Mailfromd mail filter

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Sergey Poznyakoff.

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Dedico aquest treball a Lluis Llach, per obrir els nous horitzons.

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Preface

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) which is the standard for email transmissions across the Internet was designed in the good old days when nobody could even think of the possibility of e-mail being abused to send tons of unsolicited messages of dubious contents. Therefore it lacks mechanisms that could have prevented this abuse (*spamming*), or at least could have made it difficult. Attempts to introduce such mechanisms (such as SMTP-AUTH extension (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2554`)) are being made, but they are not in wide use yet and, probably, their introduction will not be enough to stop the e-mail abuse. Spamming is today's grim reality and developers spend lots of time and efforts designing new protection measures against it. `Mailfromd` is one of such attempts.

The package is designed to work with any MTA supporting '`Milter`' or '`Pmilter`' protocol, such as '`Sendmail`', '`MeTA1`' or '`Postfix`'. It allows you to:

- Control whether messages come from trustworthy senders, using so called *callout* or *Sender Address Verification* (see Section 1.3 [SAV], page 6) mechanism.
- Prevent emails coming from forged addresses by use of SPF mechanism (see Section 5.34 [SPF Functions], page 172).
- Limit connection and/or sending rates (see Section 1.4 [Rate Limit], page 8).
- Use *black-*, *white-* and *greylisting* techniques.
- Invoke external programs or other mail filters.

Short history of `mailfromd`.

The idea of the utility appeared in 2005, and its first version appeared soon afterward. Back then it was a simple implementation of Sender Address Verification (see Section 1.3 [SAV], page 6) for '`Sendmail`' (hence its name – `mailfromd`) with rudimentary tuning possibilities.

After a short run on my mail servers, I discovered that the utility was not flexible enough. It took less than a month to implement a configuration file that allowed the user to control program and data flow during the '`envfrom`' SMTP state. The new version, 1.0, appeared in June, 2005.

Next major release, 1.2 (1.1 contained mostly bugfixes), appeared two months later, and introduced *mail sending rate* control (see Section 1.4 [Rate Limit], page 8).

The program evolved during the next year, and the version 2.0 was released in September, 2006. This version was a major change in the main idea of the program. Configuration file become a flexible filter script allowing the operator to control almost all SMTP states. The program supplied in the script file was compiled into a pseudo-code at startup, this code being subsequently evaluated each time the filter was invoked. This caused a considerable speed-up in comparison with the previous versions, where the run-time evaluator was traversing the parse tree. This version also introduced (implicitly, at the time), two separate data types for the entities declared in the script, which also played its role in the speed improvement (in the previous versions all data were considered strings). Lots of improvements were made in the filter language (MFL, see Chapter 4 [MFL], page 51) itself, such as user-defined functions, the `switch` statement, the `catch` statement for handling run-time errors, etc. The set of built-in functions extended considerably. A testsuite (using *DejaGNU*) was introduced in this version.

During this initial development period the limitations imposed by `libmilter` implementation became obvious. Finally, I felt they were stopping further development, and decided that `mailfromd` should use its own '`Milter`' implementation. This new library, `libgacopyz` was the main new feature of the 3.0 release, which was released in November, 2006. Another major feature was the `--dump-macros` option and `macros` to `rc.mailfromd` script, that were intended to facilitate the configuration on '`Sendmail`' side.

The development of 3.x (more properly, 3.1.x) series concentrated mainly on bug-fixes, while the main development was done on the next branch.

The version 4.0 appeared on May 12, 2007. A full list of changes in this release is more than 500 lines long, so it is impractical to list them here. In particular, this version introduced lots of new features in MFL syntax and the library of useful MFL functions. The runtime engine was also improved, in particular, stack space become expandable which eliminated many run-time errors. This version also provided a foundation for MFL module system. The code generation was re-implemented to facilitate introduction of object files in future versions. Another new features in this release include SPF support and `mtasim` utility — an MTA simulator designed for testing `mailfromd` scripts (see Chapter 12 [mtasim], page 227). The test suite in this version was made portable by rewriting it in *Autotest*.

Another big leap forward was the 5.0 release, which appeared on December 26, 2008. It largely enriched a set of available functions (61 new functions were introduced, which amounts to 41% of all the available functions in 5.0 release) and introduced several improvements in the MFL itself. Among others, function aliases and optional arguments in user-defined functions were introduced in this release. The new "run operation mode" allowed to execute arbitrary MFL functions from the command line. This release also raised the Mailutils version requirements to at least 2.0.

Version 6.0, which was released in on 12 December, 2009, introduced a full-fledged modular system, akin to that of Python, and quite a few improvements to the language. such as explicit type casts, concatenation operator, static variables, etc.

Starting from version 7.0, the focus of further development of `mailfromd` has shifted. While previously it had been regarded as a mail-filtering server, since then it was developed as a system for extending MTA functionality in the broad sense, mail filtering being only one of features it provides.

Version 7.0 makes the MFL syntax more consistent and the language itself more powerful. For example, it is no longer necessary to use prefixes before variables to dereference them. The new '`try--catch`' construct allows for elegant handling of exceptions and errors. User-defined exceptions provide a way for programming complex loops and recursions with non-local exits.

This version introduces a concept of dedicated callout server. This allows `mailfromd` to defer verifications for a later time if the remote server does not response within a reasonably short period of time (see Section 3.7 [SMTP Timeouts], page 19).

Six years later the version 8.0 was released. This version was a major rewrite of the mailfromd codebase. It introduced a separate callout daemon that made it possible to separate the mailfromd server machine from machines performing callout checks. The MFL language was extended by a number of built-in functions.

Since version 8.3 (2017-11-02) `mailfromd` uses '`adns`'[1] for DNS queries.

[1] `https://www.gnu.org/software/adns`

The version 8.7 released in July, 2020 introduced DKIM support.

Acknowledgments

Many people need to be thanked for their assistance in developing and debugging `mailfromd`. After S. C. Johnson, I can say that this program "*owes much to a most stimulating collection of users, who have goaded me beyond my inclination, and frequently beyond my ability in their endless search for "one more feature". Their irritating unwillingness to learn how to do things my way has usually led to my doing things their way; most of the time, they have been right.*"

A real test for a program like `mailfromd` cannot be done but in conditions of production environment. A decision to try it in these conditions is by no means an easy one, it requires courage and good faith in the intentions and abilities of the author. To begin with, I would like to thank my contributors for these virtues.

Jan Rafaj has intrepidly been using `mailfromd` since its early releases and invested lots of efforts in improving the program and its documentation. He is the author of many of the MFL library functions, shipped with the package. Some of his ideas are still waiting in my implementation queue, while new ones are consistently arriving.

Peter Markeloff patiently tested every `mailfromd` release and helped discover and fix many bugs.

Zeus Panchenko contributed many ideas and gave lots of helpful comments. He offered invaluable help in debugging and testing `mailfromd` on FreeBSD platform.

Sergey Afonin proposed many improvements and new ideas. He also invested a lot of his time in finding bugs and testing bugfixes.

John McEleney and Ben McKeegan contributed the token bucket filter implementation (see [TBF], page 26).

Con Tassios helped to find and fix various bugs and contributed the new implementation of the `greylist` function (see [greylisting types], page 28).

The following people (in alphabetical order) provided bug reports and helpful comments for various versions of the program: Alan Dobkin, Brent Spencer, Jeff Ballard, Nacho González López, Phil Miller, Simon Christian, Thomas Lynch.

1 Introduction to mailfromd

Mailfromd is a general-purpose mail filtering daemon and a suite of accompanying utilities for Sendmail[1], MeTA1[2], Postfix[3] or any other MTA that supports Milter (or Pmilter) protocol. It is able to filter both incoming and outgoing messages using a filter program, written in *mail filtering language* (MFL). The daemon interfaces with the MTA using Milter protocol.

The name mailfromd can be thought of as an abbreviation for '*Mail Filtering and Runtime Modification*' *D*aemon, with an 'o' for itself. Historically, it stemmed from the fact that the original implementation was a simple filter implementing the *sender address verification* technique. Since then the program has changed dramatically, and now it is actually a language translator and run-time evaluator providing a set of built-in and library functions for filtering electronic mail.

The first part of this manual is an overview, describing the features mailfromd offers in general.

The second part is a tutorial, which provides an introduction for those who have not used mailfromd previously. It moves from topic to topic in a logical, progressive order, building on information already explained. It offers only the principal information needed to master basic practical usage of mailfromd, while omitting many subtleties.

The other parts are meant to be used as a reference for those who know mailfromd well enough, but need to look up some notions from time to time. Each chapter presents everything that needs to be said about a specific topic.

The manual assumes that the reader has a good knowledge of the SMTP protocol and the mail transport system he uses (Sendmail , Postfix or MeTA1).

1.1 Typographical conventions

This manual is written using Texinfo, the GNU documentation formatting language. The same set of Texinfo source files is used to produce both the printed and online versions of the documentation. Because of this, the typographical conventions may be slightly different than in other books you may have read.

Examples you would type at the command line are preceded by the common shell primary prompt, '$'. The command itself is printed *in this font*, and the output it produces 'in this font', for example:

```
$ mailfromd --version
mailfromd (mailfromd 8.11)
```

In the text, the command names are printed like this, command line options are displayed in this font. Some notions are emphasized *like this*, and if a point needs to be made strongly, it is done **this way**. The first occurrence of a new term is usually its *definition* and appears in the same font as the previous occurrence of "definition" in this sentence. File names are indicated like this: /path/to/ourfile.

[1] See http://www.sendmail.org

[2] See http://www.meta1.org

[3] See http://www.postfix.org

The variable names are represented *like this*, keywords and fragments of program text are written in `this font`.

1.2 Overview of Mailfromd

In contrast to the most existing milter filters, `mailfromd` does not implement any default filtering policies. Instead, it depends entirely on a *filter script*, supplied to it by the administrator. The script, written in a specialized and simple to use language, called MFL (see Chapter 4 [MFL], page 51), is supposed to run a set of tests and to decide whether the message should be accepted by the MTA or not. To perform the tests, the script can examine the values of `Sendmail` macros, use an extensive set of built-in and library functions, and invoke user-defined functions.

1.3 Sender Address Verification.

Sender address verification, or *callout*, is one of the basic mail verification techniques, implemented by `mailfromd`. It consists in probing each MX server for the given address, until one of them gives a definite (positive or negative) reply. Using this technique you can block a sender address if it is not deliverable, thereby cutting off a large amount of spam. It can also be useful to block mail for undeliverable recipients, for example on a mail relay host that does not have a list of all the valid recipient addresses. This prevents undeliverable junk mail from entering the queue, so that your MTA doesn't have to waste resources trying to send '`MAILER-DAEMON`' messages back.

Let's illustrate how it works on an example:

Suppose that the user '`<jsmith@somedomain.net>`' is trying to send mail to one of your local users. The remote machine connects to your MTA and issues `MAIL FROM: <jsmith@somedomain.net>` command. However, your MTA does not have to take its word for it, so it uses `mailfromd` to verify the sender address validity. `Mailfromd` strips the domain name from the address ('`somedomain.net`') and queries DNS about '`MX`' records for that domain. Suppose, it receives the following list

```
10          relay1.somedomain.net
20          relay2.somedomain.net
```

It then connects to first MX server, using SMTP protocol, as if it were going to send a message to '`<jsmith@somedomain.net>`'. This is called sending a *probe message*. If the server accepts the recipient address, the `mailfromd` accepts the incoming mail. Otherwise, if the server rejects the address, the mail is rejected as well. If the MX server cannot be connected, `mailfromd` selects next server from the list and continues this process until it finds the answer or the list of servers is exhausted.

The *probe message* is like a normal mail except that no data are ever being sent. The probe message transaction in our example might look as follows ('`S:`' meaning messages sent by remote MTA, '`C:`' meaning those sent by `mailfromd`):

```
C: HELO mydomain.net
S: 220 OK, nice to meet you
C: MAIL FROM: <>
S: 220 <>: Sender OK
C: RCPT TO: <jsmith@somedomain.net>
```

```
S: 220 <jsmith@remote.net>: Recipient OK
C: QUIT
```

Probe messages are never delivered, deferred or bounced; they are always discarded.

The described method of address verification is called a *standard* method throughout this document. `Mailfromd` also implements a method we call *strict*. When using strict method, `mailfromd` first resolves IP address of sender machine to a fully qualified domain name. Then it obtains '`MX`' records for this machine, and then proceeds with probing as described above.

So, the difference between the two methods is in the set of '`MX`' records that are being probed: standard method queries '`MX`'s based on the sender email domain, strict method works with '`MX`'s for the sender IP address.

Strict method allows to cut off much larger amount of spam, although it does have many drawbacks. Returning to our example above, consider the following situation: '`<jsmith@somedomain.net>`' is a perfectly normal address, but it is being used by a spammer from some other domain, say '`otherdomain.com`'. The standard method is not able to cope with such cases, whereas the strict one is.

An alert reader will ask: what happens if `mailfromd` is not able to get a definite answer from any of MX servers? Actually, it depends entirely on how you will instruct it to act in this case, but the general practice is to return temporary failure, which will urge the remote party to retry sending their message later.

After receiving a definite answer, `mailfromd` will cache it in its database, so that next time your MTA receives a message from that address (or from the sender IP/email address pair, for strict method), it will not waste its time trying to reach MX servers again. The records remain in the cache database for a certain time, after which they are discarded.

1.3.1 Limitations of Sender Address Verification

Before deciding whether and how to use sender address verification, you should be aware of its limitations.

Both standard and strict methods suffer from the following limitations:

- The sender verification methods will perform poorly on highly loaded sites. The traffic and/or resource usage overhead may not be feasible for you. However, you may experiment with various `mailfromd` options to find an optimal configuration.
- Some sites may blacklist your MTA if it probes them too often. `Mailfromd` eliminates this drawback by using a *cache database*, which keeps results of the recent callouts.
- When verifying the remote address, no attempt to actually deliver the message is made. If MTA accepts the address, `mailfromd` assumes it is OK. However in reality, a mail for a remote address can bounce *after* the nearest MTA accepts the recipient address.

  This drawback can often be avoided by combining sender address verification with greylisting (see Section 3.13 [Greylisting], page 27).
- If the remote server rejects the address, no attempt is being made to discern between various reasons for rejection (client rejected, '`HELO rejected`', '`MAIL FROM` rejected, etc.)
- Some major sites such as '`yahoo.com`' do not reject unknown addresses in reply to the '`RCPT TO`' command, but report a delivery failure in response to end of '`DATA`' after a

message is transferred. Of course, sender address verification does not work with such sites. However, a combination of address verification and greylisting (see Section 3.13 [Greylisting], page 27) may be a good choice in such cases.

In addition, strict verification breaks forward mail delivery. This is obvious, since mail forwarding is based on delivering unmodified message to another location, so the sender address domain will most probably not be the same as that of the MTA doing the forwarding.

1.4 Controlling Mail Sending Rate.

Mail Sending Rate for a given identity is defined as the number of messages with this identity received within a predefined interval of time.

MFL offers a set of functions for limiting mail sending rate (see Section 5.29 [Rate limiting functions], page 166), and for controlling broader rate aspects, such as data transfer rates (see [TBF], page 26).

1.5 SPF, DKIM, and others

Sender Policy Framework, or SPF for short, is an extension to SMTP protocol that allows to identify forged identities supplied with the `MAIL FROM` and `HELO` commands. The framework is explained in detail in RFC 4408 (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4408`) and on the SPF Project Site (`http://www.openspf.org/`).

Mailfromd provides a set of functions for using SPF to control mail flow. These are described in Section 5.34 [SPF Functions], page 172.

DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) is an email authentication method designed to detect forged sender addresses in emails. Mailfromd supports both DKIM signing and verification. See Section 5.35 [DKIM], page 176, for a detailed description of these features.

Mailfromd also provides support for several third-party spam-abatement programs, in particular `SpamAssassin`, `ClamAV`, and DSPAM. These are discussed in Section 5.28 [Interfaces to Third-Party Programs], page 158.

2 Building the Package

This chapter contains a detailed list of steps you need to undertake in order to configure and build the package.

1. Make sure you have the necessary software installed.

   To build `mailfromd` you will need to have following packages on your machine:

   A. GNU mailutils version 3.3 or newer.

      GNU mailutils is a general-purpose library for handling electronic mail. It is available from `http://mailutils.org`.

   B. GNU adns library, version 1.5.1 or newer.

      GNU adns is an advanced DNS client library. The recent version can be downloaded from `http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~ian/adns/adns.tar.gz`. Visit `http://www.gnu.org/software/adns`, for more information.

   C. A DBM library. `Mailfromd` is able to link with any flavor of DBM supported by GNU mailutils. As of version 8.11 it will refuse to build without DBM. By default, `configure` will try to find the best implementation installed on your machine (preference is given to Berkeley DB) and will use it. You can, however, explicitly specify which implementation you want to use. To do so, use the `--with-dbm` configure option. Its argument specifies the *type* of database to use. It must be one of the types supported by GNU mailutils. At the time of this writing, these are:

bdb	Berkeley DB (versions 2 to 6).
gdbm	GNU DBM.
kc	Kyoto Cabinet
tc	Tokyo Cabinet
ndbm	NDBM

      To check what database types are supported by your version of mailutils, run the following command:

      ```
      $ mailutils dbd gdbm kc tc ndbm
      ```

      For backward compatibility, `configure` accepts the following two options:

      `--with-gdbm`
      : Same as `--with-dbm=gdbm`.

      `--with-berkeley-db`
      : Same as `--with-dbm=bdb`.

      For `Sendmail` users, it often makes sense to configure `mailfromd` to use the same database flavor as `sendmail`. The following table will help you do that. The column '`DB type`' lists types of DBM databases supported by `mailfromd`. The column '`confMAPDEF`' lists the value of `confMAPDEF` Sendmail configuration macro corresponding to that database type. The column '`configure option`' contains the corresponding option to configure.

DB type	confMAPDEF	configure option
NDBM	-NNDBM	--with-dbm=ndbm
Berkeley DB	-NNEWDB	--with-dbm=bdb
GDBM	N/A	--with-dbm=gdbm

2. Decide what user privileges will be used to run `mailfromd`

   After startup, the program drops root privileges. By default, it switches to the privileges of user '`mail`', group '`mail`'. If there is no such user on your system, or you wish to use another user account for this purpose, override it using *DEFAULT_USER* environment variable. For example for `mailfromd` to run as user '`nobody`', use

   ```
   ./configure DEFAULT_USER=nobody
   ```

   The user name can also be changed at run-time (see [–user], page 204).

3. Decide where to install `mailfromd` and where its filter script and data files will be located.

   As usual, the default value for the installation prefix is `/usr/local`. If it does not suit you, specify another location using `--prefix` option, e.g.: '`--prefix=/usr`'.

   During installation phase, the build system will install several files. These files are:

   prefix`/sbin/mailfromd`
   : Main daemon. See Chapter 8 [mailfromd], page 203.

   prefix`/etc/mailfromd.mf`
   : Default main filter script file. It is installed only if it is not already there. Thus, if you are upgrading to a newer version of `mailfromd`, your old script file will be preserved with all your changes.

     See Chapter 4 [MFL], page 51, for a description of the mail filtering language.

   prefix`/share/mailfromd/8.11/*.mf`
   : MFL modules. See Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100.

   prefix`/info/mailfromd.info*`
   : Documentation files.

   prefix`/bin/mtasim`
   : MTA simulator program for testing `mailfromd` scripts. See Chapter 12 [mtasim], page 227.

   prefix`/sbin/pmult`
   : Pmilter multiplexor for `MeTA1`. See Chapter 13 [pmult], page 237. It is build only if `MeTA1` version '`PreAlpha29.0`' or newer is installed on the system. You may disable it by using the `--disable-pmilter` command line option.

     When testing for `MeTA1` presence, `configure` assumes its default location. If it is not found there, inform `configure` about its actual location by using the following option:

     ```
     --enable-pmilter=prefix
     ```

     where *prefix* stands for the `MeTA1` installation prefix.

It is advisable to use the same settings for file name prefixes as those you used when configuring `mailutils`. In particular, try to use the same `--sysconfdir`, since it will facilitate configuring the whole system.

Another important point is location of *local state directory*, i.e. a directory where `mailfromd` keeps its data files (e.g. communication socket, PID-file and database files). By default, its full name is *`localstatedir`*`/mailfromd`. You can change it by setting `DEFAULT_STATE_DIR` configuration variable. This value can be changed at runtime using the `state-directory` configuration statement (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

4. Select default communication socket. This is the socket used to communicate with MTA, in the usual `Milter` port notation (see [milter port specification], page 194). If the socket name does not begin with a protocol or directory separator, it is assumed to be a UNIX socket, located in the local state directory. The default value is `mailfrom`, which is equivalent to `unix:`*`localstatedir`*`/mailfromd/mailfrom`.

   To alter this, use `DEFAULT_SOCKET` environment variable, e.g.:

   ```
   ./configure DEFAULT_SOCKET=inet:999@localhost
   ```

   The communication socket can be changed at run time using `--port` command line option (see [–port], page 204) or the `listen` configuration statement (see Section 7.3 [conf-server], page 195).

5. Select default expiration interval. *Expiration interval* defines the period of time during which a record in the `mailfromd` database is considered valid. It is described in more detail in Section 3.15 [Databases], page 31. The default value is 86400 seconds, i.e. 24 hours. It is OK for most sites. If, however, you wish to change it, use *DEFAULT_EXPIRE_INTERVAL* environment variable.

   The `DEFAULT_EXPIRE_RATES_INTERVAL` variable sets default expiration time for mail rate database (see Section 5.29 [Rate limiting functions], page 166).

   Expiration settings can be changed at run time using `database` statement in the `mailfromd` configuration file (see Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200).

6. Select a `syslog` implementation to use.

   `Mailfromd` uses `syslog` for diagnostics output. The default `syslog` implementation on most systems (most notably, on GNU/Linux) uses blocking `AF_UNIX SOCK_DGRAM` sockets. As a result, when an application calls `syslog()`, and `syslogd` is not responding and the socket buffers get full, the application will hang.

   For `mailfromd`, as for any daemon, it is more important that it continue to run, than that it continue to log. For this purpose, `mailfromd` is shipped with a non-blocking `syslog` implementation by Simon Kelley. This implementation, instead of blocking, buffers log lines in memory. When the buffer log overflows, some lines are lost, but the daemon continues to run. When lines are lost, this fact is logged with a message of the form:

   ```
   async_syslog overflow: 5 log entries lost
   ```

   To enable this implementation, configure the package with `--enable-syslog-async` option, e.g.:

   ```
   ./configure --enable-syslog-async
   ```

Additionally, you can instruct `mailfromd` to use asynchronous syslog by default. To do so, set `DEFAULT_SYSLOG_ASYNC` to 1, as shown in example below:

```
./configure --enable-syslog-async DEFAULT_SYSLOG_ASYNC=1
```

You will be able to override these defaults at run-time by using the `--logger` command line option (see Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40).

7. Run `configure` with all the desired options.

   For example, the following command:

   ```
   ./configure DEFAULT_SOCKET=inet:999@localhost --with-berkeley-db=3
   ```

   will configure the package to use Berkeley DB database, version 2, and '`inet:999@localhost`' as the default communication socket.

   At the end of its run `configure` will print a concise summary of its configuration settings. It looks like that (with the long lines being split for readability):

   ```
   ************************************************************
   Mailfromd configured with the following settings:

   External preprocessor..................... /usr/bin/m4 -s
   DBM version............................... Berkeley DB v. 3
   Default user.............................. mail
   State directory.........................
             $(localstatedir)/$(PACKAGE)
   Socket.................................... mailfrom
   Expiration interval....................... 86400
   Negative DNS answer expiration interval... 3600
   Rates expire interval..................... 300
   Default syslog implementation............. blocking
   Readline (for mtasim)..................... yes
   Documentation rendition type.............. PROOF
   Enable pmilter support.................... no
   Enable GeoIP support...................... no
   ************************************************************
   ```

   Make sure these settings satisfy your needs. If they do not, reconfigure the package with the right options.

8. Run `make`.
9. Run `make` install.
10. Make sure *`localstatedir`*`/mailfromd` has the right owner and mode.
11. Examine filter script file (*`sysconfdir`*`/mailfromd.mf`) and edit it, if necessary.
12. If you are upgrading from an earlier release of Mailfromd, refer to Appendix C [Upgrading], page 253, for detailed instructions.

3 Tutorial

This chapter contains a tutorial introduction, guiding you through various `mailfromd` configurations, starting from the simplest ones and proceeding up to more advanced forms. It omits most complicated details, concentrating mainly on the common practical tasks.

If you are familiar to `mailfromd`, you can skip this chapter and go directly to the next one (see Chapter 4 [MFL], page 51), which contains detailed discussion of the mail filtering language and `mailfromd` interaction with the Mail Transport Agent.

3.1 Start Up

The `mailfromd` utility runs as a standalone *daemon* program and listens on a predefined communication channel for requests from the *Mail Transfer Agent* (MTA, for short). When processing each message, the MTA installs communication with `mailfromd`, and goes through several states, collecting the necessary data from the sender. At each state it sends the relevant information to `mailfromd`, and waits for it to reply. The `mailfromd` filter receives the message data through *Sendmail macros* and runs a *handler program* defined for the given state. The result of this run is a *response code*, that it returns to the MTA. The following response codes are defined:

`continue` Continue message processing.

`accept` Accept this message for delivery. After receiving this code the MTA continues processing this message without further consulting `mailfromd` filter.

`reject` Reject this message. The message processing stops at this stage, and the sender receives the reject reply ('`5xx`' reply code). No further `mailfromd` handlers are called for this message.

`discard` Silently discard the message. This means that MTA will continue processing this message as if it were going to deliver it, but will discard it after receiving. No further interaction with `mailfromd` occurs.

`tempfail` Temporarily reject the message. The message processing stops at this stage, and the sender receives the '`temporary failure`' reply ('`4xx`' reply code). No further `mailfromd` handlers are called for this message.

The instructions on how to process the message are supplied to `mailfromd` in its *filter script file*. It is normally called `/usr/local/etc/mailfromd.mf` (but can be located elsewhere, see Chapter 8 [Invocation], page 203) and contains a set of *milter state handlers*, or subroutines to be executed in various SMTP states. Each interaction state can be supplied its own handling procedure. A missing procedure implies `continue` response code.

The filter script can define up to nine *milter state handlers*, called after the names of milter states: '`connect`', '`helo`', '`envfrom`', '`envrcpt`', '`data`', '`header`', '`eoh`', '`body`', and '`eom`'. The '`data`' handler is invoked only if MTA uses Milter protocol version 3 or later. Two special handlers are available for initialization and clean-up purposes: '`begin`' is called before the processing starts, and '`end`' is called after it is finished. The diagram below shows the control flow when processing an SMTP transaction. Lines marked with `C:` show SMTP commands issued by the remote machine (the *client*), those marked with '⇒' show called

handlers with their arguments. An '[R]' appearing at the start of a line indicates that this part of the transaction can be repeated any number of times:

```
⇒ begin()
⇒ connect(hostname, family, port, 'IP address')
C: HELO domain
helo(domain)
for each message transaction
do
        C: MAIL FROM sender
        ⇒ envfrom(sender)

[R]     C: RCPT TO recipient
        ⇒ envrcpt(recipient)

        C: DATA
        ⇒ data()
[R]     C: header: value
        ⇒ header(header, value)

        C:
        ⇒ eoh()

[R]     C: body-line
        ⇒ /* Collect lines into blocks blk of
        ⇒  * at most len bytes and for each
        ⇒  * such block call:
        ⇒  */
        ⇒ body(blk, len)

        C: .
        ⇒ eom()
done
⇒ end()
```

Figure 3.1: Mailfromd Control Flow

This control flow is maintained for as long as each called handler returns `continue` (see Section 4.16.1 [Actions], page 85). Otherwise, if any handler returns `accept` or `discard`, the message processing continues, but no other handler is called. In the case of `accept`, the MTA will accept the message for delivery, in the case of `discard` it will silently discard it.

If any of the handlers returns `reject` or `tempfail`, the result depends on the handler. If this code is returned by `envrcpt` handler, it causes this particular recipient address to be rejected. When returned by any other handler, it causes the whole message will be rejected.

The `reject` and `tempfail` actions executed by `helo` handler do not take effect immediately. Instead, their action is deferred until the next SMTP command from the client, which is usually `MAIL FROM`.

3.2 Simplest Configurations

The `mailfromd` script file contains a series of *declarations* of the handler procedures. Each declaration has the form:

```
prog name
do
  ...
done
```

where `prog`, `do` and `done` are the *keywords*, and *name* is the state name for this handler. The dots in the above example represent the actual *code*, or a set of commands, instructing `mailfromd` how to process the message.

For example, the declaration:

```
prog envfrom
do
  accept
done
```

installs a handler for '`envfrom`' state, which always approves the message for delivery, without any further interaction with `mailfromd`.

The word `accept` in the above example is an *action*. *Action* is a special language statement that instructs the run-time engine to stop execution of the program and to return a response code to the `Sendmail`. There are five actions, one for each response code: `continue`, `accept`, `reject`, `discard`, and `tempfail`. Among these, `reject` and `discard` can optionally take one to three arguments. There are two ways of supplying the arguments.

In the first form, called *literal* or *traditional* notation, the arguments are supplied as additional words after the action name, separated by whitespace. The first argument is a three-digit RFC 2821 reply code. It must begin with '`5`' for `reject` and with '`4`' for `tempfail`. If two arguments are supplied, the second argument must be either an *extended reply code* (RFC 1893/2034) or a textual string to be returned along with the SMTP reply. Finally, if all three arguments are supplied, then the second one must be an extended reply code and the third one must supply the textual string. The following examples illustrate all possible ways of using the `reject` statement in literal notation:

```
reject
reject 503
reject 503 5.0.0
reject 503 "Need HELO command"
reject 503 5.0.0 "Need HELO command"
```

Please note the quotes around the textual string.

Another form for these action is called *functional* notation, because it resembles the function syntax. When used in this form, the action word is followed by a parenthesized group of exactly three arguments, separated by commas. The meaning and ordering of the argument is the same as in literal form. Any of three arguments may be absent, in which case it will be replaced by the default value. To illustrate this, here are the statements from the previous example, written in functional notation:

```
reject(,,)
reject(503,,)
reject(503, 5.0.0)
reject(503,, "Need HELO command")
reject(503, 5.0.0, "Need HELO command")
```

3.3 Conditional Execution

Programs consisting of a single action are rarely useful. In most cases you will want to do some checking and decide whether to process the message depending on its result. For example, if you do not want to accept messages from the address '`<badguy@some.net>`', you could write the following program:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f = "badguy@some.net"
    reject
  else
    accept
  fi
done
```

This example illustrates several important concepts. First or all, `$f` in the third line is a *Sendmail macro reference*. Sendmail macros are referenced the same way as in `sendmail.cf`, with the only difference that curly braces around macro names are optional, even if the name consists of several letters. The value of a macro reference is always a string.

The equality operator ('`=`') compares its left and right arguments and evaluates to true if the two strings are exactly the same, or to false otherwise. Apart from equality, you can use the regular relational operators: '`!=`', '`>`', '`>=`', '`<`' and '`<=`'. Notice that string comparison in `mailfromd` is always case sensitive. To do case-insensitive comparison, translate both operands to upper or lower case (See [tolower], page 115, and see [toupper], page 115).

The `if` statement decides what actions to execute depending on the value its condition evaluates to. Its usual form is:

```
if expression then-body [else else-body] fi
```

The *then-body* is executed if the *expression* evaluates to `true` (i.e. to any non-zero value). The optional *else-body* is executed if the *expression* yields `false` (i.e. zero). Both *then-body* and *else-body* can contain other `if` statements, their nesting depth is not limited. To facilitate writing complex conditional statements, the `elif` keyword can be used to introduce alternative conditions, for example:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f = "badguy@some.net"
    reject
  elif $f = "other@domain.com"
    tempfail 470 "Please try again later"
  else
    accept
  fi
done
```

See [switch], page 88, for more elaborate forms of conditional branching.

3.4 Functions and Modules

As any programming language, MFL supports a concept of *function*, i.e. a body of code that is assigned a unique name and can be invoked elsewhere as many times as needed.

All functions have a *definition* that introduces types and names of the formal parameters and the result type, if the function is to return a meaningful value (function definitions in MFL are discussed in detail in see [User-defined], page 73).

A function is invoked using a special construct, a *function call*:

name (*arg-list*)

where *name* is the function name, and *arg-list* is a comma-separated list of expressions. Each expression in *arg-list* is evaluated, and its type is compared with that of the corresponding formal argument. If the types differ, the expression is converted to the formal argument type. Finally, a copy of its value is passed to the function as a corresponding argument. The order in which the expressions are evaluated is not defined. The compiler checks that the number of elements in *arg-list* match the number of mandatory arguments for function *name*.

If the function does not deliver a result, it should only be called as a statement.

Functions may be recursive, even mutually recursive.

`Mailfromd` comes with a rich set of predefined functions for various purposes. There are two basic function classes: *built-in* functions, that are implemented by the MFL runtime environment in `mailfromd`, and *library* functions, that are implemented in MFL. The built-in functions are always available and no preparatory work is needed before calling them. In contrast, the library functions are defined in *modules*, special MFL source files that contain functions designed for a particular task. In order to access a library function, you must first *require* a module it is defined in. This is done using `require` statement. For example, the function `hostname` looks up in the DNS the name corresponding to the IP address specified as its argument. This function is defined in module `dns.mf`, so before calling it you must require this module:

```
require dns
```

The `require` statement takes a single argument: the name of the requested module (without the '`.mf`' suffix). It looks up the module on disk and loads it if it is available.

For more information about the module system See Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100.

3.5 Domain Name System

Site administrators often do not wish to accept mail from hosts that do not have a proper reverse delegation in the Domain Name System. In the previous section we introduced the library function `hostname`, that looks up in the DNS the name corresponding to the IP address specified as its argument. If there is no corresponding name, the function returns its argument unchanged. This can be used to test if the IP was resolved, as illustrated in the example below:

```
require 'dns'

prog envfrom
do
  if hostname($client_addr) = $client_addr
    reject
  fi
done
```

The `#require dns` statement loads the module `dns.mf`, after which the definition of `hostname` becomes available.

A similar function, `resolve`, which resolves the symbolic name to the corresponding IP address is provided in the same `dns.mf` module.

3.6 Checking Sender Address

A special language construct is provided for verification of sender addresses (*callout*):

```
on poll $f do
when success:
  accept
when not_found or failure:
  reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
when temp_failure:
  tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
done
```

The `on poll` construct runs standard verification (see [standard verification], page 6) for the email address specified as its argument (in the example above it is the value of the Sendmail macro '`$f`'). The check can result in the following conditions:

`success` The address exists.

`not_found`
: The address does not exist.

`failure` Some error of permanent nature occurred during the check. The existence of the address cannot be verified.

`temp_failure`
: Some temporary failure occurred during the check. The existence of the address cannot be verified at the moment.

The `when` branches of the `on poll` statement introduce statements, that are executed depending on the actual return condition. If any condition occurs that is not handled

within the `on` block, the run-time evaluator will signal an *exception*[1] and return temporary failure, therefore it is advisable to always handle all four conditions. In fact, the condition handling shown in the above example is preferable for most normal configurations: the mail is accepted if the sender address is proved to exist and rejected otherwise. If a temporary failure occurs, the remote party is urged to retry the transaction some time later.

The `poll` statement itself has a number of options that control the type of the verification. These are discussed in detail in [poll], page 99.

