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**Sieve Email Filtering: delivery by mailboxid**  
**draft-gondwana-sieve-mailboxid-01**

Abstract

The OBJECTID capability of the IMAP protocol (I-D.ietf-extra-imap-objectid) allows clients to identify mailboxes by a unique identifier which survives rename. In contrast, the Sieve mail filtering language ([RFC 5228](#)) currently has no such capability. This memo defines a Sieve extension that fills this gap: it adds a method for specifying the unique identifier of a mailbox as a target for fileinto rules, and a method for testing the existence of a mailbox by its unique identifier.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

Sieve rules are sometimes created using graphical interfaces which allow users to select the mailbox to be used as a target for a rule. If that mailbox is renamed, the client may also update its internal representation of the rule and update the sieve script to match, however this is a multi-step process and subject to partial failures. Also, if the folder is renamed by a different mechanism (e.g. another IMAP client) the rules will get out of sync.

By extending "fileinto" to reference an immutable mailboxid, sieve rules can continue to target the same mailbox, regardless of how it gets renamed.

## [2.](#) Conventions Used In This Document

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP



14 [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

### 3. Sieve capability string

The server advertises the capability "mailboxid", and scripts which use the following extensions MUST explicitly request the capability "mailboxid".

Example:

```
require "mailboxid";
```

### 4. Argument ":mailboxid" to Command "fileinto"

Normally, the "fileinto" command delivers the message in the mailbox specified using its positional mailbox argument. However, if the optional ":mailboxid" argument is also specified, the "fileinto" command first checks whether a mailbox exists in the user's personal namespace [[RFC2342](#)] with the specified [[I-D.ietf-extra-imap-objectid](#)] MAILBOXID. If that is the case, that mailbox is used for delivery instead. If there is no such mailbox, the "fileinto" action proceeds as it would without the ":mailboxid" argument.

The tagged argument ":mailboxid" to fileinto consumes one additional token, a string with the objectid of the mailbox to file into.

Example:

```
require "fileinto";
require "mailboxid";

if header :contains ["from"] "coyote" {
    fileinto :mailboxid "F6352ae03-b7f5-463c-896f-d8b48ee3"
        "INBOX.harassment";
}
```

#### 4.1. Interaction with "mailbox" extension

For servers which also support the [[RFC5490](#)] mailbox extension, the ":create" modifier to fileinto does not create mailbox with the specified mailboxid, however it may be specified and interacts as normal with all other extensions.

Example:



```
require "fileinto";
require "mailboxid";
require "mailbox";

fileinto :mailboxid "Fnosuch"
      :create
      "INBOX.no-such-folder";
      # creates INBOX.no-such-folder, but it doesn't
      # get the "Fnosuch" mailboxid.
```

#### [4.2.](#) Interaction with "specialuse" extension

For servers which also support [[I-D.ietf-extra-sieve-special-use](#)], if a fileinto command has both ":mailboxid" and ":special-use" specified, then the mailboxid is resolved first. If the mailboxid does not exist, then the special-use is evaluated next following the process specified in [[I-D.ietf-extra-sieve-special-use](#)] - this includes processing of [[RFC5490](#)] ":create" tags to add the special-use on creation.

Example:

```
require "fileinto";
require "mailboxid";
require "special-use";
if header :contains ["from"] "coyote" {
    fileinto :mailboxid "F6352ae03-b7f5-463c-896f-d8b48ee3"
          :specialuse "\\Junk"
          "INBOX.harassment";
}
```

Example:

```
require "fileinto";
require "mailboxid";
require "mailbox";
require "special-use";

fileinto :mailboxid "F1234567"
      :specialuse "\\Archive"
      :create
      "INBOX.Archive";
      # creates INBOX.Archive with use \Archive but
      # with a different mailboxid.
```



### 4.3. Interaction with "fcc" extension

This document extends the definition of the :fcc argument so that it can optionally be used with the ":mailboxid" argument.

```
FCC =/ [":mailboxid" <mailboxid: string>]
```

If the optional ":mailboxid" argument is specified with ":fcc", it instructs the Sieve interpreter to check whether a mailbox exists with the specific mailboxid. If such a mailbox exists, the generated message is filed into that mailbox. Otherwise, the generated message is filed into the ":fcc" target mailbox.

