

# Muttprint – User’s guide

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## 1. About Muttprint

The printing of mails from Mutt (and lots of other mail clients) is done as “plain text”. Normally, that’s enough, but in my opinion it’s not so beautiful like a formatted printing, e. g. from Netscape.

Another fact disturbed me: The printing contains all displayed header informations. I’ve configured Mutt that it displays things like “X-Mailer”, but I don’t want to print this. XFMail is quite worse: It prints all header information, so the printing is in my opinion unusable.

Sometime I had the idea to write a script myself, which creates a nice printing. And here’s the result. I think it looks quite better als plain ASCII text and is comparable with the printing of well-known mail clients under Microsoft Windows.

## 2. Installation

### 2.1. System requirements

Muttprint was realized in the programming language *Perl* which requires a functioning Perl interpreter in version 5. This should be true on every Linux systems by default.

Make sure that a LaTeX distribution (I recommend teTeX higher than version 1.0) plus the programs *psselect* and *psnup* from the *PS-Utils* are available on your system.

### 2.2. Installation of the files on your computer

#### 2.2.1. Manual installation

At first, you have to unpack the archive. This could be done by the command

```
$ tar xvfz muttprint-Version.tar.gz
```

Change in the directory which was created:

```
$ cd muttprint-Version
```

There is distributed a suitable `Makefile` with Muttprint. To adjust the locations on your system, edit the `Makefile` with your favourite editor.

You need Root permissions to install the program. After you have changed with the `su` command to the superuser, perform the installation with

```
# make install
```

The script should work now.

If you would like to uninstall Muttprint later and all files are still on the same location, execute simply

```
# make uninstall
```

as root.

#### 2.2.2. Installation of the packages

If your distribution uses a package management system such as RPM or DPKG, it is a good idea to use the correlatively packages. The greatest advantage is the simple uninstallation.

Most Linux distributions use the RPM package management system. The easiest way to install the package is the command

```
# rpm -Uvh muttprint-Version-Release.noarch.rpm
```

All RPM packages are signed with my GnuPG-Key (ID DDAF6454). You get more detailed information about RPM and verification of signatures in Maximum RPM (<http://www.rpm.org/maximum-rpm.ps.gz>).

The Debian packages are created by Chanop Silpa-Anan <chanop@debian.org> and are normally available a few days after a new release of Muttprint. They could be installed by

```
# dpkg -i muttprint_[version]-[release]_noarch.deb
```

Take a look at the Debian “Developer’s Corner” (<http://www.debian.org/devel/>) for more information about Debian packages.

Another possibility to install Debian packages is **apt-get**.

## 2.3. Integration of Muttprint in mail clients

Muttprint was originally developed for the use together with Mutt only. However, it could be integrated in following mail programs without problems. I got some description of users. Muttprint would be work independently of Mutt in future, too.

### 2.3.1. Mutt

You have to add or change following line in the file `$HOME/.muttrc` or system wide in `/etc/Muttrc`:

```
set print_command="muttprint"
```

Moreover you must make sure that following headers appear on the screen and are delivered to Muttprint: `From:`, `Date:`, `To:`, `CC:` und `Subject:`. That’s the only way Muttprint can get the information and print to print correctly. The order is not important and other headers are allowed, too.

A suitable configuration out of my `~/ .muttrc` could be:

```
# Ignore all headers ...
ignore *

# ... but not this one
unignore      from: subject to cc date
```

To print more than one mail sensible in one step, you should add following entry:

```
# Print every mail extra
set print_split
```

You’ll find more information in the documentation of Mutt (`/usr/share/doc/packages/mutt/manual.txt`).

### 2.3.2. XFMail

In the dialogue Misc, Config Misc you have to do an entry in Print Command: `/usr/bin/muttprint -f $f`.

**Note:** With some versions of XFMail, problems are reported because XFMail does not add the headers in the printing. This is not a problem of Muttprint. To solve the problem you could look for a new version of XFMail which doesn't have this bug.

See also the XFMail developer mailing list archive (<http://slappy.org/listarchives/xfmail/2001-June/002398.html>) for a solution.

### 2.3.3. Pine

Enter the print command `muttprint` in Setup, Printer, Personally select print command. Save the changes.

### 2.3.4. Sylpheed

To use Muttprint permanently as printing program, call Configuration, Common preferences, Other, Printing and entry `muttprint -f %s`.

### 2.3.5. Gnus

Muttprint could be integrated in Gnus, too. I got a Lisp code from a user that realizes the integration. Please ask me no questions about this because I don't know Lisp and don't use (X)Emacs myself.