It is worth noticing that there is one special email address which is always available on any host, it is the *null address* '`<>`' used in error reporting. It is of no use verifying its existence:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f == ""
    accept
  else
    on poll $f do
    when success:
      accept
    when not_found or failure:
      reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
    when temp_failure:
      tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
    done
  fi
done
```

3.7 SMTP Timeouts

When using polling functions, it is important to take into account possible delays, which can occur in SMTP transactions. Such delays may be due to low network bandwidth or high load on the remote server. Some sites impose them willingly, as a spam-fighting measure.

Ideally the callout verification should use the timeout values defined in the RFC 2822, but this is impossible in practice, because it would cause a *timeout escalation*, which consists in propagating delays encountered in a callout SMTP session back to the remote client whose session initiated the callout.

Consider, for example, the following scenario. An MFL script performs a callout on '`envfrom`' stage. The remote server is overloaded and delays heavily in responding, so that the initial response arrives 3 minutes after establishing the connection, and processing the '`EHLO`' command takes another 3 minutes. These delays are OK according to the RFC, which imposes a 5 minute limit for each stage, but while waiting for the remote reply our SMTP server remains in the '`envfrom`' state with the client waiting for a response to its '`MAIL`' command more than 6 minutes, which is intolerable, because of the same 5 minute limit. Thus, the client will almost certainly break the session.

[1] For more information about exceptions and their handling, please refer to Section 4.19 [Exceptions], page 92.

To avoid this, `mailfromd` uses a special instance, called *callout server*, which is responsible for running callout SMTP sessions asynchronously. The usual sender verification is performed using so-called *soft* timeout values, which are set to values short enough to not disturb the incoming session (e.g. a timeout for '`HELO`' response is 3 seconds, instead of 5 minutes). If this verification yields a definite answer, that answer is stored in the cache database and returned to the calling procedure immediately. If, however, the verification is aborted due to a timeout, the caller procedure is returned an '`e_temp_failure`' exception, and the callout is scheduled for processing by a callout server. This exception normally causes the milter session to return a temporary error to the sender, urging it to retry the connection later.

In the meantime, the callout server runs the sender verification again using another set of timeouts, called *hard* timeouts, which are normally much longer than '`soft`' ones (they default to the values required by RFC 2822). If it gets a definitive result (e.g. '`email found`' or '`email not found`'), the server stores it in the cache database. If the callout ends due to a timeout, a '`not_found`' result is stored in the database.

Some time later, the remote server retries the delivery, and the `mailfromd` script is run again. This time, the callout function will immediately obtain the already cached result from the database and proceed accordingly. If the callout server has not finished the request by the time the sender retries the connection, the latter is again returned a temporary error, and the process continues until the callout is finished.

Usually, callout server is just another instance of `mailfromd` itself, which is started automatically to perform scheduled SMTP callouts. It is also possible to set up a separate callout server on another machine. This is discussed in Chapter 10 [calloutd], page 217.

For a detailed information about callout timeouts and their configuration, see Section 7.6 [conf-timeout], page 198.

For a description of how to configure `mailfromd` to use callout servers, see Section 7.3 [conf-server], page 195.

3.8 Avoiding Verification Loops

An `envfrom` program consisting only of the `on poll` statement will work smoothly for incoming mails, but will create infinite loops for outgoing mails. This is because upon sending an outgoing message `mailfromd` will start the verification procedure, which will initiate an SMTP transaction with the same mail server that runs it. This transaction will in turn trigger execution of `on poll` statement, etc. *ad infinitum*. To avoid this, any properly written filter script should not run the verification procedure on the email addresses in those domains that are relayed by the server it runs on. This can be achieved using `relayed` function. The function returns `true` if its argument is contained in one of the predefined *domain list* files. These files correspond to `Sendmail` plain text files used in `F` class definition forms (see *Sendmail Installation and Operation Guide*, chapter 5.3), i.e. they contain one domain name per line, with empty lines and lines started with '`#`' being ignored. The domain files consulted by `relayed` function are defined in the `relayed-domain-file` configuration file statement (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194):

```
relayed-domain-file (/etc/mail/local-host-names,
                     /etc/mail/relay-domains);
```

or:

```
relayed-domain-file /etc/mail/local-host-names;
relayed-domain-file /etc/mail/relay-domains;
```

The above example declares two domain list files, most commonly used in `Sendmail` installations to keep hostnames of the server[2] and names of the domains, relayed by this server[3].

Given all this, we can improve our filter program:

```
require 'dns'

prog envfrom
do
  if $f == ""
    accept
  elif relayed(hostname(${client_addr}))
    accept
  else
    on poll $f do
    when success:
      accept
    when not_found or failure:
      reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
    when temp_failure:
      tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
    done
  fi
done
```

If you feel that your Sendmail's relayed domains are not restrictive enough for `mailfromd` filters (for example you are relaying mails from some third-party servers), you can use a database of trusted mail server addresses. If the number of such servers is small enough, a single '`or`' statement can be used, e.g.:

```
elif ${client_addr} = "10.10.10.1"
     or ${client_addr} = "192.168.11.7"
  accept
...
```

otherwise, if the servers' IP addresses fall within one or several CIDRs, you can use the `match_cidr` function (see Section 5.20 [Internet address manipulation functions], page 136), e.g.:

```
elif match_cidr (${client_addr}, "199.232.0.0/16")
  accept
...
```

or combine both methods. Finally, you can keep a DBM database of relayed addresses and use `dbmap` or `dbget` function for checking (see Section 5.23 [Database functions], page 146).

[2] class '`w`', see *Sendmail Installation and Operation Guide*, chapter 5.2.

[3] class '`R`'

```
elif dbmap("%__statedir__/relay.db", ${client_addr})
  accept
...
```

3.9 HELO Domain

Some of the mail filtering conditions may depend on the value of *helo domain* name, i.e. the argument to the SMTP `EHLO` (or `HELO`) command. If you ever need such conditions, take into account the following caveats. Firstly, although `Sendmail` passes the helo domain in `$s` macro, it does not do this consistently. In fact, the `$s` macro is available only to the `helo` handler, all other handlers won't see it, no matter what the value of the corresponding `Milter.macros.`*`handler`* statement. So, if you wish to access its value from any handler, other than `helo`, you will have to store it in a *variable* in the `helo` handler and then use this variable value in the other handler. This approach is also recommended for another MTAs. This brings us to the concept of variables in `mailfromd` scripts.

A variable is declared using the following syntax:

```
type name
```

where *variable* is the variable name and *type* is '`string`', if the variable is to hold a string value, and '`number`', if it is supposed to have a numeric value.

A variable is assigned a value using the `set` statement:

```
set name expr
```

where *expr* is any valid MFL expression.

The `set` statement can occur within handler or function declarations as well as outside of them.

There are two kinds of `Mailfromd` variables: *global variables*, that are visible to all handlers and functions, and *automatic variables*, that are available only within the handler or function where they are declared. For our purpose we need a global variable (See Section 4.9 [Variables], page 62, for detailed descriptions of both kinds of variables).

The following example illustrates an approach that allows to use the `HELO` domain name in any handler:

```
# Declare the helohost variable
string helohost

prog helo
do
  # Save the host name for further use
  set helohost $s
done

prog envfrom
do
  # Reject hosts claiming to be localhost
  if helohost = "localhost"
    reject 570 "Please specify real host name"
  fi
done
```

Notice, that for this approach to work, your MTA must export the '`s`' macro (e.g., in case of Sendmail, the `Milter.macros.helo` statement in the `sendmail.cf` file must contain '`s`'. see Section 9.1 [Sendmail], page 211). This requirement can be removed by using the *handler argument* of `helo`. Each `mailfromd` handler is given one or several arguments. The exact number of arguments and their meaning are handler-specific and are described in Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66, and Figure 3.1. The arguments are referenced by their ordinal number, using the notation `$`*n*. The `helo` handler takes one argument, whose value is the helo domain. Using this information, the `helo` handler from the example above can be rewritten as follows:

```
prog helo
do
  # Save the host name for further use
  set helohost $1
done
```

3.10 SMTP RSET and Milter Abort Handling

In previous section we have used a global variable to hold certain information and share it between handlers. In the majority of cases, such information is session specific, and becomes invalid if the remote party issues the SMTP `RSET` command. Therefore, `mailfromd` clears all global variables when it receives a Milter '`abort`' request, which is normally generated by this command.

However, you may need some variables that retain their values even across SMTP session resets. In `mailfromd` terminology such variables are called *precious*. Precious variables are declared by prefixing their declaration with the keyword `precious`. Consider, for example, this snippet of code:

```
precious number rcpt_counter

prog envrcpt
do
```

```
  set rcpt_counter rcpt_counter + 1
done
```

Here, the variable '`rcpt_counter`' is declared as precious and its value is incremented each time the '`envrcpt`' handler is called. This way, '`rcpt_counter`' will keep the total number of SMTP `RCPT` commands issued during the session, no matter how many times it was restarted using the `RSET` command.

3.11 Controlling Number of Recipients

Any MTA provides a way to limit the number of recipients per message. For example, in `Sendmail` you may use the `MaxRecipientsPerMessage` option[4]. However, such methods are not flexible, so you are often better off using `mailfromd` for this purpose.

`Mailfromd` keeps the number of recipients collected so far in variable `rcpt_count`, which can be controlled in `envrcpt` handler as shown in the example below:

```
prog envrcpt
do
  if rcpt_count > 10
    reject 550 5.7.1 "Too many recipients"
  fi
done
```

This filter will accept no more than 10 recipients per message. You may achieve finer granularity by using additional conditions. For example, the following code will allow any number of recipients if the mail is coming from a domain relayed by the server, while limiting it to 10 for incoming mail from other domains:

```
prog envrcpt
do
  if not relayed(hostname($client_addr)) and rcpt_count > 10
    reject 550 5.7.1 "Too many recipients"
  fi
done
```

There are three important features to notice in the above code. First of all, it introduces two *boolean* operators: `and`, which evaluates to `true` only if both left-side and right-side expressions are `true`, and `not`, which reverses the value of its argument.

Secondly, the scope of an operation is determined by its *precedence*, or *binding strength*. `Not` binds more tightly than `and`, so its scope is limited by the next expression between it and `and`. Using parentheses to underline the operator scoping, the above `if` condition can be rewritten as follows:

```
if (not (relayed(hostname($client_addr)))) and (%rcpt_count > 10)
```

Finally, it is important to notice that all boolean expressions are computed using *shortcut evaluation*. To understand what it is, let's consider the following expression: *x* `and` *y*. Its value is `true` only if both *x* and *y* are `true`. Now suppose that we evaluate the expression from left to right and we find that *x* is false. This means that no matter what the value of

[4] *Sendmail (tm) Installation and Operation Guide*, chapter 5.6, '`O -- Set Option`'.

y is, the resulting expression will be `false`, therefore there is no need to compute *y* at all. So, the boolean shortcut evaluation works as follows:

x `and` *y* If *x* ⇒ `false`, do not evaluate *y* and return `false`.

x `or` *y* If *x* ⇒ `true`, do not evaluate *y* and return `true`.

Thus, in the expression `not relayed(hostname($client_addr)) and rcpt_count > 10`, the value of the `rcpt_count` variable will be compared with '`10`' only if the `relayed` function yielded `false`.

To further enhance our sample filter, you may wish to make the `reject` output more informative, to let the sender know what the recipient limit is. To do so, you can use the *concatenation operator* '`.`' (a dot):

```
set max_rcpt 10
prog envrcpt
do
  if not relayed(hostname($client_addr)) and rcpt_count > 10
    reject 550 5.7.1 "Too many recipients, max=" . max_rcpt
  fi
done
```

When evaluating the third argument to `reject`, `mailfromd` will first convert `max_rcpt` to string and then concatenate both strings together, producing string '`Too many recipients, max=10`'.

3.12 Sending Rate

We have introduced the notion of mail sending rate in Section 1.4 [Rate Limit], page 8. `Mailfromd` keeps the computed rates in the special `rate` database (see Section 3.15 [Databases], page 31). Each record in this database consists of a `key`, for which the rate is computed, and the rate value, in form of a double precision floating point number, representing average number of messages per second sent by this `key` within the last sampling interval. In the simplest case, the sender email address can be used as a `key`, however we recommend to use a conjunction *email-sender_ip* instead, so the actual *email* owner won't be blocked by actions of some spammer abusing his/her address.

Two functions are provided to control and update sending rates. The `rateok` function takes three mandatory arguments:

```
bool rateok(string key, number interval, number threshold)
```

The *key* meaning is described above. The *interval* is the sampling interval, or the number of seconds to which the actual sending rate value is converted. Remember that it is stored internally as a floating point number, and thus cannot be directly used in `mailfromd` filters, which operate only on integer numbers. To use the rate value, it is first converted to messages per given interval, which is an integer number. For example, the rate `0.138888` brought to 1-hour interval gives `500` (messages per hour).

When the `rateok` function is called, it recomputes rate record for the given *key*. If the new rate value converted to messages per given *interval* is less than *threshold*, the function updates the database and returns `True`. Otherwise it returns `False` and does not update the database.

This function must be *required* prior to use, by placing the following statement somewhere at the beginning of your script:

```
require rateok
```

For example, the following code limits the mail sending rate for each '`email address`'-'`IP`' combination to 180 per hour. If the actual rate value exceeds this limit, the sender is returned a temporary failure response:

```
require rateok

prog envfrom
do
  if not rateok($f . "-" . ${client_addr}, 3600, 180)
    tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Mail sending rate exceeded.  Try again later"
  fi
done
```

Notice argument concatenation, used to produce the key.

It is often inconvenient to specify intervals in seconds, therefore a special `interval` function is provided. It converts its argument, which is a textual string representing time interval in English, to the corresponding number of seconds. Using this function, the function invocation would be:

```
rateok($f . "-" . ${client_addr}, interval("1 hour"), 180)
```

The `interval` function is described in [interval], page 114, and time intervals are discussed in [time interval specification], page 194.

The `rateok` function begins computing the rate as soon as it has collected enough data. By default, it needs at least four mails. Since this may lead to a big number of false positives (i.e. overestimated rates) at the beginning of sampling interval, there is a way to specify a minimum number of samples `rateok` must collect before starting to actually compute rates. This number of samples is given as the optional fourth argument to the function. For example, the following call will always return `True` for the first 10 mails, no matter what the actual rate:

```
rateok($f . "-" . ${client_addr}, interval("1 hour"), 180, 10)
```

The `tbf_rate` function allows to exercise more control over the mail rates. This function implements a *token bucket filter* (TBF) algorithm.

The token bucket controls when the data can be transmitted based on the presence of abstract entities called *tokens* in a container called *bucket*. Each token represents some amount of data. The algorithm works as follows:

- A token is added to the bucket at a constant rate of 1 token per t microseconds.
- A bucket can hold at most m tokens. If a token arrives when the bucket is full, that token is discarded.
- When n items of data arrive (e.g. n mails), n tokens are removed from the bucket and the data are accepted.
- If fewer than n tokens are available, no tokens are removed from the bucket and the data are not accepted.

This algorithm allows to keep the data traffic at a constant rate t with bursts of up to m data items. Such bursts occur when no data was being arrived for $m*t$ or more microseconds.

`Mailfromd` keeps buckets in a database '`tbf`'. Each bucket is identified by a unique *key*. The `tbf_rate` function is defined as follows:

```
bool tbf_rate(string key, number n, number t, number m)
```

The *key* identifies the bucket to operate upon. The rest of arguments is described above. The `tbf_rate` function returns '`True`' if the algorithm allows to accept the data and '`False`' otherwise.

Depending on how the actual arguments are selected the `tbf_rate` function can be used to control various types of flow rates. For example, to control mail sending rate, assign the arguments as follows: n to the number of mails and t to the control interval in microseconds:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if not tbf_rate($f . "-" . $client_addr, 1, 10000000, 20)
    tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Mail sending rate exceeded.  Try again later"
  fi
done
```

The example above permits to send at most one mail each 10 seconds. The burst size is set to 20.

Another use for the `tbf_rate` function is to limit the total delivered mail size per given interval of time. To do so, the function must be used in `prog eom` handler, because it is the only handler where the entire size of the message is known. The n argument must contain the number of bytes in the email (or email bytes * number of recipients), and the t must be set to the number of bytes per microsecond a given user is allowed to send. The m argument must be large enough to accommodate a couple of large emails. E.g.:

```
prog eom
do
  if not tbf_rate("$f-$client_addr",
                  message_size(current_message()),
                  10240*1000000,  # At most 10 kb/sec
                  10*1024*1024)
    tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Data sending rate exceeded.  Try again later"
  fi
done
```

See Section 5.29 [Rate limiting functions], page 166, for more information about `rateok` and `tbf_rate` functions.

3.13 Greylisting

Greylisting is a simple method of defending against the spam proposed by Evan Harris. In few words, it consists in recording the '`sender IP`'-'`sender email`'-'`recipient email`' triplet of mail transactions. Each time the unknown triplet is seen, the corresponding message is rejected with the `tempfail` code. If the mail is legitimate, this will make the originating server retry the delivery later, until the destination eventually accepts it. If,

however, the mail is a spam, it will probably never be retried, so the users will not be bothered by it. Even if the spammer will retry the delivery, the *greylisting period* will give spam-detection systems, such as DNSBLs, enough time to detect and blacklist it, so by the time the destination host starts accepting emails from this triplet, it will already be blocked by other means.

You will find the detailed description of the method in The Next Step in the Spam Control War: Greylisting (`http://projects.puremagic.com/greylisting/whitepaper.html`), the original whitepaper by Evan Harris.

The `mailfromd` implementation of greylisting is based on `greylist` function. The function takes two arguments: the `key`, identifying the greylisting triplet, and the `interval`. The function looks up the key in the *greylisting database*. If such a key is not found, a new entry is created for it and the function returns `true`. If the key is found, `greylist` returns `false`, if it was inserted to the database more than `interval` seconds ago, and `true` otherwise. In other words, from the point of view of the greylisting algorithm, the function returns `true` when the message delivery should be blocked. Thus, the simplest implementation of the algorithm would be:

```
prog envrcpt
do
 if greylist("${client_addr}-$f-${rcpt_addr}", interval("1 hour"))
   tempfail 451 4.7.1 "You are greylisted"
 fi
done
```

However, the message returned by this example, is not informative enough. In particular, it does not tell when the message will be accepted. To help you produce more informative messages, `greylist` function stores the number of seconds left to the end of the greylisting period in the global variable `greylist_seconds_left`, so the above example could be enhanced as follows:

```
prog envrcpt
do
  set gltime interval("1 hour")
  if greylist("${client_addr}-$f-${rcpt_addr}", gltime)
    if greylist_seconds_left = gltime
      tempfail 451 4.7.1
         "You are greylisted for %gltime seconds"
    else
      tempfail 451 4.7.1
         "Still greylisted for %greylist_seconds_left seconds"
    fi
  fi
done
```

In real life you will have to avoid greylisting some messages, in particular those coming from the '`<>`' address and from the IP addresses in your relayed domain. It can easily be done using the techniques described in previous sections and is left as an exercise to the reader.

`Mailfromd` provides two implementations of greylisting primitives, which differ in the information stored in the database. The one described above is called *traditional*. It keeps in the database the time when the greylisting was activated for the given key, so the `greylisting` function uses its second argument (`interval`) and the current timestamp to decide whether the key is still greylisted.

The second implementation is called by the name of its inventor *Con Tassios*. This implementation stores in the database the time when the greylisting period is set to expire, computed by the `greylist` when it is first called for the given key, using the formula '`current_timestamp + interval`'. Subsequent calls to `greylist` compare the current timestamp with the one stored in the database and ignore their second argument. This implementation is enabled by one of the following pragmas:

```
#pragma greylist con-tassios
```

or

```
#pragma greylist ct
```

When Con Tassios implementation is used, yet another function becomes available. The function `is_greylisted` (see Section 5.30 [is_greylisted], page 167) returns '`True`' if its argument is greylisted and '`False`' otherwise. It can be used to check for the greylisting status without actually updating the database:

```
if is_greylisted("${client_addr}-$f-${rcpt_addr}")
  ...
fi
```

One special case is *whitelisting*, which is often used together with greylisting. To implement it, `mailfromd` provides the function `dbmap`, which takes two mandatory arguments: `dbmap(`*`file`*`,` *`key`*`)` (it also allows an optional third argument, see [dbmap], page 147, for more information on it). The first argument is the name of the DBM file where to search for the key, the second one is the key to be searched. Assuming you keep your whitelist database in file `/var/run/whitelist.db`, a more practical example will be:

```
prog envrcpt
do
  set gltime interval("1 hour")

  if not ($f = "" or relayed(hostname(${client_addr}))
         or dbmap("/var/run/whitelist.db", ${client_addr}))
    if greylist("${client_addr}-$f-${rcpt_addr}", gltime)
      if greylist_seconds_left = gltime
        tempfail 451 4.7.1
           "You are greylisted for %gltime seconds"
      else
        tempfail 451 4.7.1
           "Still greylisted for %greylist_seconds_left seconds"
      fi
    fi
  fi
done
```

3.14 Local Account Verification

In your filter script you may need to verify if the given user name is served by your mail server, in other words, to verify if it represents a *local account*. Notice that in this context, the word *local* does not necessarily mean that the account is local for the server running `mailfromd`, it simply means any account whose mailbox is served by the mail servers using `mailfromd`.

The `validuser` function may be used for this purpose. It takes one argument, the user name, and returns `true` if this name corresponds to a local account. To verify this, the function relies on `libmuauth`, a powerful authentication library shipped with GNU `mailutils`. More precisely, it invokes a list of *authorization* functions. Each function is responsible for looking up the user name in a particular source of information, such as system `passwd` database, an SQL database, etc. The search is terminated when one of the functions finds the name in question or the list is exhausted. In the former case, the account is local, in the latter it is not. This concept is discussed in detail in see Section "Authorization and Authentication Principles" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*). Here we will give only some practical advices for implementing it in `mailfromd` filters.

The actual list of available authorization modules depends on your `mailutils` installation. Usually it includes, apart from traditional UNIX `passwd` database, the functions for verifying PAM, RADIUS and SQL database accounts. Each of the authorization methods is configured using special configuration file statements. For the description of the Mailutils configuration files, See Section "Mailutils Configuration File" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*. You can obtain the template for `mailfromd` configuration by running `mailfromd --config-help`.

For example, the following `mailfromd.conf` file:

```
auth {
  authorization pam:system;
}

pam {
  service mailfromd;
}
```

sets up the authorization using PAM and system `passwd` database. The name of PAM service to use is '`mailfromd`'.

The function `validuser` is often used together with `dbmap`, as in the example below:

```
#pragma dbprop /etc/mail/aliases.db null

if dbmap("/etc/mail/aliases.db", localpart($rcpt_addr))
   and validuser(localpart($rcpt_addr))
  ...
fi
```

For more information about `dbmap` function, see [dbmap], page 147. For a description of `dbprop` pragma, see Section 5.23 [Database functions], page 146.

3.15 Databases

Some `mailfromd` functions use DBM databases to save their persistent state data. Each database has a unique *identifier*, and is assigned several pieces of information for its maintenance: the database *file name* and the *expiration period*, i.e. the time after which a record is considered expired.

To obtain the list of available databases along with their preconfigured settings, run *`mailfromd --show-defaults`*. You will see an output similar to this:

```
version:              8.11
script file:          /etc/mailfromd.mf
preprocessor:         /usr/bin/m4 -s
user:                 mail
statedir:             /var/run/mailfromd
socket:               unix:/var/run/mailfromd/mailfrom
pidfile:              /var/run/mailfromd/mailfromd.pid
default syslog:           blocking
supported databases:      gdbm, bdb
default database type:    bdb
optional features:    GeoIP
greylist database:       /var/run/mailfromd/greylist.db
greylist expiration:     86400
tbf database:         /var/run/mailfromd/tbf.db
tbf expiration:       86400
rate database:       /var/run/mailfromd/rates.db
rate expiration:     86400
cache database:       /var/run/mailfromd/mailfromd.db
cache positive expiration: 86400
cache negative expiration: 43200
```

The text below '`optional features`' line describes the available built-in databases. Notice that the '`cache`' database, in contrast to the rest of databases, has two expiration periods associated with it. This is explained in the next subsection.

3.15.1 Database Formats

The version 8.11 runs the following database types (or *formats*):

'`cache`' *Cache database* keeps the information about external emails, obtained using sender verification functions (see Section 3.6 [Checking Sender Address], page 18). The key entry to this database is an email address or *email*:*sender-ip* string, for addresses checked using strict verification. The data its stores for each key are:

1. Address validity. This field can be either `success` or `not_found`, meaning the address is confirmed to exists or it is not.
2. The time when the entry was entered into the database. It is used to check for expired entries.

The '`cache`' database has two expiration periods: a *positive expiration* period, that is applied to entries with the first field set to `success`, and a *negative expiration* period, applied to entries marked as `not_found`.

'`rate`' The mail sending rate data, maintained by `rate` function (see Section 5.29 [Rate limiting functions], page 166). A record consists of the following fields:

timestamp The time when the entry was entered into the database.

interval Interval during which the rate was measured (seconds).

count Number of mails sent during this interval.

'`tbf`' This database is maintained by `tbf_rate` function (see [TBF], page 26). Each record represents a single bucket and consists of the following keys:

timestamp Timestamp of most recent token, as a 64-bit unsigned integer (microseconds resolution).

expirytime
Estimated time when this bucket expires (seconds since epoch).

tokens Number of tokens in the bucket (`size_t`).

'`greylist`'
This database is maintained by `greylist` function (see Section 3.13 [Greylisting], page 27). Each record holds only the timestamp. Its semantics depends on the greylisting implementation in use (see [greylisting types], page 28). In traditional implementation, it is the time when the entry was entered into the database. In Con Tassios implementation, it is the time when the greylisting period expires.

3.15.2 Basic Database Operations

The `mfdbtool` utility is provided for performing various operations on the `mailfromd` database.

To list the contents of a database, use `--list` option. When used without any arguments it will list the '`cache`' database:

```
$ mfdbtool --list
abrakat@mail.com           success Thu Aug 24 15:28:58 2006
baccl@EDnet.NS.CA          not_found Fri Aug 25 10:04:18 2006
bhzxhnyl@chello.pl       not_found Fri Aug 25 10:11:57 2006
brqp@aaanet.ru:24.1.173.165  not_found Fri Aug 25 14:16:06 2006
```

You can also list data for any particular key or keys. To do so, give the keys as arguments to `mfdbtool`:

```
$ mfdbtool --list abrakat@mail.com brqp@aaanet.ru:24.1.173.165
abrakat@mail.com           success Thu Aug 24 15:28:58 2006
brqp@aaanet.ru:24.1.173.165  not_found Fri Aug 25 14:16:06 2006
```

To list another database, give its format identifier with the `--format` (`-H`) option. For example, to list the '`rate`' database:

```
$ mfdbtool --list --format=rate
sam@mail.net-62.12.4.3 Wed Sep  6 19:41:42 2006  139   3 0.0216 6.82e-06
axw@rame.com-59.39.165.172 Wed Sep  6 20:26:24 2006  0  1  N/A  N/A
```

The `--format` option can be used with any database management option, described below.

Another useful operation you can do while listing '`rate`' database is the prediction of *estimated time of sending*, i.e. the time when the user will be able to send mail if currently his mail sending rate has exceeded the limit. This is done using `--predict` option. The option takes an argument, specifying the mail sending rate limit, e.g. (the second line is split for readability):

```
$ mfdbtool --predict="180 per 1 minute"
ed@fae.net-21.10.1.2 Wed Sep 13 03:53:40 2006  0 1 N/A N/A; free to send
service@19.netlay.com-69.44.129.19 Wed Sep 13 15:46:07 2006 7 2
   0.286   0.0224; in 46 sec. on Wed Sep 13 15:49:00 2006
```

Notice, that there is no need to use `--list --format=rate` along with this option, although doing so is not an error.

To delete an entry from the database, use `--delete` option, for example: *`mfdbtool --delete abrakat@mail.com`*. You can give any number of keys to delete in the command line.

3.15.3 Database Maintenance

There are two principal operations of database management: expiration and compaction. *Expiration* consists in removing expired entries from the database. In fact, it is rarely needed, since the expired entries are removed in the process of normal `mailfromd` work. Nevertheless, a special option is provided in case an explicit expiration is needed (for example, before dumping the database to another format, to avoid transferring useless information).

The command line option `--expire` instructs `mfdbtool` to delete expired entries from the specified database. As usual, the database is specified using `--format` option. If it is not given explicitly, '`cache`' is assumed.

While removing expired entries the space they occupied is marked as free, so it can be used by subsequent inserts. The database does not shrink after expiration is finished. To actually return the unused space to the file system you should *compact* your database.

This is done by running *`mfdbtool --compact`* (and, optionally, specifying the database to operate upon with `--format` option). Notice, that compacting a database needs roughly as much disk space on the partition where the database resides as is currently used by the database. Database compaction runs in three phases. First, the database is scanned and all non-expired records are stored in the memory. Secondly, a temporary database is created in the state directory and all the cached entries are flushed into it. This database is named after the PID of the running `mfdbtool` process. Finally, the temporary database is renamed to the source database.

Both `--compact` and `--expire` can be applied to all databases by combining them with `--all`. It is useful, for example, in `crontab` files. For example, I have the following monthly job in my `crontab`:

```
0 1 1 * * /usr/bin/mfdbtool --compact --all
```

3.16 Testing Filter Scripts

It is important to check your filter script before actually starting to use it. There are several ways to do so.

To test the syntax of your filter script, use the `--lint` option. It will cause `mailfromd` to exit immediately after attempting to compile the script file. If the compilation succeeds, the program will exit with code 0. Otherwise, it will exit with error code 78 (‘`configuration error`’). In the latter case, `mailfromd` will also print a diagnostic message, describing the error along with the exact location where the error was diagnosed, for example:

```
mailfromd: /etc/mailfromd.mf:39: syntax error, unexpected reject
```

The error location is indicated by the name of the file and the number of the line when the error occurred. By using the `--location-column` option you instruct `mailfromd` to also print the *column number*. E.g. with this option the above error message may look like:

```
mailfromd: /etc/mailfromd.mf:39.12 syntax error, unexpected reject
```

Here, ‘`39`’ is the line and ‘`12`’ is the column number.

For complex scripts you may wish to obtain a listing of variables used in the script. This can be achieved using `--xref` command line option:

The output it produces consists of four columns:

Variable name

Data type Either `number` or `string`.

Offset in data segment
: Measured in words.

References A comma-separated list of locations where the variable was referenced. Each location is represented as *file*:*line*. If several locations pertain to the same *file*, the file name is listed only once.

Here is an example of the cross-reference output:

```
$ mailfromd --xref
Cross-references:
-----------------
cache_used               number 5   /etc/mailfromd.mf:48
clamav_virus_name        string 9   /etc/mailfromd.mf:240,240
db                       string 15  /etc/mailfromd.mf:135,194,215
dns_record_ttl           number 16  /etc/mailfromd.mf:136,172,173
ehlo_domain              string 11
gltime                   number 13  /etc/mailfromd.mf:37,219,220,222,223
greylist_seconds_left    number 1   /etc/mailfromd.mf:220,226,227
last_poll_host           string 2
```

If the script passes syntax check, the next step is often to test if it works as you expect it to. This is done with `--test` (`-t`) command line option. This option runs the `envfrom` handler (or another one, see below) and prints the result of its execution.

When running your script in test mode, you will need to supply the values of `Sendmail` macros it needs. You do this by placing the necessary assignments in the command line. For example, this is how to supply initial values for `f` and `client_addr` macros:

```
$ mailfromd --test f=gray@gnu.org client_addr=127.0.0.1
```

You may also need to alter initial values of some global variables your script uses. To do so, use `-v` (`--variable`) command line option. This option takes a single argument

consisting of the variable name and its initial value, separated by an equals sign. For example, here is how to change the value of `ehlo_domain` global variable:

```
$ mailfromd -v ehlo_domain=mydomain.org
```

The `--test` option is often useful in conjunction with options `--debug`, `--trace` and `--transcript` (see Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40. The following example shows what the author got while debugging the filter script described in Section 4.23 [Filter Script Example], page 105:

```
$ mailfromd --test --debug=50 f=gray@gnu.org client_addr=127.0.0.1
MX 20 mx20.gnu.org
MX 10 mx10.gnu.org
MX 10 mx10.gnu.org
MX 20 mx20.gnu.org
getting cache info for gray@gnu.org
found status: success (0), time: Thu Sep 14 14:54:41 2006
getting rate info for gray@gnu.org-127.0.0.1
found time: 1158245710, interval: 29, count: 5, rate: 0.172414
rate for gray@gnu.org-127.0.0.1 is 0.162162
updating gray@gnu.org-127.0.0.1 rates
SET REPLY 450 4.7.0 Mail sending rate exceeded.  Try again later
State envfrom: tempfail
```

To test any handler, other than '`envfrom`', give its name as the argument to `--test` option. Since this argument is optional, it is important that it be given immediately after the option, without any intervening white space, for example *`mailfromd --test=helo`*, or *`mailfromd -thelo`*.

This method allows to test one handler at a time. To test the script as a whole, use `mtasim` utility. When started it enters interactive mode, similar to that of `sendmail -bs`, where it expects SMTP commands on its standard input and sends answers to the standard output. The `--port=auto` command line option instructs it to start `mailfromd` and to create a unique socket for communication with it. For the detailed description of the program and the ways to use it, See Chapter 12 [mtasim], page 227.

3.17 Run Mode

Mailfromd provides a special option that allows to run arbitrary MFL scripts. This is an experimental feature, intended for future use of MFL as a scripting language.

When given the `--run` command line option, `mailfromd` loads the script given in its command line and executes a function called '`main`'.

The function main must be declared as:

```
func main(...) returns number
```

Mailfromd passes all command line arguments that follow the script name as arguments to that function. When the function returns, its return value is used by `mailfromd` as exit code.

As an example, suppose the file `script.mf` contains the following:

```
func main (...)
  returns number
```

```
do
  loop for number i 1,
       while i <= $#,
       set i i + 1
  do
    echo "arg %i=" . $(i)
  done
done
```

This function prints all its arguments (See [variadic functions], page 74, for a detailed description of functions with variable number of arguments). Now running:

```
$ mailfromd --run script.mf 1 file dest
```

displays the following:

```
arg 1=1
arg 2=file
arg 3=dest
```

Note, that MFL does not have a direct equivalent of shell's `$0` argument. If your function needs to know the name of the script that is being executed, use `__file__` built-in constant instead (see Section 4.8.1 [Built-in constants], page 60.

You may name your start function with any name other than the default '`main`'. In this case, give its name as an argument to the `--run` option. This argument is optional, therefore it must be separated from the option by an equals sign (with no whitespace from either side). For example, given the command line below, `mailfromd` loads the file `script.mf` and execute the function named '`start`':

```
$ mailfromd --run=start script.mf
```

3.17.1 The Top of a Script File

The `--run` option makes it possible to use `mailfromd` scripts as standalone programs. The traditional way to do so was to set the executable bit on the script file and to begin the script with the *interpreter selector*, i.e. the characters '`#!`' followed by the name of the `mailfromd` executable, e.g.:

```
#! /usr/sbin/mailfromd --run
```

This would cause the shell to invoke `mailfromd` with the command line constructed from the `--run` option, the name of the invoked script file itself, and any actual arguments from the invocation. Once invoked, `mailfromd` would treat the initial '`#!`' line as a usual single-line comment (see Section 4.1 [Comments], page 51).

However, the interpretation of the '`#!`' by shells has various deficiencies, which depend on the actual shell being used. For example, some shells pass any characters following the whitespace after the interpreter name as a single argument, some others silently truncate the command line after some number of characters, etc. This often make it impossible to pass additional arguments to `mailfromd`. For example, a script which begins with the following line would most probably fail to be executed properly:

```
#! /usr/sbin/mailfromd --no-config --run
```

To compensate for these deficiencies and to allow for more complex invocation sequences, `mailfromd` handles initial '`#`' in a special way. If the first line of a source file begins with '`#!/`' or '`#! /`' (with a single space between '`!`' and '`/`'), it is treated as a start of a multi-line comment, which is closed by the two characters '`!#`' on a line by themselves.