Example:

```
require ["enotify", "fcc", "mailboxid"];
notify :fcc "INBOX.Sent"
      :mailboxid "F6352ae03-b7f5-463c-896f-d8b48ee3"
      :message "You got mail!"
      "mailto:ken@example.com";
```

## 5. Test ":mailboxidexists"

The "mailboxidexists" test is true if all mailboxes listed in the "mailboxids" argument exist in the mailstore, and each allows the user in whose context the Sieve script runs to "deliver" messages into it. When the mailstore is an IMAP server, "delivery" of messages is possible if:

- a) the READ-WRITE response code is present for the mailbox (see [Section 7.1 of \[RFC3501\]](#)), if IMAP Access Control List (ACL) [\[RFC4314\]](#) is not supported by the server, or
- b) the user has 'p' or 'i' rights for the mailbox (see [Section 5.2 of \[RFC4314\]](#)).

Note that a successful "mailboxidexists" test for a mailbox doesn't necessarily mean that a "fileinto :mailboxid" action on this mailbox would succeed. For example, the "fileinto" action might put user over quota. The "mailboxidexists" only verifies existence of the mailbox and whether the user in whose context the Sieve script runs has permissions to execute "fileinto" on it.

Example:





```
require "fileinto";
require "mailboxid";

if header :contains ["from"] "coyote" {
    if mailboxidexists "F6352ae03-b7f5-463c-896f-d8b48ee3" {
        fileinto :mailboxid "F6352ae03-b7f5-463c-896f-d8b48ee3"
            "INBOX.harassment";
    } else {
        fileinto "INBOX.harassment";
    }
}
```

Not to implementers: this test behaves identically to the "mailboxexists" test defined in [\[RFC5490\]](#) but operates on mailboxids rather than mailbox names.

## 6. Formal Syntax

```
test /= ":mailboxidexists" string-list
```

```
tag /= ":mailboxid" string
```

If [\[I-D.ietf-extra-sieve-fcc\]](#) is supported:

```
FCC =/ [":mailboxid" <mailboxid: string>]
```

## 7. Security considerations

Because mailboxid is always generated by the server, implementations MUST NOT allow sieve to make an endrun around this protection by creating mailboxes with the specified ID by using ":create" and ":mailboxid" in a fileinto rule for a non-existent mailbox.

Implementers are referred to the security considerations sections of those documents in [\[RFC5228\]](#), [\[I-D.ietf-extra-imap-objectid\]](#).

## 8. IANA considerations

IANA are requested to add a capability to the sieve-extensions registry:



To: iana@iana.org  
Subject: Registration of new Sieve extension

Capability name: mailboxid

Description: adds test for checking for mailbox existence by objectid  
and a new optional argument to fileinto to select the  
destination mailbox using objectid.

RFC number: this RFC

Contact address: The EXTRA discussion list <extra@ietf.org>

## **9. Acknowledgements**

This document borrows heavily from [[RFC5490](#)] for the matching mailboxexists test, and from [[I-D.ietf-extra-sieve-special-use](#)] for an example of modifying the fileinto command.

Thanks to Ned Freed and Ken Murchison for feedback on the EXTRA mailing list.

## **10. Changes**

(EDITOR: remove this section before publication)

### **10.1. [draft-gondwana-sieve-mailboxid-01](#)**

- o Switch to :mailboxid tagged parameter value with fallback mailbox name.
- o Document interaction with special-use.
- o Document security considerations around :mailboxid and :create.

### **10.2. [draft-gondwana-sieve-mailboxid-00](#)**

- o Initial version.

## **11. TODO**

Is there a more explicit way to update the grammar? It seems less fully specified than IMAP.

## **12. References**

### **12.1. Normative References**



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