You find the code in `README.Gnus` and I would like to refer to this file in this manual. If you use packages for the installation you should find this file in the `/usr/share/doc/packages/muttprint/` directory.

### 2.3.6. Exmh

Choose at first Preferences, then Text Print Command and set Text Print Command to `muttprint -f $file`.

### 2.3.7. Other mail clients

Muttprint works with all mail programs theroretically if they comply with following conditions:

- The output must be plain ASCII text (or ISO Latin 1).
- You must be able to choose the printing command freely.

Newsreader are also supported because the `To` header is optional and the `Newsgroups` header is also evaluated.

If you use Muttprint with other programs than mentioned above, please send me a short message in which you describe how you've configured the program. I could add the description here.

## 3. Konfiguration

### 3.1. The configuration file

Some things could be configured in Muttprint. This is permanently done in the configuration files `$HOME/.muttprintrc` (only for the current user) or `/etc/Muttprintrc` (global for all users). User settings override global settings.

The configuration file is structured in a way that values are assigned to different variables – this is different from `.muttrc`. The name of the variable stands first and is case sensitive; take over them exactly. Then follows a equal sign (=) without any whitespace. At last, there's the value. Quotes ( ' or " ) are optional.

An example for a configuration file is distributed with Muttprint (`sample-muttprintrc`). If you've installed a RPM or debian package, you'll find it in `/usr/share/doc/packages/muttprint/`.

An example for a correct assignment:

```
VARIABLE=value
```

Normally the script works without any adapts. But it is recommended to inform about the possibilities you have.

#### 3.1.1. Printer

If Muttprint should not print to `lp`, you can change this by setting `PRINTER` to the correct value.

To print in a file, you could use following syntax, the name (and location) of the file is freely chosable:

```
PRINTER="TO_FILE:/foo/bar/test.ps"
```

If duplex printing is enabled, Muttprint creates a second file with the prefix 2, e. g. `test.ps2`.

#### 3.1.2. Penguin

As a default setting it is printed a little penguin on the right top of the page. If there should be another picture or if the penguin has another location as Muttprint assumes, you can configure this by setting the `PENGUIN` variable to the right value. The picture must be in Encapsulated PostScript (you could use **convert** from the Image Magick package for converting your favourite picture into EPS) and it is scaled to a height of 2 cm (5.08 in). The logo must not have a higher width than height.

If `PENGUIN=on`, Muttprint tries to find out the location of the penguin file. (Read the source code to find out, where Muttprint searches.) This is the default setting.

If the printing of the graphic should turned off, set `PENGUIN` to the value `off`.

#### 3.1.3. Duplex printing

Muttprint allows manual duplex printing. It prints odd pages at first, waits a while and prints then even pages.

Muttprint needs the speed of your printer to calculate the time when the printing of even pages will start, see Section 3.1.5.

To activate the duplex printing, set DUPLEX to on.

If you own a real Postscript printer and if this printer has duplex capabilities, you should set DUPLEX to printer. This changes the Postscript code in a way that tells your printer to enable automatic duplex printing.

### 3.1.4. Paper save mode

It’s possible to print two pages on one page in landscape. This allows you to save paper and ink and increases the printing speed. This makes only with the paper format DIN A4 sense because two reduced pages fit exactly to one sheet.

To enable this mode, set PAPERSAVE to on.

### 3.1.5. Printing speed

As mentioned above, Muttprint requires the duration which your printer needs to print one page. This setting is done by setting the variable SPEED to the value in seconds (only integers are allowed). Default is 30 seconds (SPEED=30).

### 3.1.6. Font

You could use different fonts for the printing. The correspondent variable is names FONT. Latex means the standard LaTeX font of the EC family. Latex-bright (standard setting) uses *Computer Modern Bright*.

There are several Postscript fonts which are possible here: Times, Palatino, Utopia, Charter and Bookman.

Of course the fonts has to be installed on your system. As the LaTeX distribution *teTeX* is standard on Linux systems, this should be no problem.

### 3.1.7. Rules under/over head- and footline

There could be printed a rule under the headline resp. over the footline. They are turned off as default.

Set the variables HEADRULE resp. FOOTRULE to on or off.