Thus, the correct way to begin a `mailfromd` script is:

```
#! /usr/sbin/mailfromd --run
!#
```

Using this feature, you can start the `mailfromd` with arbitrary shell code, provided it ends with an `exec` statement invoking the interpreter itself. For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
exec /usr/sbin/mailfromd --no-config --run $0 $@
!#

func main(...)
  returns number
do
  /* actual mfl code goes here */
done
```

Note the use of '`$0`' and '`$@`' to pass the actual script file name and command line arguments to `mailfromd`.

3.17.2 Parsing Command Line Arguments

A special function is provided to break (parse) options in command lines, and to check for legal options. It uses the GNU getopt routines (see Section "Getopt" in *The GNU C Library Reference Manual*).

`string getopt` (*number* `argc`, *pointer* `argv`, ...) [Built-in Function]

The `getopt` function parses the command line arguments, as supplied by *argc* and *argv*. The *argc* argument is the argument count, and *argv* is an opaque data structure, representing the array of arguments[5]. The operator `vaptr` (see [vaptr], page 39) is provided to initialize this argument.

An argument that starts with '`-`' (and is not exactly '`-`' or '`--`'), is an option element. An argument that starts with a '`-`' is called *short* or *traditional* option. The characters of this element, except for the initial '`-`' are option characters. Each option character represents a separate option. An argument that starts with '`--`' is called *long* or *GNU* option. The characters of this element, except for the initial '`--`' form the *option name*.

Options may have arguments. The argument to a short option is supplied immediately after the option character, or as the next word in command line. E.g., if option `-f` takes a mandatory argument, then it may be given either as `-farg` or as `-f arg`. The argument to a long option is either given immediately after it and separated from the option name by an equals sign (as `--file=arg`), or is given as the next word in the command line (e.g. `--file arg`).

[5] When MFL has array data type, the second argument will change to array of strings.

If the option argument is optional, i.e. it may not necessarily be given, then only the first form is allowed (i.e. either `-farg` or `--file=arg`.

The '`--`' command line argument ends the option list. Any arguments following it are not considered options, even if they begin with a dash.

If `getopt` is called repeatedly, it returns successively each of the option characters from each of the option elements (for short options) and each option name (for long options). In this case, the actual arguments are supplied only to the first invocation. Subsequent calls must be given two nulls as arguments. Such invocation instructs `getopt` to use the values saved on the previous invocation.

When the function finds another option, it returns its character or name updating the external variable `optind` (see below) so that the next call to `getopt` can resume the scan with the following option.

When there are no more options left, or a '`--`' argument is encountered, `getopt` returns an empty string. Then `optind` gives the index in *argv* of the first element that is not an option.

The legitimate options and their characteristics are supplied in additional arguments to `getopt`. Each such argument is a string consisting of two parts, separated by a vertical bar ('`|`'). Any one of these parts is optional, but at least one of them must be present. The first part specifies short option character. If it is followed by a colon, this character takes mandatory argument. If it is followed by two colons, this character takes an optional argument. If only the first part is present, the '`|`' separator may be omitted. Examples:

`"c"`
`"c|"` Short option `-c`.

`"f:"`
`"f:|"` Short option `-f`, taking a mandatory argument.

`"f::"`
`"f::|"` Short option `-f`, taking an optional argument.

If the vertical bar is present and is followed by any characters, these characters specify the name of a long option, synonymous to the short one, specified by the first part. Any mandatory or optional arguments to the short option remain mandatory or optional for the corresponding long option. Examples:

`"f:|file"` Short option `-f`, or long option `--file`, requiring an argument.

`"f::|file"` Short option `-f`, or long option `--file`, taking an optional argument.

In any of the above cases, if this option appears in the command line, `getopt` returns its short option character.

To define a long option without a short equivalent, begin it with a bar, e.g.:

`"|help"`

If this option is to take an argument, this is specified using the mechanism described above, except that the short option character is replaced with a minus sign. For example:

`"-:|output"`
Long option `--output`, which takes a mandatory argument.

`"-::|output"`
: Long option `--output`, which takes an optional argument.

If an option is returned that has an argument in the command line, `getopt` stores this argument in the variable `optarg`.

After each invocation, `getopt` sets the variable `optind` to the index of the next *argv* element to be parsed. Thus, when the list of options is exhausted and the function returned an empty string, `optind` contains the index of the the first element that is not an option.

When `getopt` encounters an option that is not described in its arguments or if it detects a missing option argument it prints an error message using `mailfromd` logging facilities, stores the offending option in the variable `optopt`, and returns '`?`'.

If printing error message is not desired (e.g. the application is going to take care of error messaging), it can be disabled by setting the variable `opterr` to '`0`'.

The third argument to `getopt`, called *controlling argument*, may be used to control the behavior of the function. If it is a colon, it disables printing the error message for unrecognized options and missing option arguments (as setting `opterr` to '`0`' does). In this case `getopt` returns '`:`', instead of '`?`' to indicate missing option argument.

If the controlling argument is a plus sign, or the environment variable `POSIXLY_CORRECT` is set, then option processing stops as soon as a non-option argument is encountered. By default, if options and non optional arguments are intermixed in *argv*, `getopt` permutes them so that the options go first, followed by non-optional arguments.

If the controlling argument is '`-`', then each non-option element in *argv* is handled as if it were the argument of an option with character code 1 ('`"\001"`', in MFL notation. This can used by programs that are written to expect options and other *argv*-elements in any order and that care about the ordering of the two.

Any other value of the controlling argument is handled as an option definition.

A special language construct is provided to supply the second argument (*argv*) to `getopt` and similar functions:

```
vaptr(param)
```

where *param* is a positional parameter, from which to start the array of *argv*. For example:

```
func main(...)
  returns number
do
  set rc getopt($#, vaptr($1), "|help")
  ...
```

Here, `vaptr($1)` constructs the *argv* array from all the arguments, supplied to the function `main`.

To illustrate the use of `getopt` function, let's suppose you write a script that takes the following options:

```
-f file
--file=file
--output[=dir]
--help
```

Then, the corresponding `getopt` invocation will be:

```
func main(...)
  returns number
do
  loop for string rc getopt($#, vaptr($1),
                            "f:|file", "-::|output", "h|help"),
       while rc != "",
       set rc getopt(0, 0)
  do
    switch rc
    do
      case "f":
        set file optarg
      case "output"
        set output 1
        set output_dir optarg
      case "h"
        help()
      default:
        return 1
    done
    ...
```

3.18 Logging and Debugging

Depending on its operation mode, `mailfromd` tries to guess whether it is appropriate to print its diagnostics and informational messages on standard error or to send them to syslog. Standard error is assumed if the program is run with one of the following command line options:

- `--test` (see Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33)
- `--run` (see Section 3.17 [Run Mode], page 35)
- `--lint` (see Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33)
- `--dump-code` (see Section 8.1.5 [Logging and Debugging Options], page 205)
- `--dump-grammar-trace` (see Section 8.1.5 [Logging and Debugging Options], page 205)
- `--dump-lex-trace` (see Section 8.1.5 [Logging and Debugging Options], page 205)
- `--dump-macros` (see Section 8.1.5 [Logging and Debugging Options], page 205)
- `--dump-tree` (see Section 8.1.5 [Logging and Debugging Options], page 205)
- `--xref` or `--dump-xref`) (see Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33)

If none of these are used, `mailfromd` switches to syslog as soon as it finishes its startup. There are two ways to communicate with the `syslogd` daemon: using the `syslog` function from the system `libc` library, which is a *blocking* implementation in most cases, or via internal, *asynchronous*, syslog implementation. Whether the latter is compiled in and which of the implementation is used by default is determined while compiling the package, as described in [syslog-async], page 11.

The `--logger` command line option allows you to manually select the diagnostic channel:

`--logger=stderr`
: Log everything to the standard error.

`--logger=syslog`
: Log to syslog.

`--logger=syslog:async`
: Log to syslog using the asynchronous syslog implementation.

Another way to select the diagnostic channel is by using the `logger` statement in the configuration file. The statement takes the same argument as its command line counterpart.

The rest of details regarding diagnostic output are controlled by the `logging` configuration statement.

The default syslog facility is '`mail`'; it can be changed using the `--log-facility` command line option or `facility` statement. Argument in both cases is a valid facility name, i.e. one of: '`user`', '`daemon`', '`auth`', '`authpriv`', '`mail`', and '`local0`' through '`local7`'. The argument can be given in upper, lower or mixed cases, and it can be prefixed with '`log_`':

Another syslog-related parameter that can be configured is the *tag*, which identifies `mailfromd` messages. The default tag is the program name. It is changed by the `--log-tag` (`-L` command line option and the `tag` logging statement.

The following example configures both the syslog facility and tag:

```
logging {
  facility local7;
  tag "mfd";
}
```

As any other UNIX utility, `mailfromd` is very quiet unless it has something important to communicate, such as, e.g. an error condition. A set of command line options is provided for controlling the verbosity of its output.

The `--trace` option enables tracing Sendmail actions executed during message verifications. When this option is given, any `accept`, `discard`, `continue`, etc. triggered during execution of your filter program will leave their traces in the log file. Here is an example of how it looks like (syslog time stamp, tag and PID removed for readability):

```
k8DHxvO09030656: /etc/mailfromd.mf:45: reject 550 5.1.1 Sender validity
not confirmed
```

This shows that while verifying the message with ID '`k8DHxvO09030656`' the `reject` action was executed by filter script `/etc/mailfromd.mf` at line 45.

The use of message ID in the log deserves a special notice. The program will always identify its log messages with the '`Message-Id`', when it is available. Your responsibility as an administrator is to make sure it is available by configuring your MTA to export the macro '`i`' to `mailfromd`. The rule of thumb is: make '`i`' available to the very first handler `mailfromd` executes. It is not necessary to export it to the rest of the handlers, since `mailfromd` will cache it. For example, if your filter script contains '`envfrom`' and '`envrcpt`' handlers, export '`i`' for '`envfrom`'. The exact instructions on how to ensure it depend on the MTA you use. For '`Sendmail`', refer to Section 9.1 [Sendmail], page 211. For MeTA1, see

Section 9.2 [MeTA1], page 212, and Section 13.1.2 [pmult-macros], page 238. For '`Postfix`', see Section 9.3 [Postfix], page 214.

To push log verbosity further, use the `debug` configuration statement (see Section 7.5 [conf-debug], page 197) or its command line equivalent, `--debug` (`-d`, see [–debug], page 205). Its argument is a *debugging level*, whose syntax is described in `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Debug_level`.

The debugging output is controlled by a set of levels, each of which can be set independently of others. Each debug level consists of a category name, which identifies the part of package for which additional debugging is desired, and a level number, which indicates how verbose should its output be.

Valid debug levels are:

error
: Displays error conditions which are normally not reported, but passed to the caller layers for handling.

trace0 through trace9
: Ten levels of verbosity, `trace0` producing less output, `trace9` producing the maximum amount of output.

prot
: Displays network protocol interaction, where applicable.

The overall debugging level is specified as a list of individual levels, delimited with semicolons. Each individual level can be specified as one of:

!*category*
: Disables all levels for the specified category.

category
: Enables all levels for the specified category.

category.level
: For this category, enables all levels from '`error`' to *level*, inclusive.

category.=level
: Enables only the given *level* in this *category*.

category.!level
: Disables all levels from '`error`' to *level*, inclusive, in this *category*.

category.!=level
: Disables only the given *level* in this *category*.

category.levelA-levelB
: Enables all levels in the range from *levelA* to *levelB*, inclusive.

category.!levelA-levelB
: Disables all levels in the range from *levelA* to *levelB*, inclusive.

Additionally, a comma-separated list of level specifications is allowed after the dot. For example, the following specification:

```
acl.prot,!=trace9,!trace2
```

enables in category acl all levels, except trace9, trace0, trace1, and trace2.

Implementation and applicability of each level of debugging differs between various categories. Categories built-in to mailutils are described in `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Debug_level`. Mailfromd introduces the following additional categories:

db

trace0	Detailed debugging info about expiration and compaction.
trace5	List records being removed.

dns

trace8	Verbose information about attempted DNS queries and their results.
trace9	Enables '`libadns`' internal debugging.

srvman

trace0	Additional information about normal conditions, such as subprocess exiting successfully or a remote party being allowed access by ACL.
trace1	Detailed transcript of server manager actions: startup, shutdown, subprocess cleanups, etc.
trace3	Additional info about fd sets.
trace4	Individual subserver status information.
trace5	Subprocess registration.

pmult

trace1	Verbosely list incoming connections, functions being executed and erroneous conditions: missing headers in SMFIR_CHGHEADER, undefined macros, etc.
trace2	List milter requests being processed.
trace7	List SMTP body content in SMFIR_REPLBODY requests.
error	Verbosely list mild errors encountered: bad recipient addresses, etc.

callout

trace0	Verification session transcript.
trace1	MX servers checks.
trace5	List emails being checked.
trace9	Additional info.

main

trace5	Info about hostnames in relayed domain list

engine Debugging of the virtual engine.

trace5	Message modification lists.

trace6 Debug message modification operations and Sendmail macros registered.

trace7 List SMTP stages (‘`xxfi_*`’ calls).

trace9 Cleanup calls.

pp Preprocessor.

trace1 Show command line of the preprocessor being run.

prog

trace8 Stack operations

trace9 Debug exception state save/restore operations.

spf

error Mild errors.

trace0 List calls to ‘`spf_eval_record`’, ‘`spf_test_record`’, ‘`spf_check_host_internal`’, etc.

trace1 General debug info.

trace6 Explicitly list A records obtained when processing the ‘`a`’ SPF mechanism.

Categories starting with ‘`bi_`’ debug built-in modules:

bi_db Database functions.

trace5 List database look-ups.

trace6 Trace operations on the greylisting database.

bi_sa SpamAssassin and ClamAV API.

trace1 Report the findings of the ‘`clamav`’ function.

trace9 Trace payload in interactions with ‘`spamd`’.

bi_io I/O functions.

trace1 Debug the following functions: `open`, `spawn`, `write`.

trace2 Report stderr redirection.

trace3 Report external commands being run.

bi_mbox Mailbox functions.

trace1 Report opened mailboxes.

bi_other Other built-ins.

trace1 Report results of checks for existence of usernames.

For example, the following invocation enables levels up to ‘`trace2`’ in category ‘`engine`’, all levels in category ‘`savsrv`’ and levels up to ‘`trace0`’ in category ‘`srvman`’:

```
$ mailfromd --debug='engine.trace2;savsrv;srvman.trace0'
```

You need to have sufficient knowledge about `mailfromd` internal structure to use this form of the `--debug` option.

To control the execution of the sender verification functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133), you may use `--transcript` (`-X`) command line option which enables transcripts of SMTP sessions in the logs. Here is an example of the output produced running *`mailfromd --transcript`*:

```
k8DHxlCa001774: RECV: 220 spf-jail1.us4.outblaze.com ESMTP Postfix
k8DHxlCa001774: SEND: HELO mail.gnu.org.ua
k8DHxlCa001774: RECV: 250 spf-jail1.us4.outblaze.com
k8DHxlCa001774: SEND: MAIL FROM: <>
k8DHxlCa001774: RECV: 250 Ok
k8DHxlCa001774: SEND: RCPT TO: <t1Kmx17Q@malaysia.net>
k8DHxlCa001774: RECV: 550 <>: No thank you rejected: Account
 Unavailable: Possible Forgery
k8DHxlCa001774: poll exited with status: not_found; sent
 "RCPT TO: <t1Kmx17Q@malaysia.net>", got "550 <>: No thank you
 rejected: Account Unavailable: Possible Forgery"
k8DHxlCa001774: SEND: QUIT
```

3.19 Runtime Errors

A *runtime error* is a special condition encountered during execution of the filter program, that makes further execution of the program impossible. There are two kinds of runtime errors: fatal errors, and uncaught exceptions. Whenever a runtime error occurs, `mailfromd` writes into the log file the following message:

```
RUNTIME ERROR near file:line: text
```

where *file*:*line* indicates approximate source file location where the error occurred and *text* gives the textual description of the error.

Fatal runtime errors

Fatal runtime errors are caused by a condition that is impossible to fix at run time. For version 8.11 these are:

Not enough memory
: There is not enough memory for the execution of the program. Try to make more memory available for `mailfromd` or to reduce its memory requirements by rewriting your filter script.

Out of stack space; increase #pragma stacksize
Heap overrun; increase #pragma stacksize
memory chunk too big to fit into heap
: These errors are reported when there is not enough space left on stack to perform the requested operation, and the attempt to resize the stack has failed. Usually `mailfromd` expands the stack when the need arises (see [automatic stack resizing], page 53). This runtime error indicates that there were no more memory available for stack expansion. Try to make more memory available for `mailfromd` or to reduce its memory requirements by rewriting your filter script.

Stack underflow
: Program attempted to pop a value off the stack but the stack was already empty. This indicates an internal error in the MFL compiler or `mailfromd` runtime engine. If you ever encounter this error, please report it to `bug-mailfromd@gnu.org.ua`. Include the log fragment (about 10-15 lines before and after this log message) and your filter script. See Chapter 14 [Reporting Bugs], page 245, for more information about bug reporting.

pc out of range
: The *program counter* is out of allowed range. This is a severe error, indicating an internal inconsistency in `mailfromd` runtime engine. If you encounter it, please report it to `bug-mailfromd@gnu.org.ua`. Include the log fragment (about 10-15 lines before and after this log message) and your filter script. See Chapter 14 [Reporting Bugs], page 245, for more information about how to report a bug.

Programmatic runtime errors

These indicate a programmatic error in your filter script, which the MFL compiler was unable to discover at compilation stage:

Invalid exception number: *n*
: The `throw` statement used a not existent exception number *n*. Fix the statement and restart `mailfromd`. See [throw], page 97, for the information about `throw` statement and see Section 4.19 [Exceptions], page 92, for the list of available exception codes.

No previous regular expression
: You have used a back-reference (see Section 4.10 [Back references], page 65), where there is no previous regular expression to refer to. Fix this line in your code and restart the program.

Invalid back-reference number
: You have used a back-reference (see Section 4.10 [Back references], page 65), with a number greater than the number of available groups in the previous regular expression. For example:

```
if $f matches "(.*)@gnu.org"
  # Wrong: there is only one group in the regexp above!
  set x \2
...
```

: Fix your code and restart the daemon.

Uncaught exceptions

Another kind of runtime errors are *uncaught exceptions*, i.e. exceptional conditions for which no handler was installed (See Section 4.19 [Exceptions], page 92, for information on exceptions and on how to handle them). These errors mean that the programmer (i.e. you), made no provision for some specific condition. For example, consider the following code:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f mx matches "yahoo.com"
    foo()
  fi
done
```

It is syntactically correct, but it overlooks the fact that `mx matches` may generate `e_temp_failure` exception, if the underlying DNS query has timed out (see Section 4.14.7 [Special comparisons], page 79). If this happens, `mailfromd` has no instructions on what to do next and reports an error. This can easily be fixed using a `catch` statement, e.g.:

```
prog envfrom
do
  # Catch DNS errors
  catch e_temp_failure or e_failure
  do
    tempfail 451 4.1.1 "MX verification failed"
  done

  if $f mx matches "yahoo.com"
    foo()
  fi
done
```

Another common case are undefined Sendmail macros. In this case the `e_macroundef` exception is generated:

```
RUNTIME ERROR near foo.c:34: Macro not defined: {client_adr}
```

These can be caused either by misspelling the macro name (as in the example message above) or by failing to export the required name in Sendmail milter configuration (see [exporting macros], page 211). This error should be fixed either in your source code or in `sendmail.cf` file, but if you wish to provide a special handling for it, you can use the following catch statement:

```
catch e_macroundef
do
  ...
done
```

Sometimes the location indicated with the runtime error message is not enough to trace the origin of the error. For example, an error can be generated explicitly with `throw` statement (see [throw], page 97):

```
RUNTIME ERROR near match_cidr.mf:30: invalid CIDR (text)
```

If you look in module `match_cidr.mf`, you will see the following code (line numbers added for reference):

```
23 func match_cidr(string ipstr, string cidr) returns number
24 do
25   number netmask
26
27   if cidr matches '^(([0-9]{1,3}\.){3}[0-9]{1,3})/([0-9][0-9]?)'
```

```
28     return inet_aton(ipstr) & len_to_netmask(\3) = inet_aton(\1)
29   else
30     throw invcidr "invalid CIDR (%cidr)"
31   fi
32   return 0
33 done
```

Now, it is obvious that the value of `cidr` argument to `match_cidr` was wrong, but how to find the caller that passed the wrong value to it? The special command line option `--stack-trace` is provided for this. This option enables dumping *stack traces* when a fatal error occurs. The traces contain information about function calls. Continuing our example, using the `--stack-trace` option you will see the following diagnostics:

```
RUNTIME ERROR near match_cidr.mf:30: invalid CIDR (127%)
mailfromd: Stack trace:
mailfromd: 0077: match_cidr.mf:30: match_cidr
mailfromd: 0096: test.mf:13: bar
mailfromd: 0110: mailfromd.mf:18: foo
mailfromd: Stack trace finishes
mailfromd: Execution of the configuration program was not finished
```

Each trace line describes one stack frame. The lines appear in the order of most recently called to least recently called. Each frame consists of:

1. Value of the program counter at the time of its execution;
2. Source code location, if available;
3. Name of the function called.

Thus, the example above can be read as: "the function `match_cidr` was called by the function `bar` in file `test.mf` at line 13. This function was called from the function `bar`, in file `test.mf` at line 13. In its turn, `bar` was called by the function `foo`, in file `mailfromd.mf` at line 18".

Examining caller functions will help you localize the source of the error and fix it.

You can also request a stack trace any place in your code, by calling the `stack_trace` function. This can be useful for debugging, or in your `catch` statements.

3.20 Notes and Cautions

This section discusses some potential culprits in the MFL.

It is important to execute special caution when writing format strings for `sprintf` (see Section 5.4 [String formatting], page 117) and `strftime` (see [strftime], page 154) functions. They use '`%`' as a character introducing conversion specifiers, while the same character is used to expand a MFL variable within a string. To prevent this misinterpretation, always enclose format specification in *single quotes* (see [singe-vs-double], page 57). To illustrate this, let's consider the following example:

```
echo sprintf ("Mail from %s", $f)
```

If a variable `s` is not declared, this line will produce the '`Variable s is not defined`' error message, which will allow you to identify and fix the bug. The situation is considerably worse if `s` is declared. In that case you will see no warning message, as the statement is

perfectly valid, but at the run-time the variable `s` will be interpreted within the format string, and its value will replace `%s`. To prevent this from happening, single quotes must be used:

```
echo sprintf ('Mail from %s', $f)
```

This does not limit the functionality, since there is no need to fall back to variable interpretation in format strings.

Yet another dangerous feature of the language is the way to refer to variable and constant names within literal strings. To expand a variable or a constant the same notation is used (See Section 4.9 [Variables], page 62, and see Section 4.8 [Constants], page 59). Now, lets consider the following code:

```
const x 2
string x "X"

prog envfrom
do
  echo "X is %x"
done
```

Does `%x` in `echo` refers to the variable or to the constant? The correct answer is '`to the variable`'. When executed, this code will print '`X is X`'.

As of version 8.11, `mailfromd` will always print a diagnostic message whenever it stumbles upon a variable having the same name as a previously defined constant or vice versa. The resolution of such name clashes is described in detail in See [variable–constant shadowing], page 84.

Future versions of the program may provide a non-ambiguous way of referring to variables and constants from literal strings.

4 Mail Filtering Language

The *mail filtering language*, or MFL, is a special language designed for writing filter scripts. It has a simple syntax, similar to that of Bourne shell. In contrast to the most existing programming languages, MFL does not have any special terminating or separating characters (like, e.g. newlines and semicolons in shell)[1]. All syntactical entities are separated by any amount of white-space characters (i.e. spaces, tabulations or newlines).

The following sections describe MFL syntax in detail.

4.1 Comments

Two types of comments are allowed: C-style, enclosed between '`/*`' and '`*/`', and shell-style, starting with '`#`' character and extending up to the end of line:

```
/* This is
   a comment. */
# And this too.
```

There are, however, several special cases, where the characters following '`#`' are not ignored.

If the first line begins with '`#!/`' or '`#! /`', this is treated as a start of a multi-line comment, which is closed by the characters '`!#`' on a line by themselves. This feature allows for writing sophisticated scripts. See Section 3.17.1 [top-block], page 36, for a detailed description.

If '`#`' is followed by word '`include`' (with optional whitespace between them), this statement requires inclusion of the specified file, as in C. There are two forms of the '`#include`' statement:

1. `#include <`*file*`>`
2. `#include "`*file*`"`

The quotes around *file* in the second form quotes are optional.

Both forms are equivalent if *file* is an absolute file name. Otherwise, the first form will look for *file* in the *include search path*. The second one will look for it in the current working directory first, and, if not found there, in the include search path.

The default include search path is:

1. *prefix*`/share/mailfromd/8.11/include`
2. *prefix*`/share/mailfromd/include`
3. `/usr/share/mailfromd/include`
4. `/usr/local/share/mailfromd/include`

Where *prefix* is the installation prefix.

New directories can be appended in front of it using `-I` (`--include`) command line option, or `include-path` configuration statement (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

For example, invoking

```
$ mailfromd -I/var/mailfromd -I/com/mailfromd
```

[1] There are two noteworthy exceptions: `require` and `from ... import` statements, which must be terminated with a period. See Section 4.21.3 [import], page 102.

creates the following include search path

1. `/var/mailfromd`
2. `/com/mailfromd`
3. *prefix*`/share/mailfromd/8.11/include`
4. *prefix*`/share/mailfromd/include`
5. `/usr/share/mailfromd/include`
6. `/usr/local/share/mailfromd/include`

Along with `#include`, there is also a special form `#include_once`, that has the same syntax:

```
#include_once <file>
#include_once "file"
```

This form works exactly as `#include`, except that, if the *file* has already been included, it will not be included again. As the name suggests, it will be included only once.

This form should be used to prevent re-inclusions of a code, which can cause problems due to function redefinitions, variable reassignments etc.

A line in the form

```
#line number "identifier"
```

causes the MFL compiler to believe, for purposes of error diagnostics, that the line number of the next source line is given by *number* and the current input file is named by *identifier*. If the identifier is absent, the remembered file name does not change.

4.2 Pragmatic comments

If '`#`' is immediately followed by word '`pragma`' (with optional whitespace between them), such a construct introduces a *pragmatic comment*, i.e. an instruction that controls some configuration setting.

The available pragma types are described in the following subsections.

4.2.1 Pragma prereq

The `#pragma prereq` statement ensures that the correct `mailfromd` version is used to compile the source file it appears in. It takes version number as its arguments and produces a compilation error if the actual `mailfromd` version number is earlier than that. For example, the following statement:

```
#pragma prereq 7.0.94
```

results in error if compiled with `mailfromd` version 7.0.93 or prior.

4.2.2 Pragma stacksize

The `stacksize` pragma sets the initial size of the run-time stack and may also define the policy of its growing, in case it becomes full. The default stack size is 4096 words. You may need to increase this number if your configuration program uses recursive functions or does an excessive amount of string manipulations.

`stacksize` *size* [*incr* [*max*]] [pragma]

Sets stack size to *size* units. Optional *incr* and *max* define stack growth policy (see below). The default *units* are words. The following example sets the stack size to 7168 words:

```
#pragma stacksize 7168
```

The *size* may end with a *unit size* suffix:

Suffix	**Meaning**
k	Kiloword, i.e. 1024 words
m	Megawords, i.e. 1048576 words
g	Gigawords,
t	Terawords (ouch!)

Table 4.1: Unit Size Suffix

File suffixes are case-insensitive, so the following two pragmas are equivalent and set the stack size to `7*1048576 = 7340032` words:

```
#pragma stacksize 7m
#pragma stacksize 7M
```

When the MFL engine notices that there is no more stack space available, it attempts to expand the stack. If this attempt succeeds, the operation continues. Otherwise, a runtime error is reported and the execution of the filter stops.

The optional *incr* argument to `#pragma stacksize` defines growth policy for the stack. Two growth policies are implemented: *fixed increment policy*, which expands stack in a fixed number of *expansion chunks*, and *exponential growth policy*, which duplicates the stack size until it is able to accommodate the needed number of words. The fixed increment policy is the default. The default chunk size is 4096 words.

If *incr* is the word '`twice`', the duplicate policy is selected. Otherwise *incr* must be a positive number optionally suffixed with a size suffix (see above). This indicates the expansion chunk size for the fixed increment policy.

The following example sets initial stack size to 10240, and expansion chunk size to 2048 words:

```
#pragma stacksize 10M 2K
```

The pragma below enables exponential stack growth policy:

```
#pragma stacksize 10240 twice
```

In this case, when the run-time evaluator hits the stack size limit, it expands the stack to twice the size it had before. So, in the example above, the stack will be sequentially expanded to the following sizes: 20480, 40960, 81920, 163840, etc.

The optional *max* argument defines the maximum size of the stack. If stack grows beyond this limit, the execution of the script will be aborted.

If you are concerned about the execution time of your script, you may wish to avoid stack reallocations. To help you find out the optimal stack size, each time the stack is expanded, `mailfromd` issues a warning in its log file, which looks like this:

```
warning: stack segment expanded, new size=8192
```

You can use these messages to adjust your stack size configuration settings.

4.2.3 Pragma regex

The '`#pragma regex`', controls compilation of regular expressions. You can use any number of such pragma directives in your `mailfromd.mf`. The scope of '`#pragma regex`' extends to the next occurrence of this directive or to the end of the script file, whichever occurs first.

`regex` [*push*|*pop*] *flags* [pragma]

The optional *push*|*pop* parameter is one of the words '`push`' or '`pop`' and is discussed in detail below. The *flags* parameter is a whitespace-separated list of *regex flags*. Each regex-flag is a word specifying some regex feature. It can be preceded by '`+`' to enable this feature (this is the default), by '`-`' to disable it or by '`=`' to reset regex flags to its value. Valid regex-flags are:

'`extended`'
: Use POSIX Extended Regular Expression syntax when interpreting regex. If not set, POSIX Basic Regular Expression syntax is used.

'`icase`'
: Do not differentiate case. Subsequent regex searches will be case insensitive.

'`newline`'
: *Match-any-character* operators don't match a newline.

  A non-matching list ('`[^...]`') not containing a newline does not match a newline.

  Match-beginning-of-line operator ('`^`') matches the empty string immediately after a newline.

  Match-end-of-line operator ('`$`') matches the empty string immediately before a newline.

For example, the following pragma enables POSIX extended, case insensitive matching (a good thing to start your `mailfromd.mf` with):

```
#pragma regex +extended +icase
```

Optional modifiers '`push`' and '`pop`' can be used to maintain a stack of regex flags. The statement

```
#pragma regex push [flags]
```

saves current regex flags on stack and then optionally modifies them as requested by *flags*.

The statement

```
#pragma regex pop [flags]
```

does the opposite: restores the current regex flags from the top of stack and applies *flags* to it.

This statement is useful in module and include files to avoid disturbing user regex settings. E.g.:

```
#pragma regex push +extended +icase
 .
 .
 .
#pragma regex pop
```

4.2.4 Pragma dbprop

`dbprop` *pattern prop ...* [pragma]
This pragma configures properties for a DBM database. See Section 5.23 [Database functions], page 146, for its detailed description.

4.2.5 Pragma greylist

`greylist` *type* [pragma]
Selects the greylisting implementation to use. Allowed values for *type* are:

traditional
gray — Use the traditional greylisting implementation. This is the default.

con-tassios
ct — Use Con Tassios greylisting implementation.

See [greylisting types], page 28, for a detailed description of these greylisting implementations.

Notice, that this pragma can be used only once. A second use of this pragma would constitute an error, because you cannot use both greylisting implementations in the same program.

4.2.6 Pragma miltermacros

`miltermacros` *handler macro ...* [pragma]
Declare that the Milter stage *handler* uses MTA macro listed as the rest of arguments. The *handler* must be a valid handler name (see Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66).

The `mailfromd` parser collects the names of the macros referred to by a '`$name`' construct within a handler (see Section 4.7 [Sendmail Macros], page 59) and declares them automatically for corresponding handlers. It is, however, unable to track macros used in functions called from handler as well as those referred to via `getmacro` and `macro_defined` functions. Such macros should be declared using '`#pragma miltermacros`'.

During initial negotiation with the MTA, `mailfromd` will ask it to export the macro names declared automatically or by using the '`#pragma miltermacros`'. The MTA is free to honor or to ignore this request. In particular, Sendmail versions prior to 8.14.0 and Postfix versions prior to 2.5 do not support this feature. If you use one of these, you will need to export the needed macros explicitly in the MTA configuration. For more details, refer to the section in Chapter 9 [MTA Configuration], page 211, corresponding to your MTA type.

4.2.7 Pragma provide-callout

The `#pragma provide-callout` statement is used in the `callout` module to inform `mailfromd` that the module has been loaded.

Do not use this pragma.

4.3 Data Types

The `mailfromd` filter script language operates on entities of two types: numeric and string.

The *numeric* type is represented internally as a signed long integer. Depending on the machine architecture, its size can vary. For example, on machines with Intel-based CPUs it is 32 bits long.

A *string* is a string of characters of arbitrary length. Strings can contain any characters except ASCII NUL.

There is also a *generic pointer*, which is designed to facilitate certain operations. It appears only in `body` handler. See [body handler], page 69, for more information about it.

4.4 Numbers

A *decimal number* is any sequence of decimal digits, not beginning with '`0`'.

An *octal number* is '`0`' followed by any number of octal digits ('`0`' through '`7`'), for example: `0340`.

A *hex number* is '`0x`' or '`0X`' followed by any number of hex digits ('`0`' through '`9`' and '`a`' through '`f`' or '`A`' through '`F`'), for example: `0x3ef1`.

4.5 Literals

A literal is any sequence of characters enclosed in single or double quotes.

After `tempfail` and `reject` actions two special kinds of literals are recognized: three-digit numeric values represent RFC 2821 reply codes, and literals consisting of tree digit groups separated by dots represent an extended reply code as per RFC 1893/2034. For example:

```
510   # A reply code
5.7.1 # An extended reply code
```

Double-quoted strings

String literals enclosed in double quotation marks (*double-quoted strings*) are subject to *backslash interpretation*, *macro expansion*, *variable interpretation* and *back reference interpretation*.

Backslash interpretation is performed at compilation time. It consists in replacing the following *escape sequences* with the corresponding single characters:

Sequence	Replaced with
\a	Audible bell character (ASCII 7)
\b	Backspace character (ASCII 8)
\f	Form-feed character (ASCII 12)
\n	Newline character (ASCII 10)
\r	Carriage return character (ASCII 13)
\t	Horizontal tabulation character (ASCII 9)
\v	Vertical tabulation character (ASCII 11)

Table 4.2: Backslash escapes

In addition, the sequence '`\newline`' has the same effect as '`\n`', for example:

```
"a string with\
 embedded newline"
"a string with\n embedded newline"
```

Any escape sequence of the form '`\xhh`', where *h* denotes any hex digit is replaced with the character whose ASCII value is *hh*. For example:

```
"\x61nother" ⇒ "another"
```

Similarly, an escape sequence of the form '`\0ooo`', where *o* is an octal digit, is replaced with the character whose ASCII value is *ooo*.

Macro expansion and variable interpretation occur at run-time. During these phases all Sendmail macros (see Section 4.7 [Sendmail Macros], page 59), `mailfromd` variables (see Section 4.9 [Variables], page 62), and constants (see Section 4.8 [Constants], page 59) referenced in the string are replaced by their actual values. For example, if the Sendmail macro `f` has the value '`postmaster@gnu.org.ua`' and the variable `last_ip` has the value '`127.0.0.1`', then the string[2]

```
"$f last connected from %last_ip;"
```

will be expanded to

```
"postmaster@gnu.org.ua last connected from 127.0.0.1;"
```

A *back reference* is a sequence '`\d`', where *d* is a decimal number. It refers to the *d*th parenthesized subexpression in the last `matches` statement[3]. Any back reference occurring within a double-quoted string is replaced by the value of the corresponding subexpression. See Section 4.14.7 [Special comparisons], page 79, for a detailed description of this process. Back reference interpretation is performed at run time.

Single-quoted strings

Any characters enclosed in single quotation marks are read unmodified.

