



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Blog_by_Email

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Blog by Email

WordPress can be configured to use an email account to post to your blog. In order to enable this functionality, you need to set up a dedicated email account, configure WordPress, and configure your web server such that WordPress can check the email account periodically.

You can blog by email using most standard email software programs or a [Weblog Client](#), programs specifically designed to send posts via email.

Overview

1. Set up [Writing by Email](#) in [Options](#) > [Writing](#) in the WordPress [Administration Panels](#).
2. Create a new email account with the same login name you chose on the Admin Login screen.
3. Use one of the following options:
 - Use your web browser to view `http://yourwebdomain/installdir/wp-mail.php` immediately after you send an email to your posting address.
 - Use the [WP-Cron](#) (<http://www.skippy.net/blog/2005/05/26/plugin-wp-cron/>) WP-Mail plugin.
 - Set up a cron job to periodically view `http://example.com/installdir/wp-mail.php` using a command-line HTTP agent such as `wget`, `curl`, or `GET`.

Setting Up Blog By Email

Step 1 - Setting Things Up

1. Login to WordPress with the administration login you use to administer your WordPress blog.
2. Go to [Options](#) > [Writing](#).
3. Read the instructions under the **Writing by Email** at the bottom of the page. At the end of these instructions, WordPress will give you three random strings you may use for the login name of the email account you will need to create.
4. Fill in the name of the **mail server** and **port number** your hosting provider uses. (If you don't know these, refer to your hosting provider's FAQ or manual pages. Port number is usually 110.)
5. Choose an account name (**postaccount**) and password, and enter them.

NOTE: The **postaccount** name should be the complete `user@example.com` format, and not just the user name.

6. Choose the default category for WordPress to assigned posts to when submitted by email.
7. Click **Update Options**.

Step 2 - Create Email Account

Create a new email account with the same name as you specified in the WordPress Admin panel, using the tools your hosting provider provides. Create it with the same password you entered on the WordPress Admin screen.

Note: It is strongly recommended that you use a "secret" address - that is, an email account name that is very difficult to guess and only known to you. Any email sent to this address will automatically be posted to your blog. WordPress will give you a few good names to use when the time comes to set it up.

Step 3 - Activating Email to Blog

The following options set the process through which the email will be captured and released by WordPress into your blog.

Browser Activation

View <http://example.com/installdir/wp-mail.php> in your web browser immediately after you send an email to your **postaccount@example.com** account. (**Note:** You must do this every time you send a new post.)

Plugin Activation

Download, install, and activate the [WP-Cron](#) (<http://www.skippy.net/blog/2005/05/26/plugin-wp-cron/>) plugin. Activate the included WP-Cron-Mail plugin. It will work in the background without user intervention.

Cron Job Activation

Set up a cron job to periodically view <http://example.com/installdir/wp-mail.php> using a command-line HTTP agent like `wget`, `curl` or `GET`. The command to execute will look like:

```
wget -N http://example.com/installdir/wp-mail.php
```

If you use a different program than `wget`, substitute that program and its arguments for `wget` in this line.

For more information about setting up a cron job, see:

- [Intro To Cron Jobs](http://unixgeeks.org/) (<http://unixgeeks.org/>)
- [Automating tasks with cron services at USAIL](#) (<http://www.uwsg.iu.edu/usail/automation/cron.html>)
- Your hosting provider's FAQ or manual pages

Note to Windows Users: There are similar programs to cron available if your host runs Windows. For example, [Cron for Windows](http://cronw.sourceforge.net/) (<http://cronw.sourceforge.net/>) and [pycron](http://www.google.com/url?sa=U&start=2&q=http://sourceforge.net/projects/pycron/&e=1102&mr=8,2!619021,!a:sr4) (<http://www.google.com/url?sa=U&start=2&q=http://sourceforge.net/projects/pycron/&e=1102&mr=8,2!619021,!a:sr4>). Consult these projects' documentation for further information.

Email Format

WordPress will use the Subject line of your email for the title of the post, and all body of the email will be used as the content of the post, with *common HTML tags stripped*. WordPress will file the post under whichever category is selected for "Usual Category" in Step 1, and will use Site Admin as the poster.

Any images and attachments in your email will be posted inline.

Testing

To test your configuration, simply send an email to `postaccount@yourmaildomain` (or to `user@yourmaildomain` if you used the .qmail forwarding setup). Then do the following:

- If you have no automated system set up, simply view `http://example.com/installdir/wp-mail.php` in your browser. The script should tell you that it found an email, and print details of the post it made. Then view your blog again to see your email posted.
- If you are using WP-Cron, simply wait fifteen or twenty minutes.
- If you have a cron job running, wait until the next time it's scheduled to run (or temporarily edit the cron job to make it run sooner). If you run `tail -f /var/log/cron` in a terminal, you'll be able to see the job create its log entry when it's finished running. When that happens, just view the site in your web browser to see your email posted.

Troubleshooting

Ooops POP3: premature NOOP OK, NOT an RFC 1939 Compliant server

For this error, open `wp-includes/class-pop3.php` and change this line:

```
if($this->RFC1939) {
```

to this:

```
if(!$this->RFC1939) {
```

Note the exclamation point.

Extensions and Add-ons

There are several add-ons and hacks which will extend the capabilities of blogging by

email with WordPress. Some of these may involve changing the core files, so do it carefully and **make backups**.

Enhanced Functionality Hack

Several replacement files for the original `wp-mail.php` file have been created:

- [John Blade's](http://blade.lansmash.com/index.php?cat=5) (<http://blade.lansmash.com/index.php?cat=5>) adds the ability to post photos from your email (great for camera phones), as well as other great enhancements handling post metadata.
- [Postie](http://www.economysizegeek.com/?page_id=395) (http://www.economysizegeek.com/?page_id=395) supports posting to categories, automatic removal of email signatures, POP3/IMAP (+SSL) and more.

Hack Email Format

The following enhancements may be made to your `wp-mail.php` so your email will be translated into metadata for your post:

Sender's email address

The enhanced `wp-mail.php` looks up the email address you send from in its user database. If there is a match with any user there, it files the post under that user. If there is no match, it drops the email and does not create a post in the blog. (Great for security and spam prevention.) It is set by the **From:**

Subject line

If `[n]` is present anywhere in the subject line of your email, the email will be filed under the category numbered `n`. Otherwise, it will be posted under whichever category is selected for "Usual Category" in Step 1. Example: `[1] This is a Test!` would be posted as "This is a Test!", filed under General.