### 3.1.8. Design of the first pages

There exists different possibilities to highlight the mailheaders on the first page. Here is a listing of them:

| Style | Description |
|-------|-------------|
| plain | no rules    |

| Style                  | Description   |
|------------------------|---|
| <code>border</code>    | rule after the headers ( <i>default setting</i> )         |
| <code>fbox</code>      | simple box around the mailheaders                         |
| <code>shadowbox</code> | shadowbox around the header                               |
| <code>ovalbox</code>   | box with rounded corners around the header (thin lines)   |
| <code>Ovalbox</code>   | same as <code>ovalbox</code> but thicker lines            |
| <code>doublebox</code> | box with double lines around the header                   |
| <code>grey</code>      | grey background behind the headers                        |
| <code>greybox</code>   | same as <code>grey</code> but with a additional black box |

### 3.1.9. Paper format

To set the paper format, set `PAPER` to the right value. Possible are only `A4` and `letter`.

### 3.1.10. Cut signature

Often the signature contains useless information or advertising and should therefore not be printed. Muttprint is able to cut the signature, if it was separated from the mail by using “-- ” – take a look at the whitespace (some mail clients don’t generate a correct separator).

To do this you’ve to set `REM_SIG` (this means “remove signature” to the value `on`).

### 3.1.11. Omit quoting

Often the author of the mail does not quote sensibly but attaches the whole mail so that the printing becomes very long and confusing.

If `REM_QUOTE` is set to `on`, the quoting will not be printed. Muttprint detects the quoting by using the same regular expression that Mutt does in its standard configuration. So the text which is color emphasized from Mutt should omitted in the printing. This corresponds to the *toggle quote* funktion (**Shift-t**) on screen.

### 3.1.12. Error messages

The output of **latex** and **dvips** are not displayed. If there are any problems, it would be helpful to read this output. Therefore you should set `DEBUG` to `1` in your `.muttprintrc`. Now Muttprint creates a logfile named `/tmp/muttprint.log` in the next run so that you can watch the error messages. This could be helpful for all bug reports, too.

## 3.2. Command line options

Most configuration settings could be made by command line options as well. The advantage is a easier integration in the mail client (e. g. with own macros).

You find a detailed description of all options with **muttprint -h** oder or in the `muttprint(1)` manpage.

The effects of this options are the same as in the configuration file but command line settings override all other settings.

## 3.3. Different languages

Muttprint supports the languages *German*, *Italian*, *Spanish*, *French* and *English*. Normally the environment variable `LANG` is set to the right value: `de`, `it`, `fr`, `es` or `en`. Only the first two characters are recognized so that `de_DE@euro` is okay. If the value is not known, Muttprint falls back to English.

If you would like to use another language for Muttprint than for the remaining system, you could define `LANG` in your `.muttprintrc`.

### 3.3.1. Lanuages on the printing

The most important effects of language adaption are on the printing: the mail header and the date.

The last one is created with the LaTeX package `babel.sty`. Muttprint passes the right option which corresponds to your language to the package. You could set your own value with the variable `LPack`, e. g. to `austrian`, `spanish`. Read **texdoc babel** for a list of all possible values.

If you would like to use another strings for the printed header, you could set following variables:

- `FROM_STRING`
- `TO_STRING`
- `SUBJECT_STRING`
- `CC_STRING`
- `DATE_STRING`
- `PAGE_STRING`
- `OF_STRING`
- `NEWSGROUPS_STRING`

### 3.3.2. Translation file

The Muttprint translation files are located in the `share` directory and have the name `translation-language.pl`. You could add new files in this directory without any changes on the Muttprint script. Not only the headers mentioned above but also the help message are translated here.

For new translations take any file as template, copy it and translate it. If you would like to provide your translation to other users, just send me the new file with a e-mail and I'll add it in the next release.



## 4. Notes

### 4.1. Author, License

The script has been written by Bernhard Walle <Bernhard.Walle@gmx.de>.

This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

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You have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program (file COPYING).

Please send notes, comments, improvement proposals etc. via e-mail to me.

### 4.2. Download

The current version and all old versions could be downloaded from <http://muttprint.sourceforge.net>. This is the Homepage of Muttprint.

I announce new versions on Freshmeat (<http://www.freshmeat.net>).

### 4.3. Thanks

to all who helped me with their bug reports to improve and enhance Muttprint. Especially I want to thank Roman Beigelbeck for providing additional pictures, Roberto Vallone for the Italian transation, Vincent Bernat for the French translation, Marcelo Ramos for the Spanish tranlation and the Debian maintainers Dr. Guenter Bechly and Chanop Silpa-Anan.

Finally I would like to thank all people who contributed to free software. Most people did this in their spare time without receiving a penny for this!