The following examples contain pairs of equivalent strings:

---

[2] Implementation note: actually, the references are not interpreted within the string, instead, each such string is split at compilation time into a series of concatenated atoms. Thus, our sample string will actually be compiled as:

```
$f . " last connected from " . last_ip . ";"
```

See Section 4.14.3 [Concatenation], page 78, for a description of this construct. You can easily see how various strings are interpreted by using `--dump-tree` option (see [–dump-tree], page 206). In this case, it will produce:

```
CONCAT:
  CONCAT:
    CONCAT:
      SYMBOL: f
      CONSTANT: " last connected from "
    VARIABLE last_ip (13)
  CONSTANT: ";"
```

[3] The subexpressions are numbered by the positions of their opening parentheses, left to right.

```
"a string"
'a string'

"\\(.*\\):"
'\(.*\):'
```

Notice the last example. Single quotes are particularly useful in writing regular expressions (see Section 4.14.7 [Special comparisons], page 79).

4.6 Here Documents

Here-document is a special form of a string literal is, allowing to specify multiline strings without having to use backslash escapes. The format of here-documents is:

```
<<[flags]word
...
word
```

The `<<word` construct instructs the parser to read all the following lines up to the line containing only *word*, with possible trailing blanks. The lines thus read are concatenated together into a single string. For example:

```
set str <<EOT
A multiline
string
EOT
```

The body of a here-document is interpreted the same way as double-quoted strings (see [Double-quoted strings], page 56). For example, if Sendmail macro `f` has the value `jsmith@some.com` and the variable `count` is set to `10`, then the following string:

```
set s <<EOT
<$f> has tried to send %count mails.
Please see docs for more info.
EOT
```

will be expanded to:

```
<jsmith@some.com> has tried to send 10 mails.
Please see docs for more info.
```

If the *word* is quoted, either by enclosing it in single quote characters or by prepending it with a backslash, all interpretations and expansions within the document body are suppressed. For example:

```
set s <<'EOT'
The following line is read verbatim:
<$f> has tried to send %count mails.
Please see docs for more info.
EOT
```

Optional *flags* in the here-document construct control the way leading white space is handled. If *flags* is `-` (a dash), then all leading tab characters are stripped from input lines and the line containing *word*. Furthermore, if `-` is followed by a single space, all leading

whitespace is stripped from them. This allows here-documents within configuration scripts to be indented in a natural fashion. Examples:

```
<<- TEXT
    <$f> has tried to send %count mails.
    Please see docs for more info.
TEXT
```

Here-documents are particularly useful with `reject` actions (see [reject], page 86.

4.7 Sendmail Macros

Sendmail macros are referenced exactly the same way they are in `sendmail.cf` configuration file, i.e. '`$name`', where *name* represents the macro name. Notice, that the notation is the same for both single-character and multi-character macro names. For consistency with the `Sendmail` configuration the '`${name}`' notation is also accepted.

Another way to reference Sendmail macros is by using function `getmacro` (see Section 5.1 [Macro access], page 111).

Sendmail macros evaluate to string values.

Notice, that to reference a macro, you must properly export it in your MTA configuration. Attempt to reference a not exported macro will result in raising a `e_macroundef` exception at the run time (see [uncaught exceptions], page 46).

4.8 Constants

A *constant* is a symbolic name for an MFL value. Constants are defined using `const` statement:

```
[qualifier] const name expr
```

where *name* is an identifier, and *expr* is any valid MFL expression evaluating immediately to a constant literal or numeric value. Optional *qualifier* defines the scope of visibility for that constant (see Section 4.21.2 [scope of visibility], page 101): either `public` or `static`.

Once defined, any appearance of *name* in the program text is replaced by its value. For example:

```
const x 10/5
const text "X is "
```

defines the numeric constant '`x`' with the value '`5`', and the literal constant '`text`' with the value '`X is `'.

A special construct is provided to define a series of numeric constants (an *enumeration*):

```
[qualifier] const
do
  name0 [expr0]
  name1 [expr1]
  ...
  nameN [exprN]
done
```

Each *exprN*, if present, must evaluate to a constant numeric expression. The resulting value will be assigned to constant *nameN*. If *exprN* is not supplied, the constant will be defined to the value of the previons constant plus one. If *expr0* is not supplied, 0 is assumed.

For example, consider the following statement

```
const
do
  A
  B
  C 10
  D
done
```

This defines '`A`' to 0, '`B`' to 1, '`C`' to 10 and '`D`' to 11.

As a matter of fact, *exprN* may also evaluate to a constant string expression, provided that all expressions in the enumeration '`const`' statement are provided. That is, the following is correct:

```
const
do
  A "one"
  B "two"
  C "three"
  D "four"
done
```

whereas the following is not:

```
const
do
  A "one"
  B
  C "three"
  D "four"
done
```

Trying to compile the latter example will produce:

```
mailfromd: filename:5.3: initializer element is not numeric
```

which means that `mailfromd` was trying to create constant '`B`' with the value of '`A`' incremented by one, but was unable to do so, because the value in question was not numeric.

Constants can be used in normal MFL expressions as well as in literals. To expand a constant within a literal string, prepend a percent sign to its name, e.g.:

```
echo "New %text %x" ⇒ "New X is 2"
```

This way of expanding constants creates an ambiguity if there happen to be a variable of the same name as the constant. See [variable–constant clashes], page 49, for more information of this case and ways to handle it.

4.8.1 Built-in constants

Several constants are built into the MFL compiler. To discern them from user-defined ones, their names start and end with two underscores ('`__`').

The following constants are defined in `mailfromd` version 8.11:

`string __file__` [Built-in constant]

Expands to the name of the current source file.

`string __function__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the name of the current lexical context, i.e. the function or handler name.

`string __git__` [Built-in constant]
This built-in constant is defined for alpha versions only. Its value is the Git tag of the recent commit corresponding to that version of the package. If the release contains some uncommitted changes, the value of the '`__git__`' constant ends with the suffix '`-dirty`'.

`number __line__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the current line number in the input source file.

`number __major__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the major version number.

The following example uses `__major__` constant to determine if some version-dependent feature can be used:

```
if __major__ > 2
  # Use some version-specific feature
fi
```

`number __minor__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the minor version number.

`string __module__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the name of the current module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

`string __package__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the package name ('`mailfromd`')

`number __patch__` [Built-in constant]
For alpha versions and maintenance releases expands to the version patch level. For stable versions, expands to '`0`'.

`string __defpreproc__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the default external preprocessor command line, if the preprocessor is used, or to an empty string if it is not, e.g.:

```
__defpreproc__ ⇒ "/usr/bin/m4 -s"
```

See Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103, for information on preprocessor and its features.

`string __preproc__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the current external preprocessor command line, if the preprocessor is used, or to an empty string if it is not. Notice, that it equals `__defpreproc__`, unless the preprocessor was redefined using `--preprocessor` command line option (see Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103).

`string __version__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the textual representation of the program version (e.g. '`3.0.90`')

`string __defstatedir__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the default state directory (see [statedir], page 11).

`string __statedir__` [Built-in constant]
Expands to the current value of the program state directory (see [statedir], page 11). Notice, that it is the same as `__defstatedir__` unless the state directory was redefined at run time.

Built-in constants can be used as variables, this allows to expand them within strings or here-documents. The following example illustrates the common practice used for debugging configuration scripts:

```
func foo(number x)
do
  echo "%__file__:%__line__: foo called with arg %x"
  ...
done
```

If the function `foo` were called in line 28 of the script file `/etc/mailfromd.mf`, like this: `foo(10)`, you will see the following string in your logs:

```
/etc/mailfromd.mf:28: foo called with arg 10
```

4.9 Variables

Variables represent regions of memory used to hold variable data. These memory regions are identified by *variable names*. A variable name must begin with a letter or underscore and must consist of letters, digits and underscores.

Each variable is associated with its *scope of visibility*, which defines the part of source code where it can be used (see Section 4.21.2 [scope of visibility], page 101). Depending on the scope, we discern three main classes of variables: public, static and automatic (or local).

Public variables have indefinite lexical scope, so they may be referred to anywhere in the program. *Static* are variables visible only within their module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100). *Automatic* or *local variables* are visible only within the given function or handler.

Public and static variables are sometimes collectively called *global*.

These variable classes occupy separate *namespaces*, so that an automatic variable can have the same name as an existing public or static one. In this case this variable is said to *shadow* its global counterpart. All references to such a name will refer to the automatic variable until the end of its scope is reached, where the global one becomes visible again.

Likewise, a static variable may have the same name as a static variable defined in another module. However, it may not have the same name as a public variable.

A variable is *declared* using the following syntax:

```
[qualifiers] type name
```

where *name* is the variable name, *type* is the type of the data it is supposed to hold. It is '`string`' for string variables and '`number`' for numeric ones.

For example, this is a declaration of a string variable '`var`':

```
string var
```

If a variable declaration occurs within a function (see Section 4.13 [Functions], page 72) or handler (see Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66), it declares an automatic variable, local to this function or handler. Otherwise, it declares a global variable.

Optional *qualifiers* are allowed only in global declarations, i.e. in the variable declarations that appear outside of functions. They specify the scope of the variable. The `public` qualifier declares the variable as public and the `static` qualifier declares it as static. The default scope is '`public`', unless specified otherwise in the module declaration (see Section 4.21.1 [module structure], page 100).

Additionally, *qualifiers* may contain the word `precious`, which instructs the compiler to mark this variable as *precious*. (see Section 3.10 [precious variables], page 23). The value of the precious variable is not affected by the SMTP '`RSET`' command. If both scope qualifier and `precious` are used, they may appear in any order, e.g.:

```
static precious string rcpt_list
```

or

```
precious static string rcpt_list
```

Declaration can be followed by any valid MFL expression, which supplies the initial value or *initializer* for the variable, for example:

```
string var "test"
```

A global variable declared without initializer is implicitly initialized to a null value: numeric variables assume initial value 0, string variable are initialized to empty string.

The value of an automatic variable declared without initializer is unspecified. It is an error to use such variable prior to assigning it a value.

A variable is assigned a value using the `set` statement:

```
set name expr
```

where *name* is the variable name and *expr* is a `mailfromd` expression (see Section 4.14 [Expressions], page 78). The effect of this statement is that the *expr* is evaluated and the value it yields is assigned to the variable *name*.

If the `set` statement is located outside a function or handler definition, the *expr* must be a constant expression, i.e. the compiler should be able to evaluate it immediately.

It is not an error to assign a value to a variable that is not declared. In this case the assignment first declares a global or automatic variable having the type of *expr* and then assigns a value to it. Automatic variable is created if the assignment occurs within a function or handler, global variable is declared if it occurs at topmost lexical level. This is called *implicit variable declaration*.

In the MFL program, variables are referenced by their name. When appearing inside a double-quoted string, variables are referenced using the notation '`%name`'. Any variable being referenced must have been declared earlier (either explicitly or implicitly).

4.9.1 Predefined Variables

Several variables are predefined. In `mailfromd` version 8.11 these are:

`Predefined Variable number` *cache_used* [Variable]

This variable is set by `stdpoll` and `strictpoll` built-ins (and, consequently, by the `on poll` statement). Its value is '`1`' if the function used the cached data instead of

directly polling the host, and '0' if the polling took place. See Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133.

You can use this variable to make your reject message more informative for the remote party. The common paradigm is to define a function, returning empty string if the result was obtained from polling, or some notice if cached data were used, and to use the function in the `reject` text, for example:

```
func cachestr() returns string
do
  if cache_used
    return "[CACHED] "
  else
    return ""
  fi
done
```

Then, in `prog envfrom` one can use:

```
on poll $f
do
when not_found or failure:
  reject 550 5.1.0 cachestr() . "Sender validity not confirmed"
done
```

`string clamav_virus_name` [Predefined Variable]

Name of virus identified by `ClamAV`. Set by `clamav` function (see Section 5.28.3 [ClamAV], page 165).

`number greylist_seconds_left` [Predefined Variable]

Number of seconds left to the end of greylisting period. Set by `greylist` and `is_greylisted` functions (see Section 5.31 [Special test functions], page 167).

`string ehlo_domain` [Predefined Variable]

Name of the domain used by polling functions in SMTP `EHLO` or `HELO` command. Default value is the fully qualified domain name of the host where `mailfromd` is run. See Section 4.20 [Polling], page 97.

`Predefined Variable string` *last_poll_greeting* [Variable]

Callout functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133) set this variable before returning. It contains the initial SMTP reply from the last polled host.

`Predefined Variable string` *last_poll_helo* [Variable]

Callout functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133) set this variable before returning. It contains the reply to the `HELO` (`EHLO`) command, received from the last polled host.

`Predefined Variable string` *last_poll_host* [Variable]

Callout functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133) set this variable before returning. It contains the host name or IP address of the last polled host.

`Predefined Variable string` *last_poll_recv* [Variable]
Callout functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133) set this variable before returning. It contains the last SMTP reply received from the remote host. In case of multi-line replies, only the first line is stored. If nothing was received the variable contains the string '`nothing`'.

`Predefined Variable string` *last_poll_sent* [Variable]
Callout functions (see Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133) set this variable before returning. It contains the last SMTP command sent to the polled host. If nothing was sent, `last_poll_sent` contains the string '`nothing`'.

`string mailfrom_address` [Predefined Variable]
Email address used by polling functions in SMTP `MAIL FROM` command (see Section 4.20 [Polling], page 97.). Default is '`<>`'. Here is an example of how to change it:

```
set mailfrom_address "postmaster@my.domain.com"
```

You can set this value to a comma-separated list of email addresses, in which case the probing will try each address until either the remote party accepts it or the list of addresses is exhausted, whichever happens first.

It is not necessary to enclose emails in angle brackets, as they will be added automatically where appropriate. The only exception is null return address, when used in a list of addresses. In this case, it should always be written as '`<>`'. For example:

```
set mailfrom_address "postmaster@my.domain.com, <>"
```

`number sa_code` [Predefined Variable]
Spam score for the message, set by `sa` function (see [sa], page 159).

`number rcpt_count` [Predefined Variable]
The variable `rcpt_count` keeps the number of recipients given so far by `RCPT TO` commands. It is defined only in '`envrcpt`' handlers.

`number sa_threshold` [Predefined Variable]
Spam threshold, set by `sa` function (see [sa], page 159).

`string sa_keywords` [Predefined Variable]
Spam keywords for the message, set by `sa` function (see [sa], page 159).

`number safedb_verbose` [Predefined Variable]
This variable controls the verbosity of the exception-safe database functions. See [safedb_verbose], page 148.

4.10 Back references

A *back reference* is a sequence '`\d`', where *d* is a decimal number. It refers to the *d*th parenthesized subexpression in the last `matches` statement[4]. Any back reference occurring

[4] The subexpressions are numbered by the positions of their opening parentheses, left to right.

within a double-quoted string is replaced with the value of the corresponding subexpression. For example:

```
if $f matches '.*@\(.*\)\.gnu\.org\.ua'
  set host \1
fi
```

If the value of `f` macro is '`smith@unza.gnu.org.ua`', the above code will assign the string '`unza`' to the variable `host`.

Notice, that each occurrence of `matches` will reset the table of back references, so try to use them as early as possible. The following example illustrates a common error, when the back reference is used after the reference table has been reused by another matching:

```
# Wrong!
if $f matches '.*@\(.*\)\.gnu\.org\.ua'
  if $f matches 'some.*'
    set host \1
  fi
fi
```

This will produce the following run time error:

```
mailfromd: RUNTIME ERROR near file.mf:3: Invalid back-reference number
```

because the inner match ('`some.*`') does not have any parenthesized subexpressions.

See Section 4.14.7 [Special comparisons], page 79, for more information about `matches` operator.

4.11 Handlers

Milter stage handler (or *handler*, for short) is a subroutine responsible for processing a particular milter state. There are eight handlers available. Their order of invocation and arguments are described in Figure 3.1.

A handler is defined using the following construct:

```
prog handler-name
do
  handler-body
done
```

where *handler-name* is the name of the handler (see [handler names], page 13), *handler-body* is the list of filter statements composing the handler body. Some handlers take arguments, which can be accessed within the *handler-body* using the notation *$n*, where *n* is the ordinal number of the argument. Here we describe the available handlers and their arguments:

`connect` (*string $1, number $2, number $3, string $4*) [Handler]

Invocation:

This handler is called once at the beginning of each SMTP connection.

Arguments:

1. `string`; The host name of the message sender, as reported by MTA. Usually it is determined by a reverse lookup on the host address. If the reverse lookup fails, '`$1`' will contain the message sender's IP address enclosed in square brackets (e.g. '`[127.0.0.1]`').

2. `number`; Socket address family. You need to require the '`status`' module to get symbolic definitions for the address families. Supported families are:

Constant	Value	Meaning
FAMILY_STDIO	0	Standard input/output (the MTA is run with `-bs` option)
FAMILY_UNIX	1	UNIX socket
FAMILY_INET	2	IPv4 protocol
FAMILY_INET6	3	IPv6 protocol

Table 4.3: Supported socket families

3. `number`; Port number if '`$2`' is '`FAMILY_INET`'.
4. `string`; Remote IP address if '`$2`' is '`FAMILY_INET`' or full file name of the socket if '`$2`' is '`FAMILY_UNIX`'. If '`$2`' is '`FAMILY_STDIO`', '`$4`' is an empty string.

The actions (see Section 4.16.1 [Actions], page 85) appearing in this handler are handled by Sendmail in a special way. First of all, any textual message is ignored. Secondly, the only action that immediately closes the connection is `tempfail 421`. Any other reply codes result in Sendmail switching to *nullserver* mode, where it accepts any commands, but answers with a failure to any of them, except for the following: `QUIT`, `HELO`, `NOOP`, which are processed as usual.

The following table summarizes the Sendmail behavior depending on the action used:

`tempfail 421` *excode message*
: The caller is returned the following error message:

```
421 4.7.0 hostname closing connection
```

Both *excode* and *message* are ignored.

`tempfail 4`*xx* *excode message*
: (where *xx* represents any digits, except '`21`') Both *excode* and *message* are ignored. Sendmail switches to nullserver mode. Any subsequent command, excepting the ones listed above, is answered with

```
454 4.3.0 Please try again later
```

`reject 5`*xx* *excode message*
: (where *xx* represents any digits). All arguments are ignored. Sendmail switches to nullserver mode. Any subsequent command, excepting ones listed above, is answered with

```
550 5.0.0 Command rejected
```

Regarding reply codes, this behavior complies with RFC 2821 (section 3.9), which states:

> An SMTP server *must not* intentionally close the connection except:
> [...]
> - After detecting the need to shut down the SMTP service and returning

> a 421 response code. This response code can be issued after the server receives any command or, if necessary, asynchronously from command receipt (on the assumption that the client will receive it after the next command is issued).

However, the RFC says nothing about textual messages and extended error codes, therefore Sendmail's ignoring of these is, in my opinion, absurd. My practice shows that it is often reasonable, and even necessary, to return a meaningful textual message if the initial connection is declined. The opinion of `mailfromd` users seems to support this view. Bearing this in mind, `mailfromd` is shipped with a patch for Sendmail, which makes it honor both extended return code and textual message given with the action. Two versions are provided: `etc/sendmail-8.13.7.connect.diff`, for Sendmail versions 8.13.x, and `etc/sendmail-8.14.3.connect.diff`, for Sendmail versions 8.14.3.

`helo` (*string $1*) [Handler]

Invocation:

This handler is called whenever the SMTP client sends `HELO` or `EHLO` command. Depending on the actual MTA configuration, it can be called several times or even not at all.

Arguments:

1. `string`; Argument to `HELO` (`EHLO`) commands.

Notes: According to RFC 28221, `$1` must be domain name of the sending host, or, in case this is not available, its IP address enclosed in square brackets. Be careful when taking decisions based on this value, because in practice many hosts send arbitrary strings. We recommend to use `heloarg_test` function (see [heloarg_test], page 167) if you wish to analyze this value.

`envfrom` (*string $1, string $2*) [Handler]

Invocation:

Called when the SMTP client sends `MAIL FROM` command, i.e. once at the beginning of each message.

Arguments:

1. `string`; First argument to the `MAIL FROM` command, i.e. the email address of the sender.
2. `string`; Rest of arguments to `MAIL FROM` separated by space character. This argument can be '`""`'.

Notes

1. `$1` is not the same as `$f` Sendmail variable, because the latter contains the sender email after address rewriting and normalization, while `$1` contains exactly the value given by sending party.
2. When the array type is implemented, `$2` will contain an array of arguments.

`envrcpt` (*string $1, string $2*) [Handler]

Invocation:

Called once for each `RCPT TO` command, i.e. once for each recipient, immediately after `envfrom`.

Arguments:

1. `string`; First argument to the `RCPT TO` command, i.e. the email address of the recipient.
2. `string`; Rest of arguments to `RCPT TO` separated by space character. This argument can be '`""`'.

Notes: When the array type is implemented, `$2` will contain an array of arguments.

`data` () [Handler]

Invocation:

Called after the MTA receives SMTP '`DATA`' command. Notice that this handler is not supported by Sendmail versions prior to 8.14.0 and Postfix versions prior to 2.5.

Arguments:

None

`header` (*string $1, string $2*) [Handler]

Invocation:

Called once for each header line received after SMTP `DATA` command.

Arguments:

1. `string`; Header field name.
2. `string`; Header field value. The content of the header may include folded white space, i.e., multiple lines with following white space where lines are separated by LF (ASCII 10). The trailing line terminator (CR/LF) is removed.

`eoh` [Handler]

Invocation:

This handler is called once per message, after all headers have been sent and processed.

Arguments:

None.

`body` (*pointer $1, number $2*) [Handler]

Invocation:

This header is called zero or more times, for each piece of the message body obtained from the remote host.

Arguments:

1. `pointer`; Piece of body text. See '`Notes`' below.
2. `number`; Length of data pointed to by `$1`, in bytes.

Notes: The first argument points to the body chunk. Its size may be quite considerable and passing it as a string may be costly both in terms of memory and execution time. For this reason it is not passed as a string, but rather as a *generic pointer*, i.e. an object having the same size as `number`, which can be used to retrieve the actual contents of the body chunk if the need arises.

A special function `body_string` is provided to convert this object to a regular MFL string (see Section 5.12 [Mail body functions], page 127). Using it you can collect the entire body text into a single global variable, as illustrated by the following example:

```
string text

prog body
do
  set text text . body_string($1,$2)
done
```

The text collected this way can then be used in the `eom` handler (see below) to parse and analyze it.

If you wish to analyze both the headers and mail body, the following code fragment will do that for you:

```
string text

# Collect all headers.
prog header
do
  set text text . $1 . ": " . $2 . "\n"
done

# Append terminating newline to the headers.
prog eoh
do
  set text "%text\n"
done

# Collect message body.
prog body
do
  set text text . body_string($1, $2)
done
```

`eom` [Handler]

Invocation:

This handler is called once per message, when the terminating dot after `DATA` command has been received.

Arguments:

None

Notes: This handler is useful for calling *message capturing* functions, such as `sa` or `clamav`. For more information about these, refer to Section 5.28 [Interfaces to Third-Party Programs], page 158.

For your reference, the following table shows each handler with its arguments:

Handler	**$1**	**$2**	**$3**	**$4**
connect	Hostname	Socket Family	Port	Remote address
helo	`HELO` domain	N/A	N/A	N/A
envfrom	Sender email address	Rest of arguments	N/A	N/A
envrcpt	Recipient email address	Rest of arguments	N/A	N/A
header	Header name	Header value	N/A	N/A
eoh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
body	Body segment (pointer)	Length of the segment (numeric)	N/A	N/A
eom	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4.4: State Handler Arguments

4.12 The 'begin' and 'end' special handlers

Apart from the milter handlers described in the previous section, MFL defines two special handlers, called '`begin`' and '`end`', which supply startup and cleanup instructions for the filter program.

The '`begin`' special handler is executed once for each SMTP session, after the connection has been established but before the first milter handler has been called. Similarly, the '`end`' handler is executed exactly once, after the connection has been closed. Neither of them takes any arguments.

The two handlers are defined using the following syntax:

```
# Begin handler
begin
do
  ...
done

# End handler
end
do
  ...
done
```

where '`...`' represent any MFL statements.

An MFL program may have multiple '`begin`' and '`end`' definitions. They can be intermixed with other definitions. The compiler combines all '`begin`' statements into a single

one, in the order they appear in the sources. Similarly, all '`end`' blocks are concatenated together. The resulting '`begin`' is called once, at the beginning of each SMTP session, and '`end`' is called once at its termination.

Multiple '`begin`' and '`end`' handlers are a useful feature for writing modules (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100), because each module can thus have its own initialization and cleanup blocks. Notice, however, that in this case the order in which subsequent '`begin`' and '`end`' blocks are executed is not defined. It is only warranted that all '`begin`' blocks are executed at startup and all '`end`' blocks are executed at shutdown. It is also warranted that all '`begin`' and '`end`' blocks defined within a compilation unit (i.e. a single abstract source file, with all `#include` and `#include_once` statements expanded in place) are executed in order of their appearance in the unit.

Due to their special nature, the startup and cleanup blocks impose certain restrictions on the statements that can be used within them:

1. `return` cannot be used in '`begin`' and '`end`' handlers.
2. The following Sendmail actions cannot be used in them: `accept`, `continue`, `discard`, `reject`, `tempfail`. They can, however, be used in `catch` statements, declared in '`begin`' blocks (see example below).
3. Header manipulation actions (see [header manipulation], page 86) cannot be used in '`end`' handler.

The '`begin`' handlers are the usual place to put global initialization code to. For example, if you do not want to use DNS caching, you can do it this way:

```
begin
do
  db_set_active("dns", 0)
done
```

Additionally, you can set up global exception handling routines there. For example, the following '`begin`' statement installs a handler for all exceptions not handled otherwise that logs the exception along with the stack trace and continues processing the message:

```
begin
do
  catch *
  do
    echo "Caught exception $1: $2"
    stack_trace()
    continue
  done
done
```

4.13 Functions

A *function* is a named `mailfromd` subroutine, which takes zero or more *parameters* and optionally returns a certain value. Depending on the return value, functions can be subdivided into *string functions* and *number functions*. A function may have *mandatory* and *optional parameters*. When invoked, the function must be supplied exactly as many *actual arguments* as the number of its mandatory parameters.

Functions are invoked using the following syntax:

```
name (args)
```

where *name* is the function name and *args* is a comma-separated list of expressions. For example, the following are valid function calls:

```
foo(10)
interval("1 hour")
greylist("/var/my.db", 180)
```

The number of parameters a function takes and their data types compose the *function signature*. When actual arguments are passed to the function, they are converted to types of the corresponding formal parameters.

There are two major groups of functions: *built-in* functions, that are implemented in the `mailfromd` binary, and *user-defined* functions, that are written in MFL. The invocation syntax is the same for both groups.

`Mailfromd` is shipped with a rich set of *library functions*. These are described in Chapter 5 [Library], page 111. In addition to these you can define your own functions.

Function definitions can appear anywhere between the handler declarations in a filter program, the only requirement being that the function definition occur before the place where the function is invoked.

The syntax of a function definition is:

```
[qualifier] func name (param-decl) returns data-type
do
  function-body
done
```

where *name* is the name of the function to define, *param-decl* is a comma-separated list of parameter declarations. The syntax of the latter is the same as that of variable declarations (see Section 4.9 [Variables], page 62), i.e.:

```
type name
```

declares the parameter *name* having the type *type*. The *type* is `string` or `number`.

Optional *qualifier* declares the scope of visibility for that function (see Section 4.21.2 [scope of visibility], page 101). It is similar to that of variables, except that functions cannot be local (i.e. you cannot declare function within another function).

The `public` qualifier declares a function that may be referred to from any module, whereas the `static` qualifier declares a function that may be called only from the current module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100). The default scope is '`public`', unless specified otherwise in the module declaration (see Section 4.21.1 [module structure], page 100).

For example, the following declares a function '`sum`', that takes two numeric arguments and returns a numeric value:

```
func sum(number x, number y) returns number
```

Similarly, the following is a declaration of a static function:

```
static func sum(number x, number y) returns number
```

Parameters are referenced in the *function-body* by their name, the same way as other variables. Similarly, the value of a parameter can be altered using `set` statement.

A function can be declared to take a certain number of *optional arguments*. In a function declaration, optional abstract arguments must be placed after the mandatory ones, and must be separated from them with a semicolon. The following example is a definition of function `foo`, which takes two mandatory and two optional arguments:

```
func foo(string msg, string email; number x, string pfx)
```

Mandatory parameters are: `msg` and `email`. Optional parameters are: `x` and `pfx`. The actual number of arguments supplied to the function is returned by a special construct `$#`. In addition, the special construct `@arg` evaluates to the ordinal number of variable *arg* in the list of formal parameters (the first argument has number '`0`'). These two constructs can be used to verify whether an argument is supplied to the function.

When an actual argument for parameter `n` is supplied, the number of actual arguments (`$#`) is greater than the ordinal number of that parameter in the declaration list (`@n`). Thus, the following construct can be used to check if an optional argument *arg* is actually supplied:

```
func foo(string msg, string email; number x, string arg)
do
  if $# > @arg
    ...
  fi
```

The default `mailfromd` installation provides a special macro for this purpose: see [defined], page 103. Using it, the example above could be rewritten as:

```
func foo(string msg, string email; number x, string arg)
do
  if defined(arg)
    ...
  fi
```

Within a function body, optional arguments are referenced exactly the same way as the mandatory ones. Attempt to dereference an optional argument for which no actual parameter was supplied, results in an undefined value, so be sure to check whether a parameter is passed before dereferencing it.

A function can also take variable number of arguments (such functions are called *variadic*). This is indicated by the use of ellipsis as the last abstract parameter. The statement below defines a function `foo` taking one mandatory, one optional and any number of additional arguments:

```
func foo (string a ; string b, ...)
```

All actual arguments passed in a list of variable arguments are coerced to string data type. To refer to these arguments in the function body, the following construct is used:

```
$(expr)
```

where *expr* is any valid MFL expression, evaluating to a number *n*. This construct refers to the value of *n*th actual parameter from the variable argument list. Parameters are numbered from '`1`', so the first variable parameter is `$(1)`, and the last one is `$($# - Nm - No)`, where *Nm* and *No* are numbers of mandatory and optional parameters to the function.

For example, the function below prints all its arguments:

```
func pargs (string text, ...)
do
```

```
  echo "text=%text"
  loop for number i 1,
       while i <= $# - 1,
       set i i + 1
  do
    echo "arg %i=" . $(i)
  done
done
```

Note the loop limits. The last variable argument has number `$# - 1`, because the function takes one mandatory argument.

The *function-body* is any list of valid `mailfromd` statements. In addition to the statements discussed below (see Section 4.16 [Statements], page 85) it can also contain the `return` statement, which is used to return a value from the function. The syntax of the return statement is

```
return value
```

As an example of this, consider the following code snippet that defines the function '`sum`' to return a sum of its two arguments:

```
func sum(number x, number y) returns number
do
        return x + y
done
```

The `returns` part in the function declaration is optional. A declaration lacking it defines a *procedure*, or *void function*, i.e. a function that is not supposed to return any value. Such functions cannot be used in expressions, instead they are used as statements (see Section 4.16 [Statements], page 85). The following example shows a function that emits a customized temporary failure notice:

```
func stdtf()
do
  tempfail 451 4.3.5 "Try again later"
done
```

A function may have several names. An alternative name (or *alias*) can be assigned to a function by using `alias` keyword, placed after *param-decl* part, for example:

```
func foo()
alias bar
returns string
do
  ...
done
```

After this declaration, both `foo()` and `bar()` will refer to the same function.

The number of function aliases is unlimited. The following fragment declares a function having three names:

```
func foo()
alias bar
alias baz
```

```
returns string
do
  ...
done
```

Although this feature is rarely needed, there are sometimes cases when it may be necessary.

A variable declared within a function becomes a local variable to this function. Its lexical scope ends with the terminating `done` statement.

Parameters, local variables and global variables are using separate namespaces, so a parameter name can coincide with the name of a global, in which case a parameter is said to *shadow* the global. All references to its name will refer to the parameter, until the end of its scope is reached, where the global one becomes visible again. Consider the following example:

```
number x

func foo(string x)
do
  echo "foo: %x"
done

prog envfrom
do
  set x "Global"
  foo("Local")
  echo x
done
```

Running `mailfromd --test` with this configuration will display:

```
foo: Local
Global
```

4.13.1 Some Useful Functions

To illustrate the concept of user-defined functions, this subsection shows the definitions of some of the library functions shipped with `mailfromd`[5]. These functions are contained in modules installed along with the `mailfromd` binary. To use any of them in your code, require the appropriate module as described in Section 4.21.3 [import], page 102, e.g. to use the `revip` function, do `require 'revip'`.

Functions and their definitions:

1. `revip`

   The function `revip` (see [revip], page 117) is implemented as follows:

   ```
   func revip(string ip) returns string
   ```

[5] Notice that these are intended for educational purposes and do not necessarily coincide with the actual definitions of these functions in Mailfromd version 8.11.

```
do
  return inet_ntoa(ntohl(inet_aton(ip)))
done
```

Previously it was implemented using regular expressions. Below we include this variant as well, as an illustration for the use of regular expressions:

```
#pragma regex push +extended
func revip(string ip) returns string
do
  if ip matches '([0-9]+)\.([0-9]+)\.([0-9]+)\.([0-9]+)'
    return "\4.\3.\2.\1"
  fi
  return ip
done
#pragma regex pop
```

2. `strip_domain_part`

   This function returns at most *n* last components of the domain name *domain* (see [strip_domain_part], page 116).

```
#pragma regex push +extended

func strip_domain_part(string domain, number n) returns string
do
  if n > 0 and
    domain matches '.*((\.[^.]+){' . $2 . '})'
    return substring(\1, 1, -1)
  else
    return domain
  fi
done
#pragma regex pop
```

3. `valid_domain`

   See [valid_domain], page 167, for a description of this function. Its definition follows:

```
require dns

func valid_domain(string domain) returns number
do
  return not (resolve(domain) = "0" and not hasmx(domain))
done
```

4. `match_dnsbl`

   The function `match_dnsbl` (see [match_dnsbl], page 171) is defined as follows:

```
require dns
require match_cidr
#pragma regex push +extended
```

```
func match_dnsbl(string address, string zone, string range)
    returns number
do
  string rbl_ip
  if range = 'ANY'
    set rbl_ip '127.0.0.0/8'
  else
    set rbl_ip range
    if not range matches '^([0-9]{1,3}\.){3}[0-9]{1,3}$'
      return 0
    fi
  fi

  if not (address matches '^([0-9]{1,3}\.){3}[0-9]{1,3}$'
          and address != range)
    return 0
  fi

  if address matches
        '^([0-9]{1,3})\.([0-9]{1,3})\.([0-9]{1,3})\.([0-9]{1,3})$'
    if match_cidr (resolve ("\4.\3.\2.\1", zone), rbl_ip)
      return 1
    else
      return 0
    fi
  fi
  # never reached
done
```

4.14 Expressions

Expressions are language constructs, that evaluate to a value, that can subsequently be echoed, tested in a conditional statement, assigned to a variable or passed to a function.

4.14.1 Constant Expressions

Literals and numbers are *constant expressions*. They evaluate to string and numeric types.

4.14.2 Function Calls

A function call is an expression. Its type is the return type of the function.

4.14.3 Concatenation

Concatenation operator is '`.`' (a dot). For example, if `$f` is '`smith`', and `$client_addr` is '`10.10.1.1`', then:

```
$f . "-" . $client_addr ⇒ "smith-10.10.1.1"
```

Any two adjacent literal strings are concatenated, producing a new string, e.g.

```
"GNU's" " not " "UNIX" ⇒ "GNU's not UNIX"
```

4.14.4 Arithmetic Operations

The filter script language offers the common arithmetic operators: '`+`', '`-`', '`*`' and '`/`'. In addition, the '`%`' is a *modulo* operator, i.e. it computes the remainder of division of its operands.

All of them follow usual precedence rules and work as you would expect them to.

4.14.5 Bitwise shifts

The '`<<`' represents a *bitwise shift left* operation, which shifts the binary representation of the operand on its left by the number of bits given by the operand on its right.

Similarly, the '`>>`' represents a *bitwise shift right*.

