Past this deadline, the initiator of the EXPIRE command receives the list of persons who have not confirmed their subscription. It is up to the initiator to send *Sympa* the corresponding DELETE commands.

Any operation updating the subscription date of an address serves as confirmation of subscription. This is also the case for SET option selecting commands and for the

SUBSCRIBE subscription command itself. The fact of sending a message to the list also updates the subscription date.

The explanatory message should contain at least 20 words ; it is possible to delimit it by the word QUIT, in particular in order not to include a signature, which would systematically end the command message.

A single expiration process can be activated at any given time for a given list. The EXPIRE command systematically gives rise to authentication by return mail. The EXPIRE command has **no effect on the subscriber list**.

- EXPIREINDEX *listname*  
Makes it possible, at any time, for an expiration process activated using an EXPIRE command to receive the list of addresses for which no enabling has been received.
- EXPIREDEL *listname*  
Deletion of a process activated using the EXPIRE command. The EXPIREDEL command has no effect on subscribers, but it possible to activate a new expiration process with new deadlines.

As above, these commands can be prefixed with QUIET to indicate processing without acknowledgment of receipt.

## 24.3 Moderator commands

If a list is moderated, *Sympa* only distributes messages enabled by one of its moderators (editors). Moderators have several methods for enabling message distribution, depending on the `send list` parameter (18.3.8, page 176).

- DISTRIBUTE *listname key*  
If the `send` parameter of a list is set to `editorkey` or `editorkeyonly`, each message queued for moderation is stored in a spool (see 6.6.4, page 54), and linked to a key.  
The moderator must use this command to enable message distribution.
- REJECT *listname key*  
The message with the `key` key is deleted from the moderation spool of the *listname* list.
- MODINDEX *listname*  
This command returns the list of messages queued for moderation for the *listname* list.  
The result is presented in the form of an index, which supplies, for each message, its sending date, its sender, its size, and its associated key, as well as all messages in the form of a digest.





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