4.14.6 Relational Expressions

Relational expressions are:

Expression	**Result**
x `<` *y*	True if *x* is less than *y*.
x `<=` *y*	True if *x* is less than or equal to *y*.
x `>` *y*	True if *x* is greater than *y*.
x `>=` *y*	True if *x* is greater than or equal to *y*.
x `=` *y*	True if *x* is equal to *y*.
x `!=` *y*	True if *x* is not equal to *y*.

Table 4.5: Relational Expressions

The relational expressions apply to string as well as to numbers. When a relational operation applies to strings, case-sensitive comparison is used, e.g.:

```
"String" = "string" ⇒ False
"String" < "string" ⇒ True
```

4.14.7 Special Comparisons

In addition to the traditional relational operators, described above, `mailfromd` provides two operators for regular expression matching:

Expression	**Result**
x `matches` *y*	True if the string *x* matches the regexp denoted by *y*.
x `fnmatches` *y*	True if the string *x* matches the globbing pattern denoted by *y*.

Table 4.6: Regular Expression Matching

The type of the regular expression used by `matches` operator is controlled by `#pragma regex` (see [pragma regex], page 54). For example:

```
$f ⇒ "gray@gnu.org.ua"
$f matches '.*@gnu\.org\.ua' ⇒ true
$f matches '.*@GNU\.ORG\.UA' ⇒ false
#pragma regex +icase
$f matches '.*@GNU\.ORG\.UA' ⇒ true
```

The `fnmatches` operator compares its left-hand operand with a globbing pattern (see *glob(7)*) given as its right-hand side operand. For example:

```
$f ⇒ "gray@gnu.org.ua"
$f fnmatches "*ua" ⇒ true
$f fnmatches "*org" ⇒ false
$f fnmatches "*org*" ⇒ true
```

Both operators have a special form, for *'`MX`' pattern matching*. The expression:

```
x mx matches y
```

is evaluated as follows: first, the expression *x* is analyzed and, if it is an email address, its domain part is selected. If it is not, its value is used verbatim. Then the list of '`MX`'s for this domain is looked up. Each of '`MX`' names is then compared with the regular expression *y*. If any of the names matches, the expression returns true. Otherwise, its result is false.

Similarly, the expression:

```
x mx fnmatches y
```

returns true only if any of the '`MX`'s for (domain or email) *x* match the globbing pattern *y*.

Both `mx matches` and `mx fnmatches` can signal the following exceptions: `e_temp_failure`, `e_failure`.

The value of any parenthesized subexpression occurring within the right-hand side argument to `matches` or `mx matches` can be referenced using the notation '`\d`', where *d* is the ordinal number of the subexpression (subexpressions are numbered from left to right, starting at 1). This notation is allowed in the program text as well as within double-quoted strings and here-documents, for example:

```
if $f matches '.*@\(.*\)\.gnu\.org\.ua'
  set message "Your host name is \1;"
fi
```

Remember that the grouping symbols are '`\(`' and '`\)`' for basic regular expressions, and '`(`' and '`)`' for extended regular expressions. Also make sure you properly escape all special characters (backslashes in particular) in double-quoted strings, or use single-quoted strings to avoid having to do so (see [singe-vs-double], page 57, for a comparison of the two forms).

4.14.8 Boolean Expressions

A *boolean expression* is a combination of relational or matching expressions using the boolean operators `and`, `or` and `not`, and, eventually, parentheses to control nesting:

Expression	**Result**
x `and` *y*	True only if both *x* and *y* are true.
x `or` *y*	True if any of *x* or *y* is true.
`not` *x*	True if *x* is false.

table 4.1: Boolean Operators

Binary boolean expressions are computed using *shortcut evaluation*:

x `and` *y* If *x* ⇒ `false`, the result is `false` and *y* is not evaluated.

x `or` *y* If *x* ⇒ `true`, the result is `true` and *y* is not evaluated.

4.14.9 Operator Precedence

Operator *precedence* is an abstract value associated with each language operator, that determines the order in which operators are executed when they appear together within a single expression. Operators with higher precedence are executed first. For example, '`*`' has a higher precedence than '`+`', therefore the expression `a + b * c` is evaluated in the following order: first `b` is multiplied by `c`, then `a` is added to the product.

When operators of equal precedence are used together they are evaluated from left to right (i.e., they are *left-associative*), except for comparison operators, which are non-associative (these are explicitly marked as such in the table below). This means that you cannot write:

```
if 5 <= x <= 10
```

Instead, you should write:

```
if 5 <= x and x <= 10
```

The precedences of the `mailfromd` operators where selected so as to match that used in most programming languages.[6]

The following table lists all operators in order of decreasing precedence:

`(...)`	Grouping
`$ %`	`Sendmail` macros and `mailfromd` variables
`* /`	Multiplication, division
`+ -`	Addition, subtraction
`<< >>`	Bitwise shift left and right
`< <= >= >`	Relational operators (non-associative)
`= != matches fnmatches`	Equality and special comparison (non-associative)
`&`	Logical (bitwise) AND
`^`	Logical (bitwise) XOR
`|`	Logical (bitwise) OR
`not`	Boolean negation
`and`	Logical '`and`'.
`or`	Logical '`or`'
`.`	String concatenation

[6] The only exception is '`not`', whose precedence in MFL is much lower than usual (in most programming languages it has the same precedence as unary '`-`'). This allows to write conditional expressions in more understandable manner. Consider the following condition:

```
if not x < 2 and y = 3
```

It is understood as "if `x` is not less than 2 and `y` equals 3", whereas with the usual precedence for '`not`' it would have meant "if negated `x` is less than 2 and `y` equals 3".

4.14.10 Type Casting

When two operands on each side of a binary expression have different type, `mailfromd` evaluator coerces them to a common type. This is known as *implicit type casting*. The rules for implicit type casting are:

1. Both arguments to an arithmetical operation are cast to numeric type.
2. Both arguments to the concatenation operation are cast to string.
3. Both arguments to 'match' or 'fnmatch' function are cast to string.
4. The argument of the unary negation (arithmetical or boolean) is cast to numeric.
5. Otherwise the right-hand side argument is cast to the type of the left-hand side argument.

The construct for explicit type cast is:

```
type(expr)
```

where *type* is the name of the type to coerce *expr* to. For example:

```
string(2 + 4*8) ⇒ "34"
```

4.15 Variable and Constant Shadowing

When any two named entities happen to have the same name we say that a *name clash* occurs. The handling of name clashes depends on types of the entities involved in it.

function – any

A name of a constant or variable can coincide with that of a function, it does not produce any warnings or errors because functions, variables and constants use different namespaces. For example, the following code is correct:

```
const a 4

func a()
do
  echo a
done
```

When executed, it prints '4'.

function – function, handler – function, and function – handler

Redefinition of a function or using a predefined handler name (see Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66) as a function name results in a fatal error. For example, compiling this code:

```
func a()
do
  echo "1"
done

func a()
do
  echo "2"
done
```

causes the following error message:

```
mailfromd: sample.mf:9: syntax error, unexpected
FUNCTION_PROC, expecting IDENTIFIER
```

handler – variable

A variable name can coincide with a handler name. For example, the following code is perfectly OK:

```
string envfrom "M"
prog envfrom
do
        echo envfrom
done
```

handler – handler

If two handlers with the same name are defined, the definition that appears further in the source text replaces the previous one. A warning message is issued, indicating locations of both definitions, e.g.:

```
mailfromd: sample.mf:116: Warning: Redefinition of handler
‘envfrom’
mailfromd: sample.mf:34: Warning: This is the location of the
previous definition
```

variable – variable

Defining a variable having the same name as an already defined one results in a warning message being displayed. The compilation succeeds. The second variable *shadows* the first, that is any subsequent references to the variable name will refer to the second variable. For example:

```
string x "Text"
number x 1

prog envfrom
do
  echo x
done
```

Compiling this code results in the following diagnostics:

```
mailfromd: sample.mf:4: Redeclaring ‘x’ as different data type
mailfromd: sample.mf:2: This is the location of the previous
definition
```

Executing it prints ‘1’, i.e. the value of the last definition of `x`.

The scope of the shadowing depends on storage classes of the two variables. If both of them have external storage class (i.e. are global ones), the shadowing remains in effect until the end of input. In other words, the previous definition of the variable is effectively forgotten.

If the previous definition is a global, and the shadowing definition is an automatic variable or a function parameter, the scope of this shadowing ends with the scope of the second

variable, after which the previous definition (global) becomes visible again. Consider the following code:

```
set x "initial"

func foo(string x) returns string
do
  return x
done

prog envfrom
do
  echo foo("param")
  echo x
done
```

Its compilation produces the following warning:

```
mailfromd: sample.mf:3: Warning: Parameter ‘x’ is shadowing a global
```

When executed, it produces the following output:

```
param
initial
State envfrom: continue
```

variable – constant

If a constant is defined which has the same name as a previously defined variable (the constant *shadows* the variable), the compiler prints the following diagnostic message:

```
file:line: Warning: Constant name ‘name’ clashes with a variable name
file:line: Warning: This is the location of the previous definition
```

A similar diagnostics is issued if a variable is defined whose name coincides with a previously defined constant (the variable shadows the constant).

In any case, any subsequent notation %*name* refers to the last defined symbol, be it variable or constant.

Notice, that shadowing occurs only when using %*name* notation. Referring to the constant using its name without ‘%’ allows to avoid shadowing effects.

If a variable shadows a constant, the scope of the shadowing depends on the storage class of the variable. For automatic variables and function parameters, it ends with the final `done` closing the function. For global variables, it lasts up to the end of input.

For example, consider the following code:

```
const a 4

func foo(string a)
do
  echo a
done

prog envfrom
```

```
do
  foo(10)
  echo a
done
```

When run, it produces the following output:

```
$ mailfromd --test sample.mf
mailfromd: sample.mf:3: Warning: Variable name ‘a’ clashes with a
constant name
mailfromd: sample.mf:1: Warning: This is the location of the previous
definition
10
4
State envfrom: continue
```

constant – constant

Redefining a constant produces a warning message. The latter definition shadows the former. Shadowing remains in effect until the end of input.

4.16 Statements

Statements are language constructs, that, unlike expressions, do not return any value. Statements execute some actions, such as assigning a value to a variable, or serve to control the execution flow in the program.

4.16.1 Action Statements

An *action* statement instructs `mailfromd` to perform a certain action over the message being processed. There are two kinds of actions: return actions and header manipulation actions.

Reply Actions

Reply actions tell `Sendmail` to return given response code to the remote party. There are five such actions:

`accept` Return an `accept` reply. The remote party will continue transmitting its message.

`reject` *code excode message-expr*
`reject (`*code-expr*`,` *excode-expr*`,` *message-expr*`)`
Return a `reject` reply. The remote party will have to cancel transmitting its message. The three arguments are optional, their usage is described below.

`tempfail` *code excode message*
`tempfail (`*code-expr*`,` *excode-expr*`,` *message-expr*`)`
Return a ‘`temporary failure`’ reply. The remote party can retry to send its message later. The three arguments are optional, their usage is described below.

`discard` Instructs `Sendmail` to accept the message and silently discard it without delivering it to any recipient.

`continue` Stops the current handler and instructs `Sendmail` to continue processing of the message.

Two actions, `reject` and `tempfail` can take up to three optional parameters. There are two forms of supplying these parameters.

In the first form, called *literal* or *traditional* notation, the arguments are supplied as additional words after the action name, and are separated by whitespace. The first argument is a three-digit RFC 2821 reply code. It must begin with '`5`' for `reject` and with '`4`' for `tempfail`. If two arguments are supplied, the second argument must be either an *extended reply code* (RFC 1893/2034) or a textual string to be returned along with the SMTP reply. Finally, if all three arguments are supplied, then the second one must be an extended reply code and the third one must give the textual string. The following examples illustrate the possible ways of using the `reject` statement:

```
reject
reject 503
reject 503 5.0.0
reject 503 "Need HELO command"
reject 503 5.0.0 "Need HELO command"
```

The notion *textual string*, used above means either a literal string or an MFL expression that evaluates to string. However, both code and extended code must always be literal.

The second form of supplying arguments is called *functional* notation, because it resembles the function syntax. When used in this form, the action word is followed by a parenthesized group of exactly three arguments, separated by commas. Each argument is a MFL expression. The meaning and ordering of the arguments is the same as in literal form. Any or all of these three arguments may be absent, in which case it will be replaced by the default value. To illustrate this, here are the statements from the previous example, written in functional notation:

```
reject(,,)
reject(503,,)
reject(503, 5.0.0)
reject(503, , "Need HELO command")
reject(503, 5.0.0, "Need HELO command")
```

Notice that there is an important difference between the two notations. The functional notation allows to compute both reply codes at run time, e.g.:

```
reject(500 + dig2*10 + dig3, "5.%edig2.%edig2")
```

Header Actions

Header manipulation actions provide basic means to add, delete or modify the message RFC 2822 headers.

`add` *`name string`*

Add the header *name* with the value *string*. E.g.:

```
add "X-Seen-By" "Mailfromd 8.11"
```

(notice argument quoting)

`replace` *`name string`*

The same as `add`, but if the header *name* already exists, it will be removed first, for example:

```
replace "X-Last-Processor" "Mailfromd 8.11"
```

`delete` *name*

Delete the header named *name*:

```
delete "X-Envelope-Date"
```

These actions impose some restrictions. First of all, their first argument must be a literal string (not a variable or expression). Secondly, there is no way to select a particular header instance to delete or replace, which may be necessary to properly handle multiple headers (e.g. '`Received`'). For more elaborate ways of header modifications, see Section 5.8 [Header modification functions], page 122.

4.16.2 Variable Assignments

An *assignment* is a special statement that assigns a value to the variable. It has the following syntax:

```
set name value
```

where *name* is the variable name and *value* is the value to be assigned to it.

Assignment statements can appear in any part of a filter program. If an assignment occurs outside of function or handler definition, the *value* must be a literal value (see Section 4.5 [Literals], page 56). If it occurs within a function or handler definition, *value* can be any valid `mailfromd` expression (see Section 4.14 [Expressions], page 78). In this case, the expression will be evaluated and its value will be assigned to the variable. For example:

```
set delay 150

prog envfrom
do
  set delay delay * 2
  ...
done
```

4.16.3 The `pass` statement

The `pass` statement has no effect. It is used in places where no statement is needed, but the language syntax requires one:

```
on poll $f do
when success:
  pass
when not_found or failure:
  reject 550
done
```

4.16.4 The `echo` statement

The `echo` statement concatenates all its arguments into a single string and sends it to the `syslog` using the priority '`info`'. It is useful for debugging your script, in conjunction with built-in constants (see Section 4.8.1 [Built-in constants], page 60), for example:

```
func foo(number x)
do
  echo "%__file__:%__line__: foo called with arg %x"
  ...
done
```

4.17 Conditional Statements

Conditional expressions, or conditionals for short, test some conditions and alter the control flow depending on the result. There are two kinds of conditional statements: *if-else* branches and *switch* statements.

The syntax of an *if-else* branching construct is:

```
if condition then-body [else else-body] fi
```

Here, *condition* is an expression that governs control flow within the statement. Both *then-body* and *else-body* are lists of `mailfromd` statements. If *condition* is true, *then-body* is executed, if it is false, *else-body* is executed. The '`else`' part of the statement is optional. The condition is considered false if it evaluates to zero, otherwise it is considered true. For example:

```
if $f = ""
  accept
else
  reject
fi
```

This will accept the message if the value of the `Sendmail` macro `$f` is an empty string, and reject it otherwise. Both *then-body* and *else-body* can be compound statements including other `if` statements. Nesting level of conditional statements is not limited.

To facilitate writing complex conditional statements, the `elif` keyword can be used to introduce alternative conditions, for example:

```
if $f = ""
  accept
elif $f = "root"
  echo "Mail from root!"
else
  reject
fi
```

Another type of branching instruction is `switch` statement:

```
switch condition
do
case x1 [or x2 ...]:
  stmt1
case y1 [or y2 ...]:
  stmt2
  .
  .
  .
[default:
  stmt]
done
```

Here, *x1*, *x2*, *y1*, *y2* are literal expressions; *stmt1*, *stmt2* and *stmt* are arbitrary `mailfromd` statements (possibly compound); *condition* is the controlling expression. The vertical dotted row represent another eventual '`case`' branches.

This statement is executed as follows: the *condition* expression is evaluated and if its value equals *x1* or *x2* (or any other *x* from the first `case`), then *stmt1* is executed. Otherwise, if *condition* evaluates to *y1* or *y2* (or any other *y* from the second `case`), then *stmt2* is executed. Other `case` branches are tried in turn. If none of them matches, *stmt* (called the *default branch*) is executed.

There can be as many `case` branches as you wish. The `default` branch is optional. There can be at most one `default` branch.

An example of `switch` statement follows:

```
switch x
do
case 1 or 3:
  add "X-Branch" "1"
  accept
case 2 or 4 or 6:
  add "X-Branch" "2"
default:
  reject
done
```

If the value of `mailfromd` variable `x` is 2 or 3, it will accept the message immediately, and add a '`X-Branch: 1`' header to it. If `x` equals 2 or 4 or 6, this code will add '`X-Branch: 2`' header to the message and will continue processing it. Otherwise, it will reject the message.

The controlling condition of a `switch` statement may evaluate to numeric or string type. The type of the condition governs the type of comparisons used in `case` branches: for numeric types, numeric equality will be used, whereas for string types, string equality is used.

4.18 Loop Statements

The loop statement allows for repeated execution of a block of code, controlled by some conditional expression. It has the following form:

```
loop [label]
     [for stmt1] [,while expr1] [,stmt2]
do
  stmt3
done [while expr2]
```

where *stmt1*, *stmt2*, and *stmt3* are statement lists, *expr1* and *expr2* are expressions.

The control flow is as follows:

1. If *stmt1* is specified, execute it.
2. Evaluate *expr1*. If it is zero, go to 6. Otherwise, continue.
3. Execute *stmt3*.
4. If *stmt2* is supplied, execute it.
5. If *expr2* is given, evaluate it. If it is zero, go to 6. Otherwise, go to 2.
6. End.

Thus, *stmt3* is executed until either *expr1* or *expr2* yield a zero value.

The *loop body* – *stmt3* – can contain special statements:

`break [label]`
: Terminates the loop immediately. Control passes to '`6`' (End) in the formal definition above. If *label* is supplied, the statement terminates the loop statement marked with that label. This allows to break from nested loops.

  It is similar to `break` statement in C or shell.

`next [label]`
: Initiates next iteration of the loop. Control passes to '`4`' in the formal definition above. If *label* is supplied, the statement starts next iteration of the loop statement marked with that label. This allows to request next iteration of an upper-level loop from a nested loop statement.

The `loop` statement can be used to create iterative statements of arbitrary complexity. Let's illustrate it in comparison with C.

The statement:

```
loop
do
  stmt-list
done
```

creates an infinite loop. The only way to exit from such a loop is to call `break` (or `return`, if used within a function), somewhere in *stmt-list*.

The following statement is equivalent to `while (expr1) stmt-list` in C:

```
loop while expr
do
  stmt-list
done
```

The C construct `for (expr1; expr2; expr3)` is written in MFL as follows:

```
loop for stmt1, while expr2, stmt2
do
  stmt3
done
```

For example, to repeat *stmt3* 10 times:

```
loop for set i 0, while i < 10, set i i + 1
do
  stmt3
done
```

Finally, the C 'do' loop is implemented as follows:

```
loop
do
  stmt-list
done while expr
```

As a real-life example of a loop statement, let's consider the implementation of function `ptr_validate`, which takes a single argument *ipstr*, and checks its validity using the following algorithm:

Perform a DNS reverse-mapping for *ipstr*, looking up the corresponding `PTR` record in '`in-addr.arpa`'. For each record returned, look up its IP addresses (A records). If *ipstr* is among the returned IP addresses, return 1 (`true`), otherwise return 0 (`false`).

The implementation of this function in MFL is:

```
#pragma regex push +extended

func ptr_validate(string ipstr) returns number
do
  loop for string names dns_getname(ipstr) . " "
           number i index(names, " "),
       while i != -1,
       set names substr(names, i + 1)
       set i index(names, " ")
  do
    loop for string addrs dns_getaddr(substr(names, 0, i)) . " "
             number j index(addrs, " "),
         while j != -1,
         set addrs substr(addrs, j + 1)
         set j index(addrs, " ")
    do
      if ipstr == substr(addrs, 0, j)
        return 1
      fi
    done
  done
  return 0
done
```

4.19 Exceptional Conditions

When the running program encounters a condition it is not able to handle, it signals an *exception*. To illustrate the concept, let's consider the execution of the following code fragment:

```
if primitive_hasmx(domainpart($f))
  accept
fi
```

The function `primitive_hasmx` (see [primitive_hasmx], page 140) tests whether the domain name given as its argument has any '`MX`' records. It should return a boolean value. However, when querying the Domain Name System, it may fail to get a definite result. For example, the DNS server can be down or temporary unavailable. In other words, `primitive_hasmx` can be in a situation when, instead of returning '`yes`' or '`no`', it has to return '`don't know`'. It has no way of doing so, therefore it signals an *exception*.

Each exception is identified by *exception type*, an integer number associated with it.

4.19.1 Built-in Exceptions

The first 20 exception numbers are reserved for *built-in exceptions*. These are declared in module `status.mf`. The following table summarizes all built-in exception types implemented by `mailfromd` version 8.11. Exceptions are listed in lexicographic order.

`e_badmmq` The called function cannot finish its task because an uncompatible message modification function was called at some point before it. For details, [MMQ and dkim_sign], page 180.

`e_dbfailure`
: General database failure. For example, the database cannot be opened. This exception can be signaled by any function that queries any DBM database.

`e_divzero`
: Division by zero.

`e_exists` This exception is emitted by `dbinsert` built-in if the requested key is already present in the database (see Section 5.23 [Database functions], page 146).

`e_eof` Function reached end of file while reading. See Section 5.24 [I/O functions], page 149, for a description of functions that can signal this exception.

`e_failure`
`failure`
`e_failure`
: A general failure has occurred. In particular, this exception is signaled by DNS lookup functions when any permanent failure occurs. This exception can be signaled by any DNS-related function (`hasmx`, `poll`, etc.) or operation (`mx matches`).

`e_format` Invalid input format. This exception is signaled if input data to a function are improperly formatted. In version 8.11 it is signaled by `message_burst` function if its input message is not formatted according to RFC 934. See Section 5.16.4 [Message digest functions], page 132.

`e_invcidr`
: Invalid CIDR notation. This is signaled by `match_cidr` function when its second argument is not a valid CIDR.

`e_invip`
: Invalid IP address. This is signaled by `match_cidr` function when its first argument is not a valid IP address.

`e_invtime`
: Invalid time interval specification. It is signaled by `interval` function if its argument is not a valid time interval (see [time interval specification], page 194).

`e_io`
: An error occurred during the input-output operation. See Section 5.24 [I/O functions], page 149, for a description of functions that can signal this exception.

`e_macroundef`
: A Sendmail macro is undefined.

`e_noresolve`
: The argument of a DNS-related function cannot be resolved to host name or IP address. Currently only `ismx` (see [ismx], page 141) raises this exception.

`e_range`
: The supplied argument is outside the allowed range. This is signalled, for example, by `substring` function (see [substring], page 115).

`e_regcomp`
: Regular expression cannot be compiled. This can happen when a regular expression (a right-hand argument of a `matches` operator) is built at the runtime and the produced string is an invalid regex.

`e_ston_conv`
: String-to-number conversion failed. This can be signaled when a string is used in numeric context which cannot be converted to the numeric data type. For example:

```
set x "10a"
if x / 2
  ...
```

  The `if` condition will signal `ston_conv`, since '`10a`' cannot be converted to a number.

`e_temp_failure`
`temp_failure`
`e_temp_failure`
: A temporary failure has occurred. This can be signaled by DNS-related functions or operations.

`e_url`
: The supplied URL is invalid. See Section 5.28 [Interfaces to Third-Party Programs], page 158.

In addition to these, two symbols are defined that are not exception types in the strict sense of the world, but are provided to make writing filter scripts more convenient. These are `success`, meaning successful return from a function, and `not_found`, meaning that the required entity (e.g. domain name or email address) was not found. See Figure 4.1, for an illustration on how these can be used. For consistency with other exception codes, these can be spelled as `e_success` and `e_not_found`.

4.19.2 User-defined Exceptions

You can define your own exception types using the `dclex` statement:

```
dclex type
```

In this statement, *type* must be a valid MFL identifier, not used for another constant (see Section 4.8 [Constants], page 59). The `dclex` statement defines a new exception identified by the constant *type* and allocates a new exception number for it.

The *type* can subsequently be used in `throw` and `catch` statements, for example:

```
dclex myrange

number fact(number val)
  returns number
do
  if val < 0
    throw myrange "fact argument is out of range"
  fi
  ...
done
```

4.19.3 Exception Handling

Normally when an exception is signalled, the program execution is terminated and the MTA is returned a `tempfail` status. Additional information regarding the exception is then output to the logging channel (see Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40). However, the user can intercept any exception by installing his own exception-handling routines.

An exception-handling routine is introduced by a *try–catch* statement, which has the following syntax:

```
try
do
  stmtlist
done
catch exception-list
do
  handler-body
done
```

where *stmtlist* and *handler-body* are sequences of MFL statements and *exception-list* is the list of exception types, separated by the word `or`. A special *exception-list* '`*`' is allowed and means all exceptions.

This construct works as follows. First, the statements from *stmtlist* are executed. If the execution finishes successfully, control is passed to the first statement after the '`catch`' block. Otherwise, if an exception is signalled and this exception is listed in *exception-list*, the execution is passed to the *handler-body*. If the exception is not listed in *exception-list*, it is handled as usual.

The following example shows a '`try--catch`' construct used for handling eventual exceptions, signalled by `primitive_hasmx`.

```
try
do
  if primitive_hasmx(domainpart($f))
    accept
  else
    reject
  fi
done
catch e_failure or e_temp_failure
do
  echo "primitive_hasmx failed"
  continue
done
```

The '`try--catch`' statement can appear anywhere inside a function or a handler, but it cannot appear outside of them. It can also be nested within another '`try--catch`', in either of its parts. Upon exit from a function or milter handler, all exceptions are restored to the state they had when it has been entered.

A `catch` block can also be used alone, without preceding `try` part. Such a construct is called a *standalone catch*. It is mostly useful for setting global exception handlers in a `begin` statement (see Section 4.12 [begin/end], page 71). When used within a usual function or handler, the exception handlers set by a standalone catch remain in force until either another standalone catch appears further in the same function or handler, or an end of the function is encountered, whichever occurs first.

A standalone catch defined within a function must return from it by executing `return` statement. If it does not do that explicitly, the default value of 1 is returned. A standalone catch defined within a milter handler must end execution with any of the following actions: `accept`, `continue`, `discard`, `reject`, `tempfail`. By default, `continue` is used.

It is not recommended to mix '`try--catch`' constructs and standalone catches. If a standalone catch appears within a '`try--catch`' statement, its scope of visibility is undefined.

Upon entry to a *handler-body*, two implicit positional arguments are defined, which can be referenced in *handler-body* as `$1` and `$2`. The first argument gives the numeric code of the exception that has occurred. The second argument is a textual string containing a human-readable description of the exception.

The following is an improved version of the previous example, which uses these parameters to supply more information about the failure:

```
try
do
  if primitive_hasmx(domainpart($f))
    accept
  else
    reject
  fi
done
catch e_failure or e_temp_failure
```

```
do
  echo "Caught exception $1: $2"
  continue
done
```

The following example defines the function `hasmx` that returns true if the domain part of its argument has any '`MX`' records, and false if it does not or if an exception occurs[7].

```
func hasmx (string s)
  returns number
do
  try
  do
    return primitive_hasmx(domainpart(s))
  done
  catch *
  do
    return 0
  done
done
```

The same function can written using standalone `catch`:

```
func hasmx (string s)
  returns number
do
  catch *
  do
    return 0
  done
  return primitive_hasmx(domainpart(s))
done
```

All variables remain visible within `catch` body, with the exception of positional arguments of the enclosing handler. To access positional arguments of a handler from the `catch` body, assign them to local variables prior to the '`try--catch`' construct, e.g.:

[7] This function is part of the `mailfromd` library, See [hasmx], page 140.

```
prog header
do
  string hname $1
  string hvalue $2
  try
  do
    ...
  done
  catch *
  do
    echo "Exception $1 while processing header %hname: %hvalue"
    echo $2
    tempfail
  done
```

You can also generate (or *raise*) exceptions explicitly in the code, using `throw` statement:

```
throw excode descr
```

The arguments correspond exactly to the positional parameters of the `catch` statement: *excode* gives the numeric code of the exception, *descr* gives its textual description. This statement can be used in complex scripts to create non-local exits from deeply nested statements.

Notice, that the the *excode* argument must be an immediate value: an exception identifier (either a built-in one or one declared previously using a `dclex` statement).

4.20 Sender Verification Tests

The filter script language provides a wide variety of functions for sender address verification or *polling*, for short. These functions, which were described in Section 5.18 [SMTP Callout functions], page 133, can be used to implement any sender verification method. The additional data that can be needed is normally supplied by two global variables: `ehlo_domain`, keeping the default domain for the `EHLO` command, and `mailfrom_address`, which stores the sender address for probe messages (see Section 4.9.1 [Predefined variables], page 63).

For example, a simplest way to implement standard polling would be:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if stdpoll($1, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address) == 0
    accept
  else
    reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
  fi
done
```

However, this does not take into account exceptions that `stdpoll` can signal. To handle them, one will have to use `catch`, for example thus:

```
require status

prog envfrom
```

```
do
  try
  do
    if stdpoll($1, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address) == 0
      accept
    else
      reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
    fi
  done
  catch e_failure or e_temp_failure
  do
    switch $1
    do
    case failure:
      reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
    case temp_failure:
      tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
    done
  done
done
```

If polls are used often, one can define a wrapper function, and use it instead. The following example illustrates this approach:

```
func poll_wrapper(string email) returns number
do
  catch e_failure or e_temp_failure
  do
    return email
  done
  return stdpoll(email, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address)
done

prog envfrom
do
  switch poll_wrapper($f)
  do
  case success:
    accept
  case not_found or failure:
    reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
  case temp_failure:
    tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
  done
done
```

Figure 4.1: Building Poll Wrappers

Notice the way `envfrom` handles `success` and `not_found`, which are not exceptions in the strict sense of the word.

The above paradigm is so common that `mailfromd` provides a special language construct to simplify it: the `on` statement. Instead of manually writing the wrapper function and using it as a `switch` condition, you can rewrite the above example as:

```
prog envfrom
do
  on stdpoll($1, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address)
  do
  when success:
    accept
  when not_found or failure:
    reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
  when temp_failure:
    tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
  done
done
```

Figure 4.2: Standard poll example

As you see the statement is pretty similar to `switch`. The major syntactic difference is the use of the keyword `when` to introduce conditional branches.

General syntax of the `on` statement is:

```
on condition
do
  when x1 [or x2 ...]:
    stmt1
  when y1 [or y2 ...]:
    stmt2
    .
    .
    .
done
```

The *condition* is either a function call or a special `poll` statement (see below). The values used in `when` branches are normally symbolic exception names (see [exception names], page 92).

When the compiler processes the `on` statement it does the following:

1. Builds a unique wrapper function, similar to that described in Figure 4.1; The name of the function is constructed from the *condition* function name and an unsigned number, called *exception mask*, that is unique for each combination of exceptions used in `when` branches; To avoid name clashes with the user-defined functions, the wrapper name begins and ends with '`$`' which normally is not allowed in the identifiers;
2. Translates the `on` body to the corresponding `switch` statement;

A special form of the *condition* is `poll` keyword, whose syntax is:

```
poll [for] email
     [host host]
     [from domain]
     [as email]
```

The order of particular keywords in the `poll` statement is arbitrary, for example `as email` can appear before *email* as well as after it.

The simplest form, `poll email`, performs the standard sender verification of email address *email*. It is translated to the following function call:

```
stdpoll(email, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address)
```

The construct `poll email host host`, runs the strict sender verification of address *email* on the given host. It is translated to the following call:

```
strictpoll(host, email, ehlo_domain, mailfrom_address)
```

Other keywords of the `poll` statement modify these two basic forms. The `as` keyword introduces the email address to be used in the SMTP `MAIL FROM` command, instead of `mailfrom_address`. The `from` keyword sets the domain name to be used in `EHLO` command. So, for example the following construct:

```
poll email host host from domain as addr
```

is translated to

```
strictpoll(host, email, domain, addr)
```

To summarize the above, the code described in Figure 4.2 can be written as:

```
prog envfrom
do
  on poll $f do
  when success:
    accept
  when not_found or failure:
    reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
  when temp_failure:
    tempfail 450 4.1.0 "Try again later"
  done
done
```

4.21 Modules

A *module* is a logically isolated part of code that implements a separate concern or feature and contains a collection of conceptually united functions and/or data. Each module occupies a separate compilation unit (i.e. file). The functionality provided by a module is incorporated into another module or the main program by *requiring* this module or by *importing* the desired components from it.

4.21.1 Declaring Modules

A module file must begin with a *module declaration*:

```
module modname [interface-type].
```

Note the final dot.

The *modname* parameter declares the name of the module. It is recommended that it be the same as the file name without the '`.mf`' extension. The module name must be a valid MFL literal. It also must not coincide with any defined MFL symbol, therefore we recommend to always quote it (see example below).

The optional parameter *interface-type* defines the *default scope of visibility* for the symbols declared in this module. If it is '`public`', then all symbols declared in this module are made public (importable) by default, unless explicitly declared otherwise (see Section 4.21.2 [scope of visibility], page 101). If it is '`static`', then all symbols, not explicitly marked as public, become static. If the *interface-type* is not given, '`public`' is assumed.

The actual MFL code follows the '`module`' line.

The module definition is terminated by the *logical end* of its compilation unit, i.e. either by the end of file, or by the keyword `bye`, whichever occurs first.

Special keyword `bye` may be used to prematurely end the current compilation unit before the physical end of the containing file. Any material between `bye` and the end of file is ignored by the compiler.

Let's illustrate these concepts by writing a module '`revip`':

```
module 'revip' public.

func revip(string ip)
  returns string
do
  return inet_ntoa(ntohl(inet_aton(ip)))
done

bye

This text is ignored.  You may put any additional
documentation here.
```

4.21.2 Scope of Visibility

Scope of Visibility of a symbol defines from where this symbol may be referred to. Symbols in MFL may have either of the following two scopes:

Public Public symbols are visible from the current module, as well as from any external modules, including the main script file, provided that they are properly imported (see Section 4.21.3 [import], page 102).

Static Static symbols are visible only from the current module. There is no way to refer to them from outside.

The default scope of visibility for all symbols declared within a module is defined in the module declaration (see Section 4.21.1 [module structure], page 100). It may be overridden for any individual symbol by prefixing its declaration with an appropriate *qualifier*: either `public` or `static`.

4.21.3 Require and Import

Functions or variables declared in another module must be *imported* prior to their actual use. MFL provides two ways of doing so: by *requiring* the entire module or by importing selected symbols from it.

`require` *modname* [Module Import]

The `require` statement instructs the compiler to locate the module *modname* and to load all public interfaces from it.

The compiler looks for the file *`modname`*`.mf` in the current search path (see [include search path], page 51). If no such file is found, a compilation error is reported.

For example, the following statement:

```
require revip
```

imports all interfaces from the module `revip.mf`.

Another, more sophisticated way to import from a module is to use the '`from ... import`' construct:

```
from module import symbols.
```

Note the final dot. The '`from`' and '`module`' statements are the only two constructs in MFL that require the delimiter.

The *module* has the same semantics as in the `require` construct. The *symbols* is a comma-separated list of symbol names to import from *module*. A symbol name may be given in several forms:

1. Literal

   Literals specify exact symbol names to import. For example, the following statement imports from module `A.mf` symbols '`foo`' and '`bar`':

   ```
   from A import foo,bar.
   ```

2. Regular expression

   Regular expressions must be surrounded by slashes. A regular expression instructs the compiler to import all symbols whose names match that expression. For example, the following statement imports from `A.mf` all symbols whose names begin with '`foo`' and contain at least one digit after it:

   ```
   from A import '/^foo.*[0-9]/'.
   ```

   The type of regular expressions used in the '`from`' statement is controlled by `#pragma regex` (see Section 4.2.3 [regex], page 54).

3. Regular expression with transformation

   Regular expression may be followed by a *s-expression*, i.e. a `sed`-like expression of the form:

   ```
   s/regexp/replace/[flags]
   ```

   where *regexp* is a *regular expression*, *replace* is a replacement for each part of the input that matches *regexp*. S-expressions and their parts are discussed in detail in [s-expression], page 112.

   The effect of such construct is to import all symbols that match the regular expression and apply the s-expression to their names.

For example:

```
from A import '/^foo.*[0-9]/s/.*/my_&/'.
```

This statement imports all symbols whose names begin with '`foo`' and contain at least one digit after it, and renames them, by prefixing their names with the string '`my_`'. Thus, if `A.mf` declared a function '`foo_1`', it becomes visible under the name of '`my_foo_1`'.

4.22 MFL Preprocessor

Before compiling the script file, `mailfromd` preprocesses it. The built-in preprocessor handles only file inclusion (see [include], page 51), while the rest of traditional facilities, such as macro expansion, are supported via `m4`, which is used as an external preprocessor.

The detailed description of `m4` facilities lies far beyond the scope of this document. You will find a complete user manual in Section "GNU M4" in *GNU M4 macro processor*. For the rest of this section we assume the reader is sufficiently acquainted with `m4` macro processor.

The external preprocessor is invoked with `-s` flag, instructing it to include line synchronization information in its output, which is subsequently used by MFL compiler for purposes of error reporting. The initial set of macro definitions is supplied in file `pp-setup`, located in the library search path[8], which is fed to the preprocessor input before the script file itself. The default `pp-setup` file renames all `m4` built-in macro names so they all start with the prefix '`m4_`'[9]. It changes comment characters to '`/*`', '`*/`' pair, and leaves the default quoting characters, grave ('`‘`') and acute ('`’`') accents without change. Finally, `pp-setup` defines the following macros:

`boolean defined (`*identifier*`)` [M4 Macro]

The *identifier* must be the name of an optional abstract argument to the function. This macro must be used only within a function definition. It expands to the MFL expression that yields `true` if the actual parameter is supplied for *identifier*. For example:

```
func rcut(string text; number num)
  returns string
do
  if (defined(num))
    return substr(text, length(text) - num)
  else
    return text
  fi
done
```

This function will return last *num* characters of *text* if *num* is supplied, and entire *text* otherwise, e.g.:

```
rcut("text string") ⇒ "text string"
rcut("text string", 3) ⇒ "ing"
```

[8] It is usually located in `/usr/local/share/mailfromd/8.11/include/pp-setup`.

[9] This is similar to GNU m4 `--prefix-builtin` options. This approach was chosen to allow for using non-GNU `m4` implementations as well.

Invoking the `defined` macro with the name of a mandatory argument yields `true`

`printf` (*format*, ...) [M4 Macro]

Provides a `printf` statement, that formats its optional parameters in accordance with *format* and sends the resulting string to the current log output (see Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40). See Section 5.4 [String formatting], page 117, for a description of *format*.

Example usage:

```
printf('Function %s returned %d', funcname, retcode)
```

`string _` (*msgid*) [M4 Macro]

A convenience macro. Expands to a call to `gettext` (see Section 5.37 [NLS Functions], page 182).

`string_list_iterate` (*list*, *delim*, *var*, *code*) [M4 Macro]

This macro intends to compensate for the lack of array data type in MFL. It splits the string *list* into segments delimited by string *delim*. For each segment, the MFL code *code* is executed. The code can use the variable *var* to refer to the segment string.

For example, the following fragment prints names of all existing directories listed in the `PATH` environment variable:

```
string path getenv("PATH")
string seg

string_list_iterate(path, ":", seg, `
     if access(seg, F_OK)
       echo "%seg exists"
     fi')
```

Care should be taken to properly quote its arguments. In the code below the string `str` is treated as a comma-separated list of values. To avoid interpreting the comma as argument delimiter the second argument must be quoted:

```
string_list_iterate(str, `","', seg, `
     echo "next segment: " . seg')
```

`N_` (*msgid*) [M4 Macro]

A convenience macro, that expands to *msgid* verbatim. It is intended to mark the literal strings that should appear in the `.po` file, where actual call to `gettext` (see Section 5.37 [NLS Functions], page 182) cannot be used. For example:

```
/* Mark the variable for translation: cannot use gettext here */
string message N_("Mail accepted")

prog envfrom
do
  ...
  /* Translate and log the message */
  echo gettext(message)
```

You can obtain the preprocessed output, without starting actual compilation, using `-E` command line option:

```
$ mailfromd -E file.mf
```

The output is in the form of preprocessed source code, which is sent to the standard output. This can be useful, among others, to debug your own macro definitions.

Macro definitions and deletions can be made on the command line, by using the `-D` and `-U` options. They have the following format:

`-D` *name*`[=`*value*`]`
`--define=`*name*`[=`*value*`]`
: Define a symbol *name* to have a value *value*. If *value* is not supplied, the value is taken to be the empty string. The *value* can be any string, and the macro can be defined to take arguments, just as if it was defined from within the input using the `m4_define` statement.

  For example, the following invocation defines symbol `COMPAT` to have a value `43`:

  ```
  $ mailfromf -DCOMPAT=43
  ```

`-U` *name*

`--undefine=`*name*
: A counterpart of the `-D` option is the option `-U` (`--undefine`). It undefines a preprocessor symbol whose name is given as its argument. The following example undefines the symbol `COMPAT`:

  ```
  $ mailfromf -UCOMPAT
  ```

The following two options are supplied mainly for debugging purposes:

`--no-preprocessor`
: Disables the external preprocessor.

`--preprocessor=`*command*
: Use *command* as external preprocessor. Be especially careful with this option, because `mailfromd` cannot verify whether *command* is actually some kind of a preprocessor or not.

4.23 Example of a Filter Script File

In this section we will discuss a working example of the filter script file. For the ease of illustration, it is divided in several sections. Each section is prefaced with a comment explaining its function.

This filter assumes that the `mailfromd.conf` file contains the following:

```
relayed-domain-file (/etc/mail/sendmail.cw,
                     /etc/mail/relay-domains);
io-timeout 33;
database cache {
  negative-expire-interval 1 day;
  positive-expire-interval 2 weeks;
};
```

Of course, the exact parameter settings may vary, what is important is that they be declared. See Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193, for a description of `mailfromd` configuration file syntax.

Now, let's return to the script. Its first part defines the configuration settings for this host:

```
#pragma regex +extended +icase

set mailfrom_address "<>"
set ehlo_domain "gnu.org.ua"
```

The second part loads the necessary source modules:

```
require 'status'
require 'dns'
require 'rateok'
```

Next we define `envfrom` handler. In the first two rules, it accepts all mails coming from the null address and from the machines which we relay:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f = ""
    accept
  elif relayed hostname($client_addr)
    accept
  elif hostname($client_addr) = $client_addr
    reject 550 5.7.7 "IP address does not resolve"
```

Next rule rejects all messages coming from hosts with dynamic IP addresses. A regular expression used to catch such hosts is not 100% fail-proof, but it tries to cover most existing host naming patterns:

```
   elif hostname($client_addr) matches
         ".*(adsl|sdsl|hdsl|ldsl|xdsl|dialin|dialup|\
ppp|dhcp|dynamic|[-.]cpe[-.]).*"
     reject 550 5.7.1 "Use your SMTP relay"
```

Messages coming from the machines whose host names contain something similar to an IP are subject to strict checking:

```
  elif hostname($client_addr) matches
  ".*[0-9]{1,3}[-.][0-9]{1,3}[-.][0-9]{1,3}[-.][0-9]{1,3}.*"
    on poll host $client_addr for $f do
    when success:
      pass
    when not_found or failure:
      reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
    when temp_failure:
      tempfail
    done
```

If the sender domain is relayed by any of the '`yahoo.com`' or '`nameserver.com`' '`MX`'s, no checks are performed. We will greylist this message in `envrcpt` handler:

```
    elif $f mx fnmatches "*.yahoo.com"
         or $f mx fnmatches "*.namaeserver.com"
      pass
```

Finally, if the message does not meet any of the above conditions, it is verified by the standard procedure:

```
    else
      on poll $f do
      when success:
        pass
      when not_found or failure:
        reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
      when temp_failure:
        tempfail
      done
    fi
```

At the end of the handler we check if the sender-client pair does not exceed allowed mail sending rate:

```
    if not rateok("$f-$client_addr", interval("1 hour 30 minutes"), 100)
      tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Mail sending rate exceeded.  Try again later"
    fi
done
```

Next part defines the `envrcpt` handler. Its primary purpose is to greylist messages from some domains that could not be checked otherwise:

```
prog envrcpt
do
  set gltime 300
  if $f mx fnmatches "*.yahoo.com"
     or $f mx fnmatches "*.namaeserver.com"
     and not dbmap("/var/run/whitelist.db", $client_addr)
    if greylist("$client_addr-$f-$rcpt_addr", gltime)
      if greylist_seconds_left = gltime
        tempfail 450 4.7.0
               "You are greylisted for %gltime seconds"
      else
        tempfail 450 4.7.0
               "Still greylisted for " .
               %greylist_seconds_left . " seconds"
      fi
    fi
  fi
done
```

4.24 Reserved Words

For your reference, here is an alphabetical list of all reserved words:

- __defpreproc__

- __defstatedir__
- __file__
- __function__
- __line__
- __major__
- __minor__
- __module__
- __package__
- __patch__
- __preproc__
- __statedir__
- __version__
- accept
- add
- and
- alias
- begin
- break
- bye
- case
- catch
- const
- continue
- default
- delete
- discard
- do
- done
- echo
- end
- elif
- else
- fi
- fnmatches
- for
- from
- func
- if
- import

- loop
- matches
- module
- next
- not
- number
- on
- or
- pass
- precious
- prog
- public
- reject
- replace
- return
- returns
- require
- set
- static
- string
- switch
- tempfail
- throw
- try
- vaptr
- when
- while

Several keywords are context-dependent: `mx` is a keyword if it appears before `matches` or `fnmatches`. Following strings are keywords in `on` context:

- as
- host
- poll

The following keywords are preprocessor macros:

- defined
- _ (an underscore)
- N_

Any keyword beginning with a '`m4_`' prefix is a reserved preprocessor symbol.

5 The MFL Library Functions

This chapter describes library functions available in Mailfromd version 8.11. For the simplicity of explanation, we use the word '`boolean`' to indicate variables of numeric type that are used as boolean values. For such variables, the term '`False`' stands for the numeric 0, and '`True`' for any non-zero value.

5.1 Sendmail Macro Access Functions

`string getmacro` (*string* ***macro***) [Built-in Function]

Returns the value of Sendmail macro *macro*. If *macro* is not defined, raises the `e_macroundef` exception.

Calling `getmacro(`***name***`)` is completely equivalent to referencing `${`***name***`}`, except that it allows to construct macro names programmatically, e.g.:

```
if getmacro("auth_%var") = "foo"
  ...
fi
```

`boolean macro_defined` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]

Return true if Sendmail macro *name* is defined.

Notice, that if your MTA supports macro name negotiation[1], you will have to export macro names used by these two functions using '`#pragma miltermacros`' construct. Consider this example:

```
func authcheck(string name)
do
  string macname "auth_%name"
  if macro_defined(macname)
    if getmacro(macname)
      ...
    fi
  fi
done

#pragma miltermacros envfrom auth_authen

prog envfrom
do
  authcheck("authen")
done
```

In this case, the parser cannot deduce that the `envfrom` handler will attempt to reference the '`auth_authen`' macro, therefore the '`#pragma miltermacros`' is used to help it.

[1] That is, if it supports Milter protocol 6 and upper. Sendmail 8.14.0 and Postfix 2.6 and newer do. MeTA1 (via `pmult`) does as well. See Chapter 9 [MTA Configuration], page 211, for more details.

5.2 The sed function

The `sed` function allows you to transform a string by replacing parts of it that match a regular expression with another string. This function is somewhat similar to the `sed` command line utility (hence its name) and bears similarities to analogous functions in other programming languages (e.g. `sub` in `awk` or the `s//` operator in `perl`).

`string sed` (*string* ***subject***, ***expr***, ...) [Built-in Function]

The *expr* argument is an *s-expressions* of the the form:

```
s/regexp/replacement/[flags]
```

where *regexp* is a *regular expression*, and *replacement* is a replacement string for each part of the *subject* that matches *regexp*. When `sed` is invoked, it attempts to match *subject* against the *regexp*. If the match succeeds, the portion of *subject* which was matched is replaced with *replacement*. Depending on the value of *flags* (see [global replace], page 112), this process may continue until the entire *subject* has been scanned.

The resulting output serves as input for next argument, if such is supplied. The process continues until all arguments have been applied.

The function returns the output of the last s-expression.

Both *regexp* and *replacement* are described in detail in Section "The 's' Command" in *GNU sed*.

Supported *flags* are:

'`g`' Apply the replacement to *all* matches to the *regexp*, not just the first.

'`i`' Use case-insensitive matching. In the absense of this flag, the value set by the recent `#pragma regex icase` is used (see [pragma regex], page 54).

'`x`' *regexp* is an *extended regular expression* (see Section "Extended regular expressions" in *GNU sed*). In the absense of this flag, the value set by the recent `#pragma regex extended` (if any) is used (see [pragma regex], page 54).

'***number***' Only replace the *number*th match of the *regexp*.

Note: the POSIX standard does not specify what should happen when you mix the '`g`' and *number* modifiers. `Mailfromd` follows the GNU `sed` implementation in this regard, so the interaction is defined to be: ignore matches before the *number*th, and then match and replace all matches from the *number*th on.

Any delimiter can be used in lieue of '`/`', the only requirement being that it be used consistently throughout the expression. For example, the following two expressions are equivalent:

```
s/one/two/
s,one,two,
```

Changing delimiters is often useful when the *regex* contains slashes. For instance, it is more convenient to write `s,/,-,` than `s/\//-/`.

Here is an example of `sed` usage:

```
set email sed(input, 's/^<(.*)>$/\1/x')
```

It removes angle quotes from the value of the 'input' variable and assigns the result to 'email'.

To apply several s-expressions to the same input, you can either give them as multiple arguments to the sed function:

```
set email sed(input, 's/^<(.*)>$/\1/x', 's/(.+@)(.+)/\1\L\2\E/x')
```

or give them in a single argument separated with semicolons:

```
set email sed(input, 's/^<(.*)>$/\1/x;s/(.+@)(.+)/\1\L\2\E/x')
```

Both examples above remove optional angle quotes and convert the domain name part to lower case.

Regular expressions used in sed arguments are controlled by the #pragma regex, as another expressions used throughout the MFL source file. To avoid using the 'x' modifier in the above example, one can write:

```
#pragma regex +extended
set email sed(input, 's/^<(.*)>$/\1/', 's/(.+@)(.+)/\1\L\2\E/')
```

See Section 4.2.3 [regex], page 54, for details about that #pragma.

So far all examples used constant s-expressions. However, this is not a requirement. If necessary, the expression can be stored in a variable or even constructed on the fly before passing it as argument to sed. For example, assume that you wish to remove the domain part from the value, but only if that part matches one of predefined domains. Let a regular expression that matches these domains be stored in the variable domain_rx. Then this can be done as follows:

```
set email sed(input, "s/(.+)(@%domain_rx)/\1/")
```

If the constructed regular expression uses variables whose value should be matched exactly, such variables must be quoted before being used as part of the regexp. Mailfromd provides a convenience function for this:

`string qr` (*string* ***str***[*; string* ***delim***]) [Built-in Function]

Quote the string *str* as a regular expression. This function selects the characters to be escaped using the currently selected regular expression flavor (see Section 4.2.3 [regex], page 54). At most two additional characters that must be escaped can be supplied in the *delim* optional parameter. For example, to quote the variable 'x' for use in double-quoted s-expression:

```
qr(x, '/"')
```

5.3 String Manipulation Functions

`string escape` (*string* ***str***, [*string* ***chars***]) [Built-in Function]

Returns a copy of *str* with the characters from *chars* escaped, i.e. prefixed with a backslash. If *chars* is not specified, '\"' is assumed.

```
escape('"a\tstr"ing') ⇒ '\"a\\tstr\"ing'
escape('new "value"', '\" ') ⇒ 'new\ \"value\"'
```

`string unescape` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]

Performs the reverse to 'escape', i.e. removes any prefix backslash characters.

```
unescape('a \"quoted\" string') ⇒ 'a "quoted" string'
```

`string unescape` (*string* **`str`**, [*string* **`chars`**]) [Built-in Function]

`string domainpart` (*string* **`str`**) [Built-in Function]
Returns the domain part of *str*, if it is a valid email address, otherwise returns *str* itself.

```
domainpart("gray") ⇒ "gray"
domainpart("gray@gnu.org.ua") ⇒ "gnu.org.ua"
```

`number index` (*string* **`s`**, *string* **`t`**) [Built-in Function]
`number index` (*string* **`s`**, *string* **`t`**, *number* **`start`**) [Built-in Function]
Returns the index of the first occurrence of the string *t* in the string *s*, or -1 if *t* is not present.

```
index("string of rings", "ring") ⇒ 2
```

Optional argument *start*, if supplied, indicates the position in string where to start searching.

```
index("string of rings", "ring", 3) ⇒ 10
```

To find the last occurrence of a substring, use the function *rindex* (see [rindex], page 115).

`number interval` (*string* **`str`**) [Built-in Function]
Converts *str*, which should be a valid time interval specification (see [time interval specification], page 194), to seconds.

`number length` (*string* **`str`**) [Built-in Function]
Returns the length of the string *str* in bytes.

```
length("string") ⇒ 6
```

`string dequote` (*string* **`str`**) [Built-in Function]
Removes '`<`' and '`>`' surrounding *str*. If *str* is not enclosed by angle brackets or these are unbalanced, the argument is returned unchanged:

```
dequote("<root@gnu.org.ua>") ⇒ "root@gnu.org.ua"
dequote("root@gnu.org.ua") ⇒ "root@gnu.org.ua"
dequote("there>") ⇒ "there>"
```

`string localpart` (*string* **`str`**) [Built-in Function]
Returns the local part of *str* if it is a valid email address, otherwise returns *str* unchanged.

```
localpart("gray") ⇒ "gray"
localpart("gray@gnu.org.ua") ⇒ "gray"
```

`string replstr` (*string* **`s`**, *number* **`n`**) [Built-in Function]
Replicate a string, i.e. return a string, consisting of *s* repeated *n* times:

```
replstr("12", 3) ⇒ "121212"
```

`string revstr` (*string* **`s`**) [Built-in Function]
Returns the string composed of the characters from *s* in reversed order:

```
revstr("foobar") ⇒ "raboof"
```

`number rindex` (*string* `s`, *string* `t`) [Built-in Function]
`number rindex` (*string* `s`, *string* `t`, *number* `start`) [Built-in Function]
Returns the index of the last occurrence of the string *t* in the string *s*, or -1 if *t* is not present.

```
rindex("string of rings", "ring") ⇒ 10
```

Optional argument *start*, if supplied, indicates the position in string where to start searching. E.g.:

```
rindex("string of rings", "ring", 10) ⇒ 2
```

See also [String manipulation], page 114.

`string substr` (*string* `str`, *number* `start`) [Built-in Function]
`string substr` (*string* `str`, *number* `start`, *number* `length`) [Built-in Function]
Returns the at most *length*-character substring of *str* starting at *start*. If *length* is omitted, the rest of *str* is used.

If *length* is greater than the actual length of the string, the `e_range` exception is signalled.

```
substr("mailfrom", 4) ⇒ "from"
substr("mailfrom", 4, 2) ⇒ "fr"
```

`string substring` (*string* `str`, *number* `start`, *number* `end`) [Built-in Function]
Returns a substring of *str* between offsets *start* and *end*, inclusive. Negative *end* means offset from the end of the string. In other words, yo obtain a substring from *start* to the end of the string, use `substring(str, start, -1)`:

```
substring("mailfrom", 0, 3) ⇒ "mail"
substring("mailfrom", 2, 5) ⇒ "ilfr"
substring("mailfrom", 4, -1) ⇒ "from"
substring("mailfrom", 4, length("mailfrom") - 1) ⇒ "from"
substring("mailfrom", 4, -2) ⇒ "fro"
```

This function signals `e_range` exception if either *start* or *end* are outside the string length.

`string tolower` (*string* `str`) [Built-in Function]
Returns a copy of the string *str*, with all the upper-case characters translated to their corresponding lower-case counterparts. Non-alphabetic characters are left unchanged.

```
tolower("MAIL") ⇒ "mail"
```

`string toupper` (*string* `str`) [Built-in Function]
Returns a copy of the string *str*, with all the lower-case characters translated to their corresponding upper-case counterparts. Non-alphabetic characters are left unchanged.

```
toupper("mail") ⇒ "MAIL"
```

`string ltrim` (*string* `str`[, *string* `cset`) [Built-in Function]
Returns a copy of the input string *str* with any leading characters present in *cset* removed. If the latter is not given, white space is removed (spaces, tabs, newlines, carriage returns, and line feeds).

```
ltrim("  a string") ⇒ "a string"
```

```
ltrim("089", "0") ⇒ "89"
```

Note the last example. It shows how `ltrim` can be used to convert decimal numbers in string representation that begins with '`0`'. Normally such strings will be treated as representing octal numbers. If they are indeed decimal, use `ltrim` to strip off the leading zeros, e.g.:

```
set dayofyear ltrim(strftime('%j', time()), "0")
```

`string rtrim` (*string* `str`[, *string* `cset`) [Built-in Function]
Returns a copy of the input string *str* with any trailing characters present in *cset* removed. If the latter is not given, white space is removed (spaces, tabs, newlines, carriage returns, and line feeds).

`number vercmp` (*string* `a`, *string* `b`) [Built-in Function]
Compares two strings as `mailfromd` version numbers. The result is negative if *b* precedes *a*, zero if they refer to the same version, and positive if *b* follows *a*:

```
vercmp("5.0", "5.1") ⇒ 1
vercmp("4.4", "4.3") ⇒ -1
vercmp("4.3.1", "4.3") ⇒ -1
vercmp("8.0", "8.0") ⇒ 0
```

`string sa_format_score` (*number* `code`, *number* `prec`) [Library Function]
Format *code* as a floating-point number with *prec* decimal digits:

```
sa_format_score(5000, 3) ⇒ "5.000"
```

This function is convenient for formatting SpamAssassin scores for use in message headers and textual reports. It is defined in module `sa.mf`.

See [sa], page 159, for examples of its use.

`string sa_format_report_header` (*string* `text`) [Library Function]
Format a SpamAssassin report text in order to include it in a RFC 822 header. This function selects the score listing from *text*, and prefixes each line with '`* `'. Its result looks like:

```
*  0.2 NO_REAL_NAME           From: does not include a real name
*  0.1 HTML_MESSAGE           BODY: HTML included in message
```

See [sa], page 159, for examples of its use.

`string strip_domain_part` (*string* `domain`, *number* `n`) [Library Function]
Returns at most *n* last components of the domain name *domain*. If *n* is 0 the function returns *domain*.

This function is defined in the module `strip_domain_part.mf` (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

Examples:

```
require strip_domain_part
strip_domain_part("puszcza.gnu.org.ua", 2) ⇒ "org.ua"
strip_domain_part("puszcza.gnu.org.ua", 0) ⇒ "puszcza.gnu.org.ua"
```

`boolean is_ip` (*string* ***str***) [Library Function]

Returns '`true`' if *str* is a valid IPv4 address. This function is defined in the module `is_ip.mf` (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

For example:

```
require is_ip

is_ip("1.2.3.4") ⇒ 1
is_ip("1.2.3.x") ⇒ 0
is_ip("blah") ⇒ 0
is_ip("255.255.255.255") ⇒ 1
is_ip("0.0.0.0") ⇒ 1
```

`string revip` (*string* ***ip***) [Library Function]

Reverses octets in *ip*, which must be a valid string representation of an IPv4 address.

Example:

```
revip("127.0.0.1") ⇒ "1.0.0.127"
```

`string verp_extract_user` (*string* ***email***, *string* ***domain***) [Library Function]

If *email* is a valid VERP-style email address for *domain*, this function returns the user name, corresponding to that email. Otherwise, it returns empty string.

```
verp_extract_user("gray=gnu.org.ua@tuhs.org", 'gnu\..*')
  ⇒ "gray"
```

5.4 String formatting

`string sprintf` (*string* ***format***, ...) [Built-in Function]

The function `sprintf` formats its argument according to *format* (see below) and returns the resulting string. It takes varying number of parameters, the only mandatory one being *format*.

Format string

The format string is a simplified version of the format argument to C `printf`-family functions.

The format string is composed of zero or more *directives*: ordinary characters (not '`%`'), which are copied unchanged to the output stream; and *conversion specifications*, each of which results in fetching zero or more subsequent arguments. Each conversion specification is introduced by the character '`%`', and ends with a conversion specifier. In between there may be (in this order) zero or more *flags*, an optional *minimum field width*, and an optional *precision*.

Notice, that in practice that means that you should use single quotes with the *format* arguments, to protect conversion specifications from being recognized as variable references (see [singe-vs-double], page 57).

No type conversion is done on arguments, so it is important that the supplied arguments match their corresponding conversion specifiers. By default, the arguments are used in the order given, where each '`*`' and each conversion specifier asks for the next argument. If

insufficiently many arguments are given, `sprintf` raises '`e_range`' exception. One can also specify explicitly which argument is taken, at each place where an argument is required, by writing '*%m*$', instead of '`%`' and '**m*$' instead of '`*`', where the decimal integer *m* denotes the position in the argument list of the desired argument, indexed starting from 1. Thus,

```
sprintf('%*d', width, num);
```

and

```
sprintf('%2$*1$d', width, num);
```

are equivalent. The second style allows repeated references to the same argument.

Flag characters

The character '`%`' is followed by zero or more of the following *flags*:

'`#`' The value should be converted to an *alternate form*. For '`o`' conversions, the first character of the output string is made zero (by prefixing a '`0`' if it was not zero already). For '`x`' and '`X`' conversions, a non-zero result has the string '`0x`' (or '`0X`' for '`X`' conversions) prepended to it. Other conversions are not affected by this flag.

'`0`' The value should be zero padded. For '`d`', '`i`', '`o`', '`u`', '`x`', and '`X`' conversions, the converted value is padded on the left with zeros rather than blanks. If the '`0`' and '`-`' flags both appear, the '`0`' flag is ignored. If a precision is given, the '`0`' flag is ignored. Other conversions are not affected by this flag.

'`-`' The converted value is to be left adjusted on the field boundary. (The default is right justification.) The converted value is padded on the right with blanks, rather than on the left with blanks or zeros. A '`-`' overrides a '`0`' if both are given.

'` ` (a space)' A blank should be left before a positive number (or empty string) produced by a signed conversion.

'`+`' A sign ('`+`' or '`-`') always be placed before a number produced by a signed conversion. By default a sign is used only for negative numbers. A '`+`' overrides a space if both are used.

Field width

An optional decimal digit string (with nonzero first digit) specifying a minimum field width. If the converted value has fewer characters than the field width, it will be padded with spaces on the left (or right, if the left-adjustment flag has been given). Instead of a decimal digit string one may write '`*`' or '**m*$' (for some decimal integer *m*) to specify that the field width is given in the next argument, or in the *m*-th argument, respectively, which must be of numeric type. A negative field width is taken as a '`-`' flag followed by a positive field width. In no case does a non-existent or small field width cause truncation of a field; if the result of a conversion is wider than the field width, the field is expanded to contain the conversion result.

Precision

An optional precision, in the form of a period (‘`.`’) followed by an optional decimal digit string. Instead of a decimal digit string one may write ‘`*`’ or ‘*m*`$`’ (for some decimal integer *m*) to specify that the precision is given in the next argument, or in the *m*-th argument, respectively, which must be of numeric type. If the precision is given as just ‘`.`’, or the precision is negative, the precision is taken to be zero. This gives the minimum number of digits to appear for ‘`d`’, ‘`i`’, ‘`o`’, ‘`u`’, ‘`x`’, and ‘`X`’ conversions, or the maximum number of characters to be printed from a string for the ‘`s`’ conversion.

Conversion specifier

A character that specifies the type of conversion to be applied. The conversion specifiers and their meanings are:

d
i
: The numeric argument is converted to signed decimal notation. The precision, if any, gives the minimum number of digits that must appear; if the converted value requires fewer digits, it is padded on the left with zeros. The default precision is ‘`1`’. When ‘`0`’ is printed with an explicit precision ‘`0`’, the output is empty.

o
u
x
X
: The numeric argument is converted to unsigned octal (‘`o`’), unsigned decimal (‘`u`’), or unsigned hexadecimal (‘`x`’ and ‘`X`’) notation. The letters ‘`abcdef`’ are used for ‘`x`’ conversions; the letters ‘`ABCDEF`’ are used for ‘`X`’ conversions. The precision, if any, gives the minimum number of digits that must appear; if the converted value requires fewer digits, it is padded on the left with zeros. The default precision is ‘`1`’. When ‘`0`’ is printed with an explicit precision 0, the output is empty.

s
: The string argument is written to the output. If a precision is specified, no more than the number specified of characters are written.

%
: A ‘`%`’ is written. No argument is converted. The complete conversion specification is ‘`%%`’.

5.5 Character Type

These functions check whether all characters of *str* fall into a certain character class according to the ‘`C`’ (‘`POSIX`’) locale[2]. ‘`True`’ (1) is returned if they do, ‘`false`’ (0) is returned otherwise. In the latter case, the global variable `ctype_mismatch` is set to the index of the first character that is outside of the character class (characters are indexed from 0).

`boolean isalnum` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]

Checks for alphanumeric characters:

```
isalnum("a123") ⇒ 1
isalnum("a.123") ⇒ 0 (ctype_mismatch = 1)
```

[2] Support for other locales is planned for future versions.

`boolean isalpha` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for an alphabetic character:

```
isalnum("abc") ⇒ 1
isalnum("a123") ⇒ 0
```

`boolean isascii` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks whether all characters in *str* are 7-bit ones, that fit into the ASCII character set.

```
isascii("abc") ⇒ 1
isascii("ab\0200") ⇒ 0
```

`boolean isblank` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks if *str* contains only blank characters; that is, spaces or tabs.

`boolean iscntrl` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for control characters.

`boolean isdigit` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for digits (0 through 9).

`boolean isgraph` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for any printable characters except spaces.

`boolean islower` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for lower-case characters.

`boolean isprint` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for printable characters including space.

`boolean ispunct` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for any printable characters which are not a spaces or alphanumeric characters.

`boolean isspace` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for white-space characters, i.e.: space, form-feed (‘`\f`’), newline (‘`\n`’), carriage return (‘`\r`’), horizontal tab (‘`\t`’), and vertical tab (‘`\v`’).

`boolean isupper` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for uppercase letters.

`boolean isxdigit` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
Checks for hexadecimal digits, i.e. one of ‘`0`’, ‘`1`’, ‘`2`’, ‘`3`’, ‘`4`’, ‘`5`’, ‘`6`’, ‘`7`’, ‘`8`’, ‘`9`’, ‘`a`’, ‘`b`’, ‘`c`’, ‘`d`’, ‘`e`’, ‘`f`’, ‘`A`’, ‘`B`’, ‘`C`’, ‘`D`’, ‘`E`’, ‘`F`’.

5.6 Email processing functions.

`number email_map` (*string* ***email***) [Built-in Function]
Parses *email* and returns a bitmap, consisting of zero or more of the following flags:

‘`EMAIL_MULTIPLE`’
email has more than one email address.

'EMAIL_COMMENTS'
: *email* has comment parts.

'EMAIL_PERSONAL'
: *email* has personal part.

'EMAIL_LOCAL'
: *email* has local part.

'EMAIL_DOMAIN'
: *email* has domain part.

'EMAIL_ROUTE'
: *email* has route part.

These constants are declared in the `email.mf` module. The function `email_map` returns 0 if its argument is not a valid email address.

`boolean email_valid` (*string* ***email***) [Library Function]

Returns 'True' (1) if *email* is a valid email address, consisting of local and domain parts only. E.g.:

```
email_valid("gray@gnu.org") ⇒ 1
email_valid("gray") ⇒ 0
email_valid('"Sergey Poznyakoff <gray@gnu.org>') ⇒ 0
```

This function is defined in `email.mf` (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

5.7 Envelope Modification Functions

Envelope modification functions set sender and add or delete recipient addresses from the message envelope. This allows MFL scripts to redirect messages to another addresses.

`void set_from` (*string* ***email*** [, *string* ***args***]) [Built-in Function]

Sets envelope sender address to *email*, which must be a valid email address. Optional *args* supply arguments to ESMTP 'MAIL FROM' command.

`void rcpt_add` (*string* ***address***) [Built-in Function]

Add the e-mail *address* to the envelope.

`void rcpt_delete` (*string* ***address***) [Built-in Function]

Remove *address* from the envelope.

The following example code uses these functions to implement a simple alias-like capability:

```
prog envrcpt
do
   string alias dbget(aliasdb, $1, "NULL", 1)
   if alias != "NULL"
     rcpt_delete($1)
     rcpt_add(alias)
   fi
done
```

5.8 Header Modification Functions

There are two ways to modify message headers in a MFL script. First is to use header actions, described in Section 4.16.1 [Actions], page 85, and the second way is to use message modification functions. Compared with the actions, the functions offer a series of advantages. For example, using functions you can construct the name of the header to operate upon (e.g. by concatenating several arguments), something which is impossible when using actions. Moreover, apart from three basic operations (add, modify and remove), as supported by header actions, header functions allow to insert a new header into a particular place.

`void header_add` (*string* `name`, *string* `value`) [Built-in Function]
Adds a header '*`name`*`: value`' to the message.

In contrast to the `add` action, this function allows to construct the header name using arbitrary MFL expressions.

`void header_add` (*string* `name`, *string* `value`, *number* `idx`) [Built-in Function]
This syntax is preserved for backward compatibility. It is equivalent to `header_insert`, which see.

`void header_insert` (*string* `name`, *string* `value`, *number* `idx`) [Built-in Function]
This function inserts a header '*`name`*`: 'value''` at *idx*th header position in the internal list of headers maintained by the MTA. That list contains headers added to the message either by the filter or by the MTA itself, but not the headers included in the message itself. Some of the headers in this list are conditional, e.g. the ones added by the '`H?`*`cond`*`?`' directive in `sendmail.cf`. MTA evaluates them after all header modifications have been done and removes those of headers for which they yield false. This means that the position at which the header added by `header_insert` will appear in the final message will differ from *idx*.

`void header_delete` (*string* `name` [, *number* `index`]) [Built-in Function]
Delete header *name* from the envelope. If *index* is given, delete *index*th instance of the header *name*.

Notice the differences between this function and the `delete` action:

1. It allows to construct the header name, whereas `delete` requires it to be a literal string.
2. Optional *index* argument allows to select a particular header instance to delete.

`void header_replace` (*string* `name`, *string* `value` [, *number* `index`]) [Built-in Function]
Replace the value of the header *name* with *value*. If *index* is given, replace *index*th instance of header *name*.

Notice the differences between this function and the `replace` action:

1. It allows to construct the header name, whereas `replace` requires it to be a literal string.
2. Optional *index* argument allows to select a particular header instance to replace.

`void header_rename` (*string* `name`, *string* `newname`[, *number* `idx`]) [Library Function]

Defined in the module `header_rename.mf`.
Available only in the '`eom`' handler.

Renames the *idx*th instance of header *name* to *newname*. If *idx* is not given, assumes 1.

If the specified header or the *idx* instance of it is not present in the current message, the function silently returns. All other errors cause run-time exception.

The position of the renamed header in the header list is not preserved.

The example below renames '`Subject`' header to '`X-Old-Subject`':

```
require 'header_rename'

prog eom
do
  header_rename("Subject", "X-Old-Subject")
done
```

`void header_prefix_all` (*string* `name` [, *string* `prefix`]) [Library Function]

Defined in the module `header_rename.mf`.
Available only in the '`eom`' handler.

Renames all headers named *name* by prefixing them with *prefix*. If *prefix* is not supplied, removes all such headers.

All renamed headers will be placed in a continuous block in the header list. The absolute position in the header list will change. Relative ordering of renamed headers will be preserved.

`void header_prefix_pattern` (*string* `pattern`, *string* `prefix`) [Library Function]

Defined in the module `header_rename.mf`.
Available only in the '`eom`' handler.

Renames all headers with names matching *pattern* (in the sense of `fnmatch`, see Section 4.14.7 [Special comparisons], page 79) by prefixing them with *prefix*.

All renamed headers will be placed in a continuous block in the header list. The absolute position in the header list will change. Relative ordering of renamed headers will be preserved.

If called with one argument, removes all headers matching *pattern*.

For example, to prefix all headers beginning with '`X-Spamd-`' with an additional '`X-`':

```
require 'header_rename'

prog eom
do
  header_prefix_pattern("X-Spamd-*", "X-")
done
```

5.9 Body Modification Functions

Body modification is an experimental feature of MFL. The version 8.11 provides only one function for that purpose.

`void replbody` (*string* `text`) [Built-in Function]

Replace the body of the message with *text*. Notice, that *text* must not contain RFC 822 headers. See the previous section if you want to manipulate message headers.

Example:

```
replbody("Body of this message has been removed by the mail filter.")
```

No restrictions are imposed on the format of *text*.

`void replbody_fd` (*number* `fd`) [Built-in Function]

Replaces the body of the message with the content of the stream *fd*. Use this function if the body is very big, or if it is returned by an external program.

Notice that this function starts reading from the current position in *fd*. Use `rewind` if you wish to read from the beginning of the stream.

The example below shows how to preprocess the body of the message using external program `/usr/bin/mailproc`, which is supposed to read the body from its standard input and write the processed text to its standard output:

```
number fd   # Temporary file descriptor

prog data
do
  # Open the temporary file
  set fd tempfile()
done

prog body
do
  # Write the body to it.
  write_body(fd, $1, $2)
done

prog eom
do
  # Use the resulting stream as the stdin to the mailproc
  # command and read the new body from its standard output.
  rewind(fd)
  replbody_fd(spawn("</usr/bin/mailproc", fd))
done
```

5.10 Message Modification Queue

Message modification functions described in the previous subsections do not take effect immediately, in the moment they are called. Instead they store the requested changes in

the internal *message modification queue*. These changes are applied at the end of processing, before '`eom`' stage finishes (see Figure 3.1).

One important consequence of this way of operation is that calling any MTA action (see Section 4.16.1 [Actions], page 85), causes all prior modifications to the message to be ignored. That is because after receiving the action command, MTA will not call filter for that message any more. In particular, the '`eom`' handler will not be called, and the message modification queue will not be flushed. While it is logical for such actions as `reject` or `tempfail`, it may be quite confusing for `accept`. Consider, for example, the following code:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $1 == ""
    header_add("X-Filter", "foo")
    accept
  fi
done
```

Obviously, the intention was to add a '`X-Filter`' header and accept the message if it was sent from the null address. What happens in reality, however, is a bit different: the message is accepted, but no header is added to it. If you need to accept the message and retain any modifications you have done to it, you need to use an auxiliary variable, e.g.:

```
number accepted 0
prog envfrom
do
  if $1 == ""
    header_add("X-Filter", "foo")
    set accepted 1
  fi
done
```

Then, test this variable for non-zero value at the beginning of each subsequent handler, e.g.:

```
prog data
do
  if accepted
    continue
  fi
  ...
done
```

To help you trace such problematic usages of `accept`, `mailfromd` emits the following warning:

```
RUNTIME WARNING near /etc/mailfromd.mf:36: ‘accept’ causes previous
message modification commands to be ignored; call mmq_purge() prior
to ‘accept’, to suppress this warning
```

If it is OK to lose all modifications, call `mmq_purge`, as suggested in this message.

`void mmq_purge ()` [Built-in Function]

Remove all modification requests from the queue. This function undoes the effect of any of the following functions, if they had been called previously: `rcpt_add`, `rcpt_`

`delete`, `header_add`, `header_insert`, `header_delete`, `header_replace`, `replbody`, `quarantine`.

5.11 Mail Header Functions

`string message_header_encode` (*string* `text`, [*string* `enc`, *string* `charset`]) [Built-in Function]

Encode *text* in accordance with RFC 2047. Optional arguments:

enc Encoding to use. Valid values are '`quoted-printable`', or '`Q`' (the default) and '`base64`', or '`B`'.

charset Character set. By default '`UTF-8`'.

If the function is unable to encode the string, it raises the exception `e_failure`.

For example:

```
set string "Keld Jørn Simonsen <keld@dkuug.dk>"
message_header_encode(string, "ISO-8859-1")
  ⇒ "=?ISO-8859-1?Q?Keld_J=F8rn_Simonsen?= <keld@dkuug.dk>"
```

`string message_header_decode` (*string* `text`, [*string* `charset`]) [Built-in Function]

text must be a header value encoded in accordance with RFC 2047. The function returns the decoded string. If the decoding fails, it raises `e_failure` exception. The optional argument *charset* specifies the character set to use (default – '`UTF-8`').

```
set string "=?ISO-8859-1?Q?Keld_J=F8rn_Simonsen?= <keld@dkuug.dk>"
message_header_decode(string)
 ⇒ "Keld Jørn Simonsen <keld@dkuug.dk>"
```

`string unfold` (*string* `text`) [Built-in Function]

If *text* is a "folded" multi-line RFC 2822 header value, unfold it. If *text* is a single-line string, return its unchanged copy.

For example, suppose that the message being processed contained the following header:

```
List-Id: Sent bugreports to
  <some-address@some.net>
```

Then, applying `unfold` to its value[3] will produce:

```
Sent bugreports to <some-address@some.net>
```

[3] For example:

```
prog header
do
  echo unfold($2)
done
```

5.12 Mail Body Functions

`string body_string` (*pointer* `text`, *number* `count`) [Built-in Function]
Converts first *count* bytes from the memory location pointed to by *text* into a regular string.

This function is intended to convert the `$1` argument passed to a `body` handler to a regular MFL string. For more information about its use, see [body handler], page 69.

`bool body_has_nulls` (*pointer* `text`, *number* `count`) [Built-in Function]
Returns '`True`' if first *count* bytes of the string pointed to by *text* contain ASCII NUL characters.

Example:

```
prog body
do
  if body_has_nulls($1, $2)
    reject
  fi
done
```

5.13 EOM Functions

The following function is available only in the '`eom`' handler:

`void progress ()` [Built-in Function]
Notify the MTA that the filter is still processing the message. This causes MTA to restart its timeouts and allows additional amount of time for execution of '`eom`'.

Use this function if your '`eom`' handler needs additional time for processing the message (e.g. for scanning a very big MIME message). You may call it several times, if the need be, although such usage is not recommended.

5.14 Current Message Functions

`number current_message ()` [Built-in Function]
This function can be used in `eom` handlers only. It returns a message descriptor referring to the current message. See Section 5.16 [Message functions], page 129, for a description of functions for accessing messages.

The functions below access the headers from the current message. They are available in the following handlers: `eoh`, `body`, `eom`.

`number current_header_count` ([*string* `name`]) [Built-in Function]
Return number of headers in the current message. If *name* is specified, return number of headers that have this name.

```
current_header_count() ⇒ 6
current_header_count("Subject") ⇒ 1
```

`string current_header_nth_name` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Return the name of the *n*th header. The index *n* is 1-based.

`string current_header_nth_value` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Return the value of the *n*th header. The index *n* is 1-based.

`string current_header` (*string name* [, *number* `n`]) [Built-in Function]
Return the value of the named header, e.g.:

```
set s current_header("Subject")
```

Optional second argument specifies the header instance, if there are more than 1 header of the same name, e.g.:

```
set s current_header("Received", 2)
```

Header indices are 1-based.

All current_header function raise the `e_not_found` exception if the requested header was not found.

5.15 Mailbox Functions

A set of functions is provided for accessing mailboxes and messages within them. In this subsection we describe the functions for accessing mailboxes.

A mailbox is opened using `mailbox_open` function:

`number mailbox_open` (*string* `url` [, *string* `mode`, *string* `perms`]) [Built-in Function]
Open a mailbox identified by *url*. Return a *mailbox descriptor*: a unique numeric identifier that can subsequently be used to access this mailbox.

The optional *mode* argument specifies the access mode for the mailbox. Its valid values are:

Value	**Meaning**
r	Open mailbox for reading. This is the default.
w	Open mailbox for writing. If the mailbox does not exist, it is created.
rw	Open mailbox for reading and writing. If the mailbox does not exist, it is created.
wr	Same as '`rw`'.
w+	Open mailbox for reading and writing. If the mailbox does not exist, it is created.
a	Open mailbox for appending messages to it. If the mailbox does not exist, an exception is signalled.
a+	Open mailbox for appending messages to it. If the mailbox does not exist, it is created.

The optional *perms* argument specifies the permissions to use in case a new file (or files) is created. It is a comma-separated list of:

```
[go](+|=)[wr]+
```

The initial letter controls which users' access is to be set: users in the file's group ('`g`') or other users not in the file's group ('`o`'). The following character controls whether the permissions are added to the default ones ('`+`') or applied instead of them ('`=`').

The remaining letters specify the permissions: '`r`' for read access and '`w`' for write access. For example:

```
g=rw,o+r
```

The number of mailbox descriptors available for simultaneous opening is 64. This value can be changed using the `max-open-mailboxes` runtime configuration statement (see Section 7.10 [conf-runtime], page 201).

`number mailbox_messages_count` (*number* ***nmbx***) [Built-in Function]
Return the number of messages in mailbox. The argument *nmbx* is a valid mailbox descriptor as returned by a previous call to `mailbox_open`.

`number mailbox_get_message` (*number* ***mbx***, *number* ***n***) [Built-in Function]
Retrieve *n*th message from the mailbox identified by descriptor *mbx*. On success, the function returns a *message descriptor*, an integer number that can subsequently be used to access that message (see Section 5.16 [Message functions], page 129). On error, an exception is raised.

Messages in a mailbox are numbered starting from 1.

`void mailbox_close` (*number* ***nmbx***) [Built-in Function]
Close a mailbox previously opened by `mailbox_open`.

`void mailbox_append_message` (*number* ***nmbx***, *number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Append message *nmsg* to mailbox *nmbx*. The message descriptor *nsmg* must be obtained from a previous call to `mailbox_get_message` or `current_message` (see [current_message], page 127).

5.16 Message Functions

The functions described below retrieve information from RFC822 messages. The message to operate upon is identified by its *descriptor*, an integer number returned by the previous call to `mailbox_get_message` (see Section 5.15 [Mailbox functions], page 128) or `current_message` (see [current_message], page 127) function. The maximum number of message descriptors is limited by 1024. You can change this limit using the `max-open-messages` runtime configuration statement (see Section 7.10 [conf-runtime], page 201).

`number message_size` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return the size of the message *nmsg*, in bytes. *Notice*, that if *nmsg* refers to current message (see [current_message], page 127), the returned value is less than the size seen by the MTA, because `mailfromd` recodes CR-LF sequences to LF, i.e. removes carriage returns (ASCII 13) occurring before line feeds (ASCII 10. To obtain actual message length as seen by the MTA, add the number of lines in the message:

```
set actual_length message_size(nmsg) + message_lines(nmsg)
```

`boolean message_body_is_empty` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Returns `true` if the body of message *nmsg* has zero size or contains only whitespace characters. If the '`Content-Transfer-Encoding`' header is present, it is used to decode body before processing.

`void message_close` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Close the message identified by descriptor *nmsg*.

`number message_lines` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return total number of lines in message *nmsg*. The following relation holds true:

```
message_lines(x) = message_body_lines(x)
                          + message_header_lines(x) + 1
```

`string message_read_line` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Read and return next line from the message *nmsg*. If there are no more lines to read, raise the `eof` exception.

Use `message_rewind` to rewind the message stream and read its contents again.

`void message_rewind` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Rewind the stream associated with message referred to by descriptor *nmsg*.

`number message_from_stream` (*number* ***fd***; *string* ***filter_chain***) [Built-in Function]
Converts contents of the stream identified by *fd* to a mail message. Returns identifier of the created message.

Optional *filter_chain* supplies the name of a *Mailutils filter chain*, through which the data will be passed before converting. See `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Filter_chain`, for a description of filter chains.

`void message_to_stream` (*number* ***fd***, *number* ***nmsg***; *string* ***filter_chain***) [Built-in Function]
Copies message *nsmg* to stream descriptor *fd*. The descriptor must be obtained by a previous call to `open`.

Optional *filter_chain* supplies the name of a *Mailutils filter chain*, through which the data will be passed before writing them to *fd*. See `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Filter_chain`, for a description of filter chains.

5.16.1 Header functions

`number message_header_size` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return the size, in bytes of the headers of message *nmsg*. See the note to the `message_size`, above.

`number message_header_lines` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return number of lines occupied by headers in message *nmsg*.

`number message_header_count` (*number* ***nmsg***, [*string* ***name***]) [Built-in Function]
Return number of headers in message *nmsg*.

If *name* is supplied, count only headers with that name.

`string message_find_header` (*number* ***nmsg***, *string* ***name*** [, *number* ***idx***]) [Built-in Function]
Return value of header *name* from the message *nmsg*. If the message contains several headers with the same name, optional parameter *idx* may be used to select one of them. Headers are numbered from '`1`'.

If no matching header is not found, the `not_found` exception is raised. If another error occurs, the `failure` exception is raised.

The returned string is a verbatim copy of the message contents (except for eventual CR-LF -> LF translation, see above). You might need to apply the `unfold` function to it (see Section 5.11 [Mail header functions], page 126).

`string message_nth_header_name (`*number* ***nmsg***, *number* ***n***`)` [Built-in Function]

Returns the name of the *n*th header in message *nmsg*. If there is no such header, `e_range` exception is raised.

`string message_nth_header_value (`*number* ***msg***, *number* ***n***`)` [Built-in Function]

Returns the value of the *n*th header in message *nmsg*. If there is no such header, `e_range` exception is raised.

`boolean message_has_header (`*number* ***nmsg***, *string* ***name*** [, *number* ***idx***]`)` [Built-in Function]

Return `true` if message *nmsg* contains header with the given *name*. If there are several headers with the same name, optional parameter *idx* may be used to select one of them.

5.16.2 Message body functions

`number message_body_size (`*number* ***nmsg***`)` [Built-in Function]

Return the size, in bytes, of the body of message *nmsg*. See the note to the `message_size`, above.

`number message_body_lines (`*number* ***nmsg***`)` [Built-in Function]

Return number of lines in the body of message referred to by descriptor *nmsg*.

`void message_body_rewind (`*number* ***nmsg***`)` [Built-in Function]

Rewind the stream associated with the body of message referred to by descriptor *nmsg*.

A call to `message_body_read_line` (see below) after calling this function will return the first line from the message body.

`string message_read_body_line (`*number* ***nmsg***`)` [Built-in Function]

Read and return next line from the body of the message *nmsg*. If there are no more lines to read, raise the `eof` exception.

Use `message_body_rewind` (see above) to rewind the body stream and read its contents again.

`void message_body_to_stream (`*number* ***fd***, *number* ***nmsg***; *string* ***filter_chain***`)` [Built-in Function]

Copies the body of the message *nsmg* to stream descriptor *fd*. The descriptor must be obtained by a previous call to `open`.

Optional *filter_chain* supplies the name of a *Mailutils filter chain*, through which the data will be passed before writing them to *fd*. oSee `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Filter_chain`, for a description of filter chains.

5.16.3 MIME functions

`boolean message_is_multipart` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return `true` if message *nmsg* is a multipart (MIME) message.

`number message_count_parts` (*number* ***nmsg***) [Built-in Function]
Return number of parts in message *nmsg*, if it is a multipart (MIME) message. If it is not, return '`1`'.

Use `message_is_multipart` to check whether the message is a multipart one.

`number message_get_part` (*number nmsg*, *number* ***n***) [Built-in Function]
Extract *n*th part from the multipart message *nmsg*. Numeration of parts begins from '`1`'. Return message descriptor referring to the extracted part. Message parts are regarded as messages, so any message functions can be applied to them.

5.16.4 Message digest functions

Message digests are specially formatted messages that contain certain number of mail messages, encapsulated using the method described in RFC 934. Such digests are often used in mailing lists to reduce the frequency of sending mails. Messages of this format are also produced by the *forward* function in most MUA's.

The usual way to handle a message digest in MFL is to convert it first to a MIME message, and then to use functions for accessing its parts (see Section 5.16.3 [MIME functions], page 132).

`number message_burst` (*number* ***nmsg*** *; number* ***flags***) [Built-in Function]
Converts the message identified by the descriptor *nmsg* to a multi-part message. Returns a descriptor of the created message.

Optional argument *flags* controls the behavior of the bursting agent. It is a bitwise OR of error action and bursting flags.

Error action defines what to do if a part of the digest is not in RFC822 message format. If it is '`BURST_ERR_FAIL`' (the default), the function will raise the '`e_format`' exception. If *onerr* is '`BURST_ERR_IGNORE`', the improperly formatted part will be ignored. Finally, the value '`BURST_ERR_BODY`' instructs `message_burst` to create a replacement part with empty headers and the text of the offending part as its body.

Bursting flags control various aspects of the agent behavior. Currently only one flag is defined, '`BURST_DECODE`', which instructs the agent to decode any MIME parts (according to the '`Content-Transfer-Encoding`' header) it encounters while bursting the message.

Parts of a message digest are separated by so-called *encapsulation boundaries*, which are in essence lines beginning with at least one dash followed by a non-whitespace character. A dash followed by a whitespace serves as a *byte-stuffing* character, a sort of escape for lines which begin with a dash themselves. Unfortunately, there are mail agents which do not follow byte-stuffing rules and pass lines beginning with dashes unmodified into resulting digests. To help handle such cases a global variable is provided which controls how much dashes should the line begin with for it to be recognized as an encapsulation boundary.

`number burst_eb_min_length` [Built-in variable]
Minimal number of consecutive dashes an encapsulation boundary must begin with. The default is 2.

The following example shows a function which saves all parts of a digest message to separate disk files. The argument *orig* is a message descriptor. The resulting files are named by concatenating the string supplied by the *stem* argument and the ordinal number (1-based) of the message part.

```
func burst_digest(number orig, string stem)
do
  number msg message_burst(orig)
  number nparts message_count_parts(msg)

  loop for number i 1,
       while i <= nparts,
       set i i + 1
  do
    number part message_get_part(msg, i)
    number out open(sprintf('>%s%02d', stem, i))
    message_to_stream(out, part)
  done
  message_close(msg)
done
```

5.17 Quarantine Functions

`void quarantine` (*string* `text`) [Built-in Function]
Place the message to the quarantine queue, using *text* as explanatory reason.

5.18 SMTP Callout Functions

`number callout_open` (*string* `url`) [Library Function]
Opens connection to the callout server listening at *url*. Returns the descriptor of the connection.

`void callout_close` (*number* `fd`) [Library Function]
Closes the connection. *fd* is the file descriptor returned by the previous call to `callout_open`.

`number callout_do` (*number* `fd`, *string* `email` [, *string* `rest`]) [Library Function]
Instructs the callout server identified by *fd* (a file descriptor returned by a previous call to `callout_open`) to verify the validity of the *email*. Optional *rest* argument supplies additional parameters for the server.

Possible return values:

`0` Success. The *email* is found to be valid.

`e_not_found`
email does not exist.

`e_temp_failure`
: The email validity cannot be determined right now, e.g. because remote SMTP server returned temporary failure. The caller should retry verification later.

`e_failure`
: Some error occurred.

The function will throw the `e_callout_proto` exception if the remote host doesn't speak the correct callout protocol.

Upon return, `callout_do` modifies the following variables:

`last_poll_host`
: Host name or IP address of the last polled SMTP server.

`last_poll_greeting`
: Initial SMTP reply from the last polled host.

`last_poll_helo`
: The reply to the `HELO` (`EHLO`) command, received from the last polled host.

`last_poll_sent`
: Last SMTP command sent to the polled host. If nothing was sent, `last_poll_sent` contains the string '`nothing`'.

`last_poll_recv`
: Last SMTP reply received from the remote host. In case of multi-line replies, only the first line is stored. If nothing was received the variable contains the string '`nothing`'.

The *default callout server* is defined by the `callout-url` statement in the configuration file, or by the `callout` statement in the `server milter` section (see [configuring default callout server], page 196. The following functions operate on that server.

`string default_callout_server_url ()` [Built-in Function]
: Returns URL of the default callout server.

`number callout (`*`string email`*`)` [Library Function]
: Verifies the validity of the *email* using the default callout server.

5.19 Compatibility Callout Functions

The following functions are wrappers over the callout functions described in the previous section. They are provided for backward compativbility.

These functions are defined in the module `poll.mf`, which you must require prior to using any of them.

`boolean _pollhost (`*`string ip, string email, string domain, string mailfrom`*`)` [Library Function]
: Poll SMTP host *ip* for email address *email*, using *domain* as `EHLO` domain and *mailfrom* as `MAIL FROM`. Returns 0 or 1 depending on the result of the test. In contrast to the

`strictpoll` function, this function does not use cache database and does not fall back to polling MX servers if the main poll tempfails. The function can throw one of the following exceptions: `e_failure`, `e_temp_failure`.

`boolean _pollmx` (*string* ***ip***, *string* ***email***, *string* ***domain***, *string* ***mailfrom***) [Library Function]

Poll MXs of the *domain* for email address *email*, using *domain* as `EHLO` domain and *mailfrom* as `MAIL FROM` address. Returns 0 or 1 depending on the result of the test. In contrast to the `stdpoll` function, `_pollmx` does not use cache database and does not fall back to polling the *ip* if the poll fails. The function can throw one of the following exceptions: `e_failure`, `e_temp_failure`.

`boolean stdpoll` (*string* ***email***, *string* ***domain***, *string* ***mailfrom***) [Library Function]

Performs standard poll for *email*, using *domain* as `EHLO` domain and *mailfrom* as `MAIL FROM` address. Returns 0 or 1 depending on the result of the test. Can raise one of the following exceptions: `e_failure`, `e_temp_failure`.

In `on` statement context, it is synonymous to `poll` without explicit *host*.

`boolean strictpoll` (*string* ***host***, *string* ***email***, *string* ***domain***, *string* ***mailfrom***) [Library Function]

Performs strict poll for *email* on host *host*. See the description of `stdpoll` for the detailed information.

In `on` context, it is synonymous to `poll host` *host*.

The *mailfrom* argument can be a comma-separated list of email addresses, which can be useful for servers that are unusually picky about sender addresses. It is advised, however, that this list always contain the '`<>`' address. For example:

```
_pollhost($client_addr, $f, "domain", "postmaster@my.net,<>")
```

See also Section 7.7 [conf-callout], page 199.

Before returning, all described functions set the following built-in variables:

Variable	Contains
last_poll_host	Host name or IP address of the last polled host.
last_poll_sent	Last SMTP command, sent to this host. If nothing was sent, it contains literal string '`nothing`'.
last_poll_recv	Last SMTP reply received from this host. In case of multi-line replies, only the first line is stored. If nothing was received the variable contains the string '`nothing`'.
cache_used	`1` if cached data were used instead of polling, `0` otherwise. This variable is set by `stdpoll` and `strictpoll`. If it equals `1`, none of the above variables are modified. See [cache_used example], page 64, for an example.

Table 5.1: Variables set by polling functions

5.20 Internet address manipulation functions

Following functions operate on IPv4 addresses and CIDRs.

`number ntohl` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Converts the number *n*, from host to network byte order. The argument *n* is treated as an unsigned 32-bit number.

`number htonl` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Converts the number *n*, from network to host byte order. The argument *n* is treated as an unsigned 32-bit number.

`number ntohs` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
The argument *n* is treated as an unsigned 16-bit number. The function converts this number from network to host order.

`number htons` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
The argument *n* is treated as an unsigned 16-bit number. The function converts this number from host to network order.

`number inet_aton` (*string* `s`) [Built-in Function]
Converts the Internet host address *s* from the standard numbers-and-dots notation into the equivalent integer in host byte order.

```
inet_aton("127.0.0.1") ⇒ 2130706433
```

The numeric data type in MFL is signed, therefore on machines with 32 bit integers, this conversion can result in a negative number:

```
inet_aton("255.255.255.255") ⇒ -1
```

However, this does not affect arithmetical operations on IP addresses.

`string inet_ntoa` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Converts the Internet host address *n*, given in host byte order to string in standard numbers-and-dots notation:

```
inet_ntoa(2130706433) ⇒ "127.0.0.1"
```

`number len_to_netmask` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Convert number of masked bits *n* to IPv4 netmask:

```
inet_ntoa(len_to_netmask(24)) ⇒ 255.255.255.0
inet_ntoa(len_to_netmask(7)) ⇒ 254.0.0.0
```

If *n* is greater than 32 the function raises `e_range` exception.

`number netmask_to_len` (*number* `mask`) [Built-in Function]
Convert IPv4 netmask *mask* into netmask length (number of bits preserved by the mask):

```
netmask_to_len(inet_aton("255.255.255.0")) ⇒ 24
netmask_to_len(inet_aton("254.0.0.0")) ⇒ 7
```

`boolean match_cidr` (*string* `ip`, *string* `cidr`) [Library Function]

This function is defined in the module `match_cidr.mf` (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

It returns `true` if the IP address *ip* pertains to the IP range *cidr*. The first argument, *ip*, is a string representation of an IP address. The second argument, *cidr*, is a string representation of a IP range in CIDR notation, i.e. `"A.B.C.D/N"`, where *A.B.C.D* is an IPv4 address and *N* specifies the *prefix length* – the number of shared initial bits, counting from the left side of the address.

The following example will reject the mail if the IP address of the sending machine does not belong to the block `10.10.1.0/19`:

```
if not match_cidr(${client_addr}, "10.10.1.0/19")
  reject
fi
```

5.21 DNS Functions

MFL offers two sets of functions for querying the Domain Name System. The `dns_query` function and associated `dns_reply_` functions provide a generalized DNS API.

Other functions provide a simplified API.

5.21.1 dns_query

`number dns_query` (*number* `type`, *string* `domain`; *number* `sort`, *number* `resolve`) [Built-in Function]

This function looks up the domain name *name*. The *type* argument specifies type of the query to perform. On success, the function returns *DNS reply descriptor*, a non-negative integer number identifying the reply. It can then be passed to any of the '`dns_reply_`' functions discussed below in order to retrieve the information from it.

If no matching records were found, the function returns '`-1`'.

On error, it throws a corresponding exception.

The *type* argument is one of the following constants (defined in the module '`dns`'):

DNS_TYPE_A
: Query the '`A`' record. The *domain* should be the hostname to look up.

DNS_TYPE_NS
: Query the '`NS`' records.

DNS_TYPE_PTR
: Query the '`PTR`' record. The *domain* address should be the IP address in dotted-quad form.

DNS_TYPE_MX
: Query the '`MX`' records.

DNS_TYPE_TXT
: Query the '`TXT`' records.

If the query returns multiple RR sets, the optional argument *sort* controls whether they should be returned in the same order as obtained from the DNS (0, the default), or should be sorted (1).

The optional argument *resolve* is consulted for *type* `DNS_TYPE_MX` and `DNS_TYPE_NS`. If it is 1, the `DNS_TYPE_MX` query will return host names of the MX servers (by default, it returns IP addresses) and the `DNS_TYPE_NS` query will return IP addresses of the nameservers (by default it returns hostnames).

To extract actual data from the `dns_query` return value, use the functions `dns_reply_count` and `dns_reply_string`. The usual processing sequence is:

```
require dns

# Send the query and save the reply descriptor
set n dns_query(DNS_TYPE_NS, domain_name)

if n >= 0
  # If non-empty set is returned, iterate over each value in it:
  loop for set i 0,
       while i < dns_reply_count(n),
       set i i + 1
  do
    # Get the actual data:
    echo dns_reply_string(n, i)
  done
  # Release the memory associated with the reply.
  dns_reply_release(n)
fi
```

`void dns_reply_release` (*number* ***rd***) [Built-in Function]
Release the memory associated with the reply *rd*. If *rd* is -1, the function does nothing.

`number dns_reply_count` (*number* ***rd***) [Built-in Function]
Return the number of records in the reply *rd*. For convenience, if *rd* is -1, the function returns 0. If *rd* is negative (excepting -1), a '`e_failure`' exception is thrown.

`string dns_reply_string` (*number* ***rd***, *number* ***n***) [Built-in Function]
Returns *n*th record from the DNS reply *rd*.

`number dns_reply_ip` (*number* ***rd***, *number* ***n***) [Built-in Function]
Returns *n*th record from the DNS reply *rd*, if the reply contains IP addresses.

5.21.2 Simplified DNS functions

These functions are implemented in two layers: *primitive* built-in functions which raise exceptions if the lookup fails, and library calls that are warranted to always return meaningful value without throwing exceptions.

The built-in layer is always available. The library calls become available after requesting the `dns` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100):

```
require dns
```

`string dns_getaddr` (*string* `domain`) [Library Function]
Returns a whitespace-separated list of IP addresses (`A` records) for *domain*.

`string dns_getname` (*string* `ipstr`) [Library Function]
Returns a whitespace-separated list of domain names (`PTR` records) for the IPv4 address *ipstr*.

`string getmx` (*string* `domain` [, *boolean* `ip`]) [Library Function]
Returns a whitespace-separated list of '`MX`' names (if *ip* is not given or if it is `0`) or '`MX`' IP addresses (if `ip!=0`)) for *domain*. Within the returned string, items are sorted in order of increasing '`MX`' priority. If *domain* has no '`MX`' records, an empty string is returned. If the DNS query fails, `getmx` raises an appropriate exception.

Examples:

```
getmx("mafra.cz") ⇒ "smtp1.mafra.cz smtp2.mafra.cz relay.iol.cz"
getmx("idnes.cz") ⇒ "smtp1.mafra.cz smtp2.mafra.cz relay.iol.cz"
getmx("gnu.org")  ⇒ "mx10.gnu.org mx20.gnu.org"
getmx("org.pl") ⇒ ""
```

Notes:

1. Number of items returned by `getmx(domain)` can differ from that obtained from `getmx(domain, 1)`, e.g.:

```
getmx("aol.com")
  ⇒ mailin-01.mx.aol.com mailin-02.mx.aol.com
            mailin-03.mx.aol.com mailin-04.mx.aol.com
getmx("aol.com", 1)
  ⇒ 64.12.137.89 64.12.137.168 64.12.137.184
            64.12.137.249 64.12.138.57 64.12.138.88
            64.12.138.120 64.12.138.185 205.188.155.89
            205.188.156.185 205.188.156.249 205.188.157.25
            205.188.157.217 205.188.158.121 205.188.159.57
            205.188.159.217
```

2. This function is a wrapper over `dns_query`.

   If you intend to iterate over returned values, better use `dns_query` directly, e.g. instead of doing

```
string_list_iterate(getmx(domain), ' ', MX, 'do_something(MX)')
```

   use

```
set n dns_query(DNS_TYPE_MX, domain)
if n >= 0
  loop for set i 0,
       while i < dns_reply_count(n),
       set i i + 1
  do
    do_something(dns_reply_string(n, i))
  done
  dns_reply_release(n)
fi
```

See Section 5.21.1 [dns_query], page 137, for details about the `dns_query` function and associated `dns_reply_*` calls.

3. This interface is semi-deprecated.

   It will most probably be removed in future releases, when array data types are implemented.

`boolean primitive_hasmx` (*string* *`domain`*) [Built-in Function]

Returns `true` if the domain name given by its argument has any '`MX`' records.

If the DNS query fails, this function throws `failure` or `temp_failure`.

`boolean hasmx` (*string* *`domain`*) [Library Function]

Returns `true` if the domain name given by its argument has any '`MX`' records.

Otherwise, if *domain* has no '`MX`'s or if the DNS query fails, `hasmx` returns `false`.

`string primitive_hostname` (*string* *`ip`*) [Built-in Function]

The *ip* argument should be a string representing an IP address in *dotted-quad* notation. The function returns the canonical name of the host with this IP address obtained from DNS lookup. For example

```
primitive_hostname (${client_addr})
```

returns the fully qualified domain name of the host represented by Sendmail variable '`client_addr`'.

If there is no '`PTR`' record for *ip*, `primitive_hostname` raises the exception `e_not_found`.

If DNS query fails, the function raises `failure` or `temp_failure`, depending on the character of the failure.

`string hostname` (*string* *`ip`*) [Library Function]

The *ip* argument should be a string representing an IP address in *dotted-quad* notation. The function returns the canonical name of the host with this IP address obtained from DNS lookup.

If there is no '`PTR`' record for *ip*, or if the lookup fails, the function returns *ip* unchanged.

The previous `mailfromd` versions used the following paradigm to check if an IP address resolves:

```
if hostname(ip) != ip
  ...
```

`boolean primitive_ismx` (*string* *`domain`*, *string* *`host`*) [Built-in Function]

The *domain* argument is any valid domain name, the *host* is a host name or IP address.

The function returns `true` if *host* is one of the '`MX`' records for the *domain*.

If *domain* has no '`MX`' records, `primitive_ismx` raises exception `e_not_found`.

If DNS query fails, the function raises `failure` or `temp_failure`, depending on the character of the failure.

`boolean ismx` (*string* ***domain***, *string* ***host***) [Library Function]
The *domain* argument is any valid domain name, the *host* is a host name or IP address.

The function returns `true` if *host* is one of the '`MX`' records for the *domain*. Otherwise it returns `false`.

If *domain* has no '`MX`' records, or if the DNS query fails, the function returns `false`.

`string primitive_resolve` (*string* ***host***, [*string* ***domain***]) [Built-in Function]
Reverse of `primitive_hostname`. The `primitive_resolve` function returns the IP address for the host name specified by *host* argument. If *host* has no A records, the function raises the exception `e_not_found`.

If DNS lookup fails, the function raises `failure` or `temp_failure`, depending on the character of the failure.

If the optional *domain* argument is given, it will be appended to *host* (with an intermediate dot), before querying the DNS. For example, the following two expressions will return the same value:

```
primitive_resolve("puszcza.gnu.org.ua")
primitive_resolve("puszcza", "gnu.org.ua")
```

There is a considerable internal difference between one-argument and two-argument forms of `primitive_resolve`: the former queries DNS for an '`A`' record, whereas the latter queries it for any record matching *host* in the domain *domain* and then selects the most appropriate one. For example, the following two calls are equivalent:

```
primitive_hostname("213.130.0.22")
primitive_resolve("22.0.130.213", "in-addr.arpa")
```

This makes it possible to use `primitive_resolve` for querying DNS black listing domains. See [match_dnsbl], page 171, for a working example of this approach. See also [match_rhsbl], page 171, for another practical example of the use of the two-argument form.

`string resolve` (*string* ***host***, [*string* ***domain***]) [Library Function]
Reverse of `hostname`. The `resolve` function returns IP address for the host name specified by *host* argument. If the host name cannot be resolved, or a DNS failure occurs, the function returns '`"0"`'.

This function is entirely equivalent to `primitive_resolve` (see above), except that it never raises exceptions.

`string ptr_validate` (*string* ***ip***) [Built-in Function]
Tests whether the DNS reverse-mapping for *ip* exists and correctly points to a domain name within a particular domain.

First, it obtains all PTR records for *ip*. Then, for each record returned, a look up for A records is performed and IP addresses of each record are compared against *ip*. The function returns true if a matching A record is found.

`boolean primitive_hasns` (*string* ***domain***) [Built-in Function]
Returns '`True`' if the domain *domain* has at least one '`NS`' record. Throws exception if DNS lookup fails.

`boolean hasns` (*string* `domain`) [Library Function]

Returns '`True`' if the domain *domain* has at least one '`NS`' record. Returns '`False`' if there are no '`NS`' records or if the DNS lookup fails.

`string getns` (*string* `domain` *; boolean* `resolve`*, boolean* `sort`) [Library Function]

Returns a whitespace-separated list of all the '`NS`' records for the domain *domain*. Optional parameters *resolve* and *sort* control the formatting. If *resolve* is 0 (the default), the resulting string will contain IP addresses of the NS servers. If *resolve* is not 0, hostnames will be returned instead. If *sort* is 1, the returned items will be sorted.

If the DNS query fails, `getns` raises an appropriate exception.

Notes:

1. This function is a wrapper over `dns_query`.

   If you intend to iterate over returned values, better use `dns_query` directly, e.g. instead of doing

   ```
   string_list_iterate(getns(domain), ' ', NS, 'do_something(NS)')
   ```

   use

   ```
   set n dns_query(DNS_TYPE_NS, domain)
   if n >= 0
     loop for set i 0,
          while i < dns_reply_count(n),
          set i i + 1
     do
       do_something(dns_reply_string(n, i))
     done
     dns_reply_release(n)
   fi
   ```

   See Section 5.21.1 [dns_query], page 137, for details about the `dns_query` function and associated `dns_reply_*` calls.

2. This interface is semi-deprecated.

   It will most probably be removed in future releases, when array data types are implemented.

5.22 Geolocation functions

The *geolocation functions* allow you to identify the country where the given IP address or host name is located. These functions are available only if the `libmaxminddb` library is installed and `mailfromd` is compiled with the '`GeoIP2`' support.

The `libmaxminddb` library is distributed by '`MaxMind`' under the terms of the *Apache License* Version 2.0. It is available from `https://dev.maxmind.com/geoip/geoip2/downloadable/#MaxMind_APIs`.

Historically, `mailfromd` supports also the legacy '`GeoIP`' library. If you are interested in it, please refer to Section 5.22.1 [Legacy geoip support], page 145.

`void geoip2_open` (*string* ***filename***) [Built-in Function]

Opens the geolocation database file *filename*. The database must be in GeoIP2 format.

If the database cannot be opened, `geoip2_open` throws the `e_failure` exception.

If this function is not called, geolocation functions described below will try to open the database file '`/usr/share/GeoIP/GeoLite2-City.mmdb`'.

`string geoip2_dbname` (*void*) [Built-in Function]

Returns the name of the geolocation database currently in use.

The geolocation database for each IP address, which serves as a look up key, stores a set of items describing this IP. This set is organized as a map of key-value pairs. Each key is a string value. A value can be a scalar, another map or array of values. Using JSON notation, the result of a look up in the database might look as:

```
{
    "country":{
        "geoname_id":2921044,
        "iso_code":"DE",
        "names":{
            "en": "Germany",
            "de": "Deutschland",
            "fr":"Allemagne"
        },
    },
    "continent":{
        "code":"EU",
        "geoname_id":6255148,
        "names":{
            "en":"Europe",
            "de":"Europa",
            "fr":"Europe"
        }
    },
    "location":{
        "accuracy_radius":200,
        "latitude":49.4478,
        "longitude":11.0683,
        "time_zone":"Europe/Berlin"
    },
    "city":{
        "geoname_id":2861650,
        "names":{
            "en":"Nuremberg",
            "de":"Nürnberg",
            "fr":"Nuremberg"
        }
    },
    "subdivisions":[{
        "geoname_id":2951839,
        "iso_code":"BY",
        "names":{
            "en":"Bavaria",
            "de":"Bayern",
            "fr":"Bavière"
        }
    }
}
```

Each particular data item in such structure is identified by its *search path*, which is a dot-delimited list of key names leading to that value. For example, using the above map, the name of the city in English can be retrieved using the key `city.names.en`.

`string geoip2_get` (*string* `ip`, *string* `path`) [Built-in Function]
Looks up the IP address *ip* in the geolocation database. If found, returns data item identified by the search path *path*.

The function can throw the following exceptions:

e_not_found
: The *ip* was not found in the database.

e_range
: The *path* does not exist the returned map.

e_failure
: General error occurred. E.g. the database cannot be opened, *ip* is not a valid IP address, etc.

`string geoip2_get_json` (*string* `ip` [; *number* `indent`) [Built-in Function]
Looks up the *ip* in the database and returns entire data set associated with it, formatted as a JSON object. If the optional parameter *indent* is supplied and is greater than zero, it gives the indentation for each nesting level in the JSON object.

Applications may test whether the GeoIP2 support is present and enable the corresponding code blocks conditionally, by testing if the '`WITH_GEOIP2`' m4 macro is defined. For example, the following code adds to the message the '`X-Originator-Country`' header, containing the 2 letter code of the country where the client machine is located. If `mailfromd` is compiled without '`GeoIP`' support, it does nothing:

```
m4_ifdef(‘WITH_GEOIP2’,‘
  try
  do
    header_add("X-Originator-Country", geoip2_get($client_addr,
                                                  ’country.iso_code’))
  done
  catch e_not_found or e_range
  do
    pass
  done
’)
```

5.22.1 Legacy geoip support

For compatibility with older releases, `mailfromd` supports the legacy '`GeoIP`' library. This support is going to be removed in the next release, so its use is not recommended. Please use '`GeoIP2`' instead.

The support for the legacy `GeoIP` library is available if `mailfromd` is compiled with the '`GeoIP`' support (the `--with-geoip` configure option). The `m4` macro '`WITH_GEOIP`' is defined if it is so.

The legacy `GeoIP` is distributed by '`MaxMind`' under the terms of the GNU Lesser General Public License. The library is available from `http://www.maxmind.com/app/c`.

`string geoip_country_code_by_addr` (*string* `ip` [, *bool* `tlc`]) [Built-in Function]
Look up the '`ISO 3166-1`' country code corresponding to the IP address *ip*. If *tlc* is given and is not zero, return the 3 letter code, otherwise return the 2 letter code.

`string geoip_country_code_by_name (` *string* `name` [, *bool* *tlc*]) [Built-in Function]

Look up the '`ISO 3166-1`' country code corresponding to the host name *name*. If *tlc* is given and is not zero, return the 3 letter code, otherwise return the 2 letter code.

If it is impossible to locate the country, both functions raise the `e_not_found` exception. If an error internal to the '`GeoIP`' library occurs, they raise the `e_failure` exception.

Applications may test whether the GeoIP support is present and enable corresponding code blocks conditionally, by testing if the '`WITH_GEOIP`' m4 macro is defined. For example, the following code adds to the message the '`X-Originator-Country`' header, containing the 2 letter code of the country where the client machine is located. If `mailfromd` is compiled without '`GeoIP`' support, it does nothing:

```
m4_ifdef(‘WITH_GEOIP’,‘
  header_add("X-Originator-Country", geoip_country_code_by_addr($client_addr))
’)
```

5.23 Database Functions

The functions described below provide a user interface to DBM databases.

Each DBM database is a separate disk file that keeps *key/value pairs*. The interface allows to retrieve the value corresponding to a given key. Both '`key`' and '`value`' are null-terminated character strings. To lookup a key, it is important to know whether its length includes the terminating null byte. By default, it is assumed that it does not.

Another important database property is the *file mode* of the database file. The default file mode is '`640`' (i.e. '`rw-r----`', in symbolic notation).

Both properties can be configured using the `dbprop` pragma:

```
#pragma dbprop pattern prop [prop]
```

The *pattern* is the database name or shell-style globbing pattern. Properties defined by that pragma apply to each database whose name matches this pattern. If several `dbprop` pragmas match the database name, the one that matches exactly is preferred.

The rest of arguments define properties for that database. The valid values for *prop* are:

1. The word '`null`', meaning that the terminating null byte is included in the key length.

   Setting '`null`' property is necessary, for databases created with `makemap -N hash` command.
2. File mode for the disk file. It can be either an octal number, or a symbolic mode specification in ls-like format. E.g., the following two formats are equivalent:

   ```
   640
   rw-r----
   ```

For example, consider the following pragmas:

```
#pragma dbprop /etc/mail/whitelist.db 640
```

It tells that the database file `whitelist.db` has privileges '`640`' and do not include null in the key length.

Similarly, the following pragma:

```
#pragma dbprop ‘/etc/mail/*.db’ null 600
```

declares that all database files in directory `/etc/mail` have privileges '`640`' and include null terminator in the key length. *Notice*, the use of `m4` quoting characters in the example below. Without them, the sequence '`/*`' would have been taken as the beginning of a comment.

Additionally, for compatibility with previous versions (up to 5.0), the terminating null property can be requested via an optional argument to the database functions (in description below, marked as *null*).

`boolean dbmap` (*string* `db`, *string* `key`, [*boolean* `null`]) [Built-in Function]
Looks up *key* in the DBM file *db* and returns `true` if it is found.

See above for the meaning of *null*.

See [whitelisting], page 29, for an example of using this function.

`string dbget` (*string* `db`, *string* `key` [, *string* `default`, *boolean* `null`]) [Built-in Function]
Looks up *key* in the database *db* and returns the value associated with it. If the key is not found returns *default*, if specified, or empty string otherwise.

See above for the meaning of *null*.

`void dbput` (*string* `db`, *string* `key`, *string* `value` [, *boolean* `null`, *number* `mode`]) [Built-in Function]
Inserts in the database a record with the given *key* and *value*. If a record with the given *key* already exists, its value is replaced with the supplied one.

See above for the meaning of *null*. Optional *mode* allows to explicitly specify the file mode for this database. See also `#pragma dbprop`, described above.

`void dbinsert` (*string* `db`, *string* `key`, *string* `value` [, *boolean* `replace`, *boolean* `null`, *number* `mode`]) [Built-in Function]
This is an improved variant of `dbput`, which provides a better control on the actions to take if the *key* already exists in the database. Namely, if *replace* is '`True`', the old value is replaced with the new one. Otherwise, the '`e_exists`' exception is thrown.

`void dbdel` (*string* `db`, *string* `key` [, *boolean* `null`, *number* `mode`]) [Built-in Function]
Delete from the database the record with the given *key*. If there are no such record, return without signalling error.

If the optional *null* argument is given and is not zero, the terminating null character will be included in *key* length.

Optional *mode* allows to explicitly specify the file mode for this database. See also `#pragma dbprop`, described above.

The functions above have also the corresponding exception-safe interfaces, which return cleanly if the '`e_dbfailure`' exception occurs. To use these interfaces, request the `safedb` module:

```
require safedb
```

The exception-safe interfaces are:

`string safedbmap` (*string* `db`, *string* `key` [, *string* `default`, *boolean* `null`]) [Library Function]

This is an exception-safe interface to `dbmap`. If a database error occurs while attempting to retrieve the record, `safedbmap` returns *default* or '`0`', if it is not defined.

`string safedbget` (*string* `db`, *string* `key` [, *string* `default`, *boolean* `null`]) [Library Function]

This is an exception-safe interface to `dbget`. If a database error occurs while attempting to retrieve the record, `safedbget` returns *default* or empty string, if it is not defined.

`void safedbput` (*string* `db`, *string* `key`, *string* `value` [, *boolean* `null`]) [Library Function]

This is an exception-safe interface to `dbput`. If a database error occurs while attempting to retrieve the record, the function returns without raising exception.

`void safedbdel` (*string* `db`, *string* `key` [, *boolean* `null`]) [Library Function]

This is an exception-safe interface to `dbdel`. If a database error occurs while attempting to delete the record, the function returns without raising exception.

The verbosity of '`safedb`' interfaces in case of database error is controlled by the value of `safedb_verbose` variable. If it is '`0`', these functions return silently. This is the default behavior. Otherwise, if `safedb_verbose` is not '`0`', these functions log the detailed diagnostics about the database error and return.

The following functions provide a sequential access to the contents of a DBM database:

`number dbfirst` (*string* `name`) [Built-in Function]

Start sequential access to the database *name*. The return value is an opaque identifier, which is used by the remaining sequential access functions. This number is '`0`' if the database is empty.

`number dbnext` (*number* `dn`) [Built-in Function]

Select next record form the database. The argument *dn* is the access identifier, returned by a previous call to `dbfirst` or `dbnext`.

Returns new access identifier. This number is '`0`' if all records in the database have been visited.

The usual approach for iterating over all records in a database *dbname* is:

```
loop for number dbn dbfirst(dbname)
do
  ...
done while dbnext(dbn)
```

The following two functions can be used to access values of the currently selected database record. Their argument, *dn*, is the access identifier, returned by a previous call to `dbfirst` or `dbnext`.

`string dbkey` (*number* `dn`) [Built-in Function]

Return the key from the selected database record.

`string dbvalue` (*number* ***dn***) [Built-in Function]
Return the value from the selected database record.

`number db_expire_interval` (*string* ***fmt***) [Built-in Function]
The *fmt* argument is a database format identifier (see Section 3.15.1 [Database Formats], page 31). If it is valid, the function returns the expiration interval for that format. Otherwise, `db_expire_interval` raises the `e_not_found` exception.

`string db_name` (*string* ***fmtid***) [Built-in Function]
The *fmtid* argument is a database format identifier (see Section 3.15.1 [Database Formats], page 31). The function returns the file name for that format. If *fmtid* does not match any known format, `db_name` raises the `e_not_found` exception.

`number db_get_active` (*string* ***fmtid***) [Built-in Function]
Returns the flag indicating whether the cache database *fmtid* is currently enabled. If *fmtid* does not match any known format, `db_name` raises the `e_not_found` exception.

`void db_set_active` (*string* ***fmtid***, *boolean* ***enable***) [Built-in Function]
Enables the cache database *fmtid* if *enable* is '`True`', or disables it otherwise. For example, to disable DNS caching, do:

```
db_set_active("dns", 0)
```

`boolean relayed` (*string* ***domain***) [Built-in Function]
Returns `true` if the string *domain* is found in one of relayed domain files (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194). The usual construct is:

```
if relayed(hostname(${client_addr}))
  ...
```

which yields `true` if the IP address from `Sendmail` variable '`client_addr`' is relayed by the local machine.

5.24 I/O functions

MFL provides a set of functions for writing to disk files, pipes or sockets and reading from them. The idea behind them is the same as in most other programming languages: first you open the resource with a call to `open` which returns a *descriptor* i.e. an integer number uniquely identifying the resource. Then you can write or read from it using this descriptor. Finally, when the resource is no longer needed, you can close it with a call to `close`.

The number of available resource descriptors is limited. The default limit is 1024. You can tailor it to your needs using the `max-streams` runtime configuration statement. See Section 7.10 [conf-runtime], page 201, for a detailed description.

`number open` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]
The *name* argument specifies the name of a resource to open and the access rights you need to have on it. The function returns a descriptor of the opened stream, which can subsequently be used as an argument to other I/O operations.

First symbols of *name* determine the type of the resource to be opened and the access mode:

'`>`' The rest of *name* is a name of a file. Open the file for read-write access. If the file exists, truncate it to zero length, otherwise create the file.

'`>>`' The rest of *name* is a name of a file. Open the file for appending (writing at end of file). The file is created if it does not exist.

'`|`' Treat the rest of *name* as the command name and its arguments. Run this command and open its standard input for writing. The standard error is closed before launching the program. This can be altered by using the following versions of this construct:

`|2>`null: *command*
Standard error is redirected to `/dev/null`.

`|2>`file:*name command*
Execute *command* with its standard error redirected to the file *name*. If the file exists, it will be truncated.

`|2>>`file:*name command*
Standard error of the *command* is appended to the file *name*. If file does not exist, it will be created.

The '`|2>null:`' construct described above is a shortcut for

```
|2>>file:/dev/null command
```

`|2>`syslog:*facility*[.*priority*] *command*
Standard error is redirected to the given syslog *facility* and, optionally, *priority*. If the latter is omitted, '`LOG_ERR`' is assumed.

Valid values for *facility* are: '`user`', '`daemon`', '`auth`', '`authpriv`', '`mail`', and '`local0`' through '`local7`'. Valid values for *priority* are: '`emerg`', '`alert`', '`crit`', '`err`', '`warning`', '`notice`', '`info`', '`debug`'. Both *facility* and *priority* may be given in upper, lower or mixed cases.

Notice, that no whitespace characters are allowed between '`|`' and '`2>`'.

'`|<`' Treat the rest of *name* as the command name and its arguments. Run this command with its stdin closed and stdout open for reading.

The standard error is treated as described above (see '`|`').

'`|&`' Treat the rest of *name* as the command name and its arguments. Run this command and set up for two-way communication with it, i.e writes to the descriptor returned by `open` will send data to the program's standard input, reads from the descriptor will get data from the program's standard output.

The standard error is treated as described above (see '`|`'). For example, the following redirects it to syslog '`mail.debug`':

```
|&2>syslog:mail.debug command
```

'`@`' Treat the rest of *name* as the URL of a socket to connect to. Valid URL forms are described in [milter port specification], page 194.

If none of these prefixes is used, *name* is treated as a name of an existing file and `open` will attempt to open this file for reading.

The `open` function will signal exception `e_failure` if it is unable to open the resource or get the required access to it.

`number spawn` (*string* `cmd` [, *number* `in`, *number* `out`, *number* `err`]) [Built-in Function]

Runs the supplied command *cmd*. The syntax of the *cmd* is the same as for the *name* argument to `open` (see above), which begins with '`|`', excepting that the '`|`' sign is optional. That is:

```
spawn("/bin/cat")
```

has exactly the same effect as

```
open("|/bin/cat")
```

Optional arguments specify file stream descriptors to be used for the program standard input, output and error streams, correspondingly. If supplied, these should be the values returned by a previous call to `open` or `tempfile`. The value '`-1`' means no redirection.

The example below starts the `awk` program with a simple expression as its argument and redirects the content of the file `/etc/passwd` to its standard input. The returned stream descriptor is bound to the command's standard output (see the description of '`|<`' prefix above). The standard error is closed:

```
number fd spawn("<awk -F: '{print $1}'", open("/etc/passwd"))
```

`void close` (*number* `rd`) [Built-in Function]

The argument *rd* is a resource descriptor returned by a previous call to `open`. The function `close` closes the resource and deallocates any memory associated with it.

`close` will signal `e_range` exception if *rd* lies outside of allowed range of resource descriptors. See Section 7.10 [conf-runtime], page 201.

Notice that you are not required to close resources opened by `open`. Any unclosed resource will be closed automatically upon the termination of the filtering program.

`void shutdown` (*number* `rd`, *number* `how`) [Built-in Function]

This function causes all or part of a full-duplex connection to be closed. The *rd* must be either a socket descriptor (returned by `open(@...)`) or a two-way pipe socket descriptor (returned by `open(|&...)`), otherwise the call to `shutdown` is completely equivalent to `close`.

The `how` argument identifies which part of the connection to shut down:

SHUT_RD
: Read connection. All further receptions will be disallowed.

SHUT_WR
: Write connection. All further transmissions will be disallowed.

SHUT_RDWR
: Shut down both read and write parts.

`number tempfile` ([*string* `tmpdir`]) [Built-in Function]

Creates a nameless temporary file and returns its descriptor. Optional *tmpdir* supplies the directory where to create the file, instead of the default `/tmp`.

`void rewind` (*number* ***rd***) [Built-in Function]
Rewinds the stream identified by *rd* to its beginning.

`number copy` (*number* ***dst***, *number* ***src***) [Built-in Function]
Copies all data from the stream *src* to *dst*. Returns number of bytes copied.

The following functions provide basic read/write capabilities.

`void write` (*number* ***rd***, *string* ***str*** [, *number* ***size***]) [Built-in Function]
Writes the string *str* to the resource descriptor *rd*. If the *size* argument is given, writes this number of bytes.

The function will signal `e_range` exception if *rd* lies outside of allowed range of resource descriptors, and `e_io` exception if an I/O error occurs.

`void write_body` (*number* ***rd***, *pointer* ***bp*** , *number* ***size***) [Built-in Function]
Write the body segment of length *size* from pointer *bp* to the stream *rd*. This function can be used only in `prog body` (see [body handler], page 69). Its second and third arguments correspond exactly to the parameters of the `body` handler, so the following construct writes the message body to the resource `fd`, which should have been open prior to invoking the `body` handler:

```
prog body
do
  write_body(fd, $1, $2)
done
```

`string read` (*number* ***rd***, *number* ***n***) [Built-in Function]
Read and return *n* bytes from the resource descriptor *rd*.

The function may signal the following exceptions:

e_range *rd* lies outside of allowed range of resource descriptors.

e_eof End of file encountered.

e_io An I/O error occurred.

`string getdelim` (*number* ***rd***, *string* ***delim***) [Built-in Function]
Read and return the next string terminated by *delim* from the resource descriptor *rd*.

The terminating *delim* string will be removed from the return value.

The function may signal the following exceptions:

e_range *rd* lies outside of allowed range of resource descriptors.

e_eof End of file encountered.

e_io An I/O error occurred.

`string getline` (*number* ***rd***) [Built-in Function]
Read and return the next *line* from the resource descriptor *rd*. A line is any sequence of characters terminated with the default *line delimiter*. The default delimiter is a property of *rd*, i.e. different descriptors can have different line delimiters. The default value is '`\n`' (ASCII 10), and can be changed using the `fd_set_delimiter` function (see below).

The function may signal the following exceptions:

e_range *rd* lies outside of allowed range of resource descriptors.

e_eof End of file encountered.

e_io An I/O error occurred.

`void fd_set_delimiter` (*number* ***fd***, *string* ***delim***) [Built-in Function]
Set new line delimiter for the descriptor *fd*, which must be in opened state.

Default delimiter is a newline character (ASCII 10). The following example shows how to change it to CRLF sequence:

```
fd_set_delimiter(fd, "\r\n")
```

`string fd_delimiter` (*number* ***fd***) [Built-in Function]
Returns the line delimiter string for *fd*.

The following example shows how `mailfromd` I/O functions can be used to automatically add IP addresses to an RBL zone:

```
set nsupdate_cmd
  "/usr/bin/nsupdate -k /etc/bind/Kmail.+157+14657.private"

func block_address(string addr)
do
  number fd
  string domain

  set fd open "|%nsupdate_cmd"

  set domain revip(addr) . ".rbl.myzone.come"
  write(fd, "prereq nxrrset %domain A\n"
            "update add %domain 86400 A %addr\n\n"
done
```

The function `revip` is defined in [revip], page 117.

5.25 System functions

`boolean access` (*string* ***pathname***, *number* ***mode***) [Built-in Function]
Checks whether the calling process can access the file *pathname*. If *pathname* is a symbolic link, it is dereferenced. The function returns '`True`' if the file can be accessed and '`False`' otherwise[4].

Symbolic values for *mode* are provided in module `status`:

F_OK Tests for the existence of the file.

R_OK Tests whether the file exists and grants read permission.

W_OK Tests whether the file exists and grants write permission.

X_OK Tests whether the file exists and grants execute permission.

[4] *Note*, that the return code is inverted in respect to the system function '`access(2)`'.

`string getenv` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]
Searches the environment list for the variable *name* and returns its value. If the variable is not defined, the function raises the exception '`e_not_found`'.

`string gethostname` ([*bool* ***fqn***]) [Built-in Function]
Return the host name of this machine.

If the optional *fqn* is given and is '`true`', the function will attempt to return fully-qualified host name, by attempting to resolve it using DNS.

`string getdomainname` () [Built-in Function]
Return the domain name of this machine. Note, that it does not necessarily coincide with the actual machine name in DNS.

Depending on the underlying '`libc`' implementation, this call may return empty string or the string '`(none)`'. Do not rely on it to get the real domain name of the box `mailfromd` runs on, use `localdomain` (see below) instead.

`string localdomain` () [Library Function]
Return the local domain name of this machine.

This function first uses `getdomainname` to make a first guess. If it does not return a meaningful value, `localdomain` calls `gethostname(1)` to determine the fully qualified host name of the machine, and returns its domain part.

To use this function, require the `localdomain` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100), e.g.: `require localdomain`.

`number time` () [Built-in Function]
Return the time since the Epoch (00:00:00 UTC, January 1, 1970), measured in seconds.

`string strftime` (*string* ***fmt***, *number* ***timestamp***) [Built-in Function]
`string strftime` (*string* ***fmt***, *number* ***timestamp***, *boolean* ***gmt***) [Built-in Function]
Formats the time *timestamp* (seconds since the Epoch) according to the format specification *format*. Ordinary characters placed in the format string are copied to the output without conversion. Conversion specifiers are introduced by a '`%`' character. See Appendix B [Time and Date Formats], page 249, for a detailed description of the conversion specifiers. We recommend using single quotes around *fmt* to prevent '`%`' specifiers from being interpreted as `Mailfromd` variables (See Section 4.5 [Literals], page 56, for a discussion of quoted literals and variable interpretation within them).

The *timestamp* argument can be a return value of `time` function (see above).

For example:

```
strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S %Z', 1164477564)
 ⇒ 2006-11-25 19:59:24 EET
strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S %Z', 1164477564, 1)
 ⇒ 2006-11-25 17:59:24 GMT
```

`string uname` (*string* ***format***) [Built-in Function]
This function returns system information formatted according to the format specification *format*. Ordinary characters placed in the format string are copied to the

output without conversion. Conversion specifiers are introduced by a '`%`' character. The following conversions are defined:

%s Name of this system.

%n Name of this node within the communications network to which this node is attached. Note, that it does not necessarily coincide with the actual machine name in DNS.

%r Kernel release.

%v Kernel version.

%m Name of the hardware type on which the system is running.

For example:

```
uname('%n runs %s, release %r on %m')
  ⇒ "Trurl runs Linux, release 2.6.26 on i686"
```

Notice the use of single quotes.

`void unlink` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]
Unlinks (deletes) the file *name*. On error, throws the `e_failure` exception.

`number system` (*string* ***str***) [Built-in Function]
The function `system` executes a command specified in *str* by calling `/bin/sh -c string`, and returns -1 on error or the return status of the command otherwise.

`void sleep` (*number* ***secs***[, ***usec***]) [Built-in Function]
Sleep for *secs* seconds. If optional *usec* argument is given, it specifies additional number of microseconds to wait for. For example, to suspend execution of the filter for 1.5 seconds:

```
sleep(1,500000)
```

This function is intended mostly for debugging and experimental purposes.

`number umask` (*number* ***mask***) [Built-in Function]
Set the umask to *mask* & 0777. Return the previous value of the mask.

5.26 System User Database

`string getpwnam` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]
`string getpwuid` (*number* ***uid***) [Built-in Function]
Look for the user *name* (`getpwnam`) or user ID *uid* (`getpwuid`) in the system password database and return the corresponding record, if found. If not found, raise the '`e_not_found`' exception.

The returned record consists of six fields, separated by colon sign:

```
uname:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:dir:shell
```

Field	**Meaning**
uname	user name
passwd	user password

uid	user ID
gid	group ID
gecos	real name
dir	home directory
shell	shell program

For example:

```
getpwnam("gray")
⇒ "gray:x:1000:1000:Sergey Poznyakoff:/home/gray:/bin/bash"
```

Following two functions can be used to test for existence of a key in the user database:

`boolean mappwnam` (*string* ***name***) [Built-in Function]
`boolean mappwuid` (*number* ***uid***) [Built-in Function]
Return '`true`' if *name* (or *uid*) is found in the system user database.

5.27 Sieve Interface

'`Sieve`' is a powerful mail filtering language, defined in RFC 3028. `Mailfromd` supports an extended form of this language. For a description of the language and available extensions, see Section "Sieve Language" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.

`boolean sieve` (*number* ***msg***, *string* ***script*** [, *number* ***flags***, *string* ***file***, *number* ***line***]) [Built-in Function]
Compile the Sieve program *script* and execute it over the message identified by the descriptor *nmsg*.

Optional *flags* modify the behavior of the function. It is a bit-mask field, consisting of a bitwise `or` of one or more of the following flags, defined in `sieve.mf`:

`MF_SIEVE_FILE`
The *script* argument specifies the name of a Sieve program file. This is the default.

`MF_SIEVE_TEXT`
The *script* argument is a string containing entire Sieve program. Optional arguments *file* and *line* can be used to fix source locations in Sieve diagnostic messages (see below).

`MF_SIEVE_LOG`
Log every executed '`Sieve`' action.

`MF_SIEVE_DEBUG_TRACE`
Trace execution of '`Sieve`' tests.

`MF_SIEVE_DEBUG_INSTR`
Log every instruction, executed in the compiled '`Sieve`' code. This produces huge amounts of output and is rarely useful, unless you suspect some bug in '`Sieve`' implementation and wish to trace it.

For example, `MF_SIEVE_LOG|MF_SIEVE_DEBUG_TRACE` enables logging '`Sieve`' actions and tests.

The `sieve` function returns `true` if the message was accepted by the *script* program, and `false` otherwise. Here, the word *accepted* means that some form of '`KEEP`' action (see Section "Actions" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*) was executed over the message.

While executing the Sieve script, Sieve environment (*RFC 5183*) is initialized as follows:

domain The domain name of the server Sieve is running on.

host Host name of the server Sieve is running on.

location The string '`MTA`'.

name The string '`GNU Mailutils`'.

phase The string '`pre`'.

remote-host
Defined to the value of '`client_ptr`' macro, if it was required.

remote-ip Defined to the value of '`client_addr`' macro, if it was required.

version The version of GNU Mailutils.

The following example discards each message not accepted by the '`Sieve`' program `/etc/mail/filter.siv`:

```
require 'sieve'

group eom
do
  if not sieve(current_message(), "/etc/mail/filter.siv", MF_SIEVE_LOG)
     discard
  fi
done
```

The Sieve program can be embedded in the MFL filter, as shown in the example below:

```
require 'sieve'

prog eom
do
  if not sieve(current_message(),
               "require \"fileinto\";\n"
               "fileinto \"/tmp/sieved.mbox\";",
               MF_SIEVE_TEXT | MF_SIEVE_LOG)
     discard
  fi
done
```

In such cases, any Sieve diagnostics (error messages, traces, etc.) will be marked with the locations relative to the line where the call to `sieve` appears. For example, the above program produces the following in the log:

```
prog.mf:7: FILEINTO; delivering into /tmp/sieved.mbox
```

Notice, that the line number correctly refers to the line where the `fileinto` action appears in the source. However, there are cases where the reported line number is incorrect.

This happens, for instance, if *script* is a string variable defined elsewhere. To handle such cases, `sieve` accepts two optional parameters which are used to compute the location in the Sieve program. The *file* parameter specifies the file name where the definition of the program appears, and the *line* parameter gives the number of line in that file where the program begins. For example:

```
require 'sieve'

const sieve_prog_line __line__ + 2
string sieve_prog <<EOT
require "fileinto";
fileinto "/tmp/sieved.mbox";
EOT

prog eom
do
  if not sieve(current_message(),
               sieve_prog, MF_SIEVE_TEXT | MF_SIEVE_LOG,
               __file__, sieve_prog_line)
     discard
  fi
done
```

The actual Sieve program begins two lines below the `sieve_prog_line` constant definition, which is reflected in its initialization.

5.28 Interfaces to Third-Party Programs

A set of functions is defined for interfacing with other filters via TCP. Currently implemented are interfaces with `SpamAssassin spamd` daemon and with `ClamAV` anti-virus.

Both interfaces work much the same way: the remote filter is connected and the message is passed to it. If the remote filter confirms that the message matches its requirements, the function returns `true`. Notice that in practice that means that such a message *should be rejected or deferred*.

The address of the remote filter is supplied as the second argument in the form of a standard URL:

proto`://`*path*`[:`*port*`]`

The *proto* part specifies the *connection protocol*. It should be '`tcp`' for the TCP connection and '`file`' or '`socket`' for the connection via UNIX socket. In the latter case the *proto* part can be omitted. When using TCP connection, the *path* part gives the remote host name or IP address and the optional *port* specifies the port number or service name to use. For example:

```
# connect to 'remote.filter.net' on port 3314:
tcp://remote.filter.net:3314

# the same, using symbolic service name (must be defined in
# /etc/services):
tcp://remote.filter.net:spamd
```

```
# Connect via a local UNIX socket (equivalent forms):
/var/run/filter.sock
file:///var/run/filter.sock
socket:///var/run/filter.sock
```

The description of the interface functions follows.

5.28.1 SpamAssassin

`boolean spamc` (*number* `msg`, *string* `url`, *number* `prec`, *number* `command`) [Built-in Function]

Send the message *msg*t to the SpamAssassin daemon (`spamd`) listening on the given *url*. The *command* argument identifies what kind of processing is needed for the message. Allowed values are:

SA_SYMBOLS
: Process the message and return 1 or 0 depending on whether it is diagnosed as spam or not. Store SpamAssassin keywords in the global variable `sa_keywords` (see below).

SA_REPORT
: Process the message and return 1 or 0 depending on whether it is diagnosed as spam or not. Store entire SpamAssassin report in the global variable `sa_keywords`.

SA_LEARN_SPAM
: Learn the supplied message as spam.

SA_LEARN_HAM
: Learn the supplied message as ham.

SA_FORGET
: Forget any prior classification of the message.

The second argument, *prec*, gives the precision, in decimal digits, to be used when converting SpamAssassin diagnostic data and storing them into `mailfromd` variables.

The floating point SpamAssassin data are converted to the integer `mailfromd` variables using the following relation:

```
var = int(sa-var * 10**prec)
```

where *sa-var* stands for the SpamAssassin value and *var* stands for the corresponding `mailfromd` one. `int()` means taking the integer part and '`**`' denotes the exponentiation operator.

The function returns additional information via the following variables:

`sa_score`
: The spam score, converted to integer as described above. To convert it to a floating-point representation, use `sa_format_score` function (see Section 5.3 [String manipulation], page 113). See also the example below.

`sa_threshold`
: The threshold, converted to integer form.

`sa_keywords`

If *command* is '`SA_SYMBOLS`', this variable contains a string of comma-separated SpamAssassin keywords identifying this message, e.g.:

```
ADVANCE_FEE_1,AWL,BAYES_99
```

If *command* is '`SA_REPORT`', the value of this variable is a *spam report* message. It is a multi-line textual message, containing detailed description of spam scores in a tabular form. It consists of the following parts:

1. A preamble.
2. Content preview.

   The words '`Content preview`', followed by a colon and an excerpt of the message body.
3. Content analysis details.

   It has the following form:

   ```
   Content analysis details: (score points, max required)
   ```

   where *score* and *max* are spam score and threshold in floating point.
4. Score table.

   The score table is formatted in three columns:

   pts — The score, as a floating point number with one decimal digit.

   rule name — SpamAssassin rule name that contributed this score.

   description — Textual description of the rule

   The score table can be extracted from `sa_keywords` using `sa_format_report_header` function (see Section 5.3 [String manipulation], page 113), as illustrated in the example below.

The value of this variable is undefined if *command* is '`SA_LEARN_SPAM`', '`SA_LEARN_HAM`' or '`SA_FORGET`'.

The `spamc` function can signal the following exceptions: `e_failure` if the connection fails, `e_url` if the supplied URL is invalid and `e_range` if the supplied port number is out of the range 1–65535.

An example of using this function:

```
prog eom
do
  if spamc(current_message(), "tcp://192.168.10.1:3333", 3,
           SA_SYMBOLS)
    reject 550 5.7.0
         "Spam detected, score %sa_score with threshold %sa_threshold"
  fi
done
```

Here is a more advanced example:

```
prog eom
```

```
do
  set prec 3
  if spamc(current_message(),
           "tcp://192.168.10.1:3333", prec, SA_REPORT)
    add "X-Spamd-Status" "SPAM"
  else
    add "X-Spamd-Status" "OK"
  fi
  add "X-Spamd-Score" sa_format_score(sa_score, prec)
  add "X-Spamd-Threshold" sa_format_score(sa_threshold, prec)
  add "X-Spamd-Keywords" sa_format_report_header(sa_keywords)
done
```

`boolean sa` (*string* `url`, *number* `prec`; *number* `command`) [Library Function]

Additional interface to the `spamc` function, provided for backward compatibility. It is equivalent to

```
spamc(current_message(), url, prec, command)
```

If *command* is not supplied, '`SA_SYMBOLS`' is used.

5.28.2 DSPAM

DSPAM is a statistical spam filter distributed under the terms of the GNU General Public License. It is available from `http://dspam.sourceforge.net`.

MFL provides an interface to DSPAM functionality if the `libdspam` library is installed and `mailfromd` is linked with it. The `m4` macro '`WITH_DSPAM`' is defined if it is so.

The DSPAM functions and definitions become available after requiring the '`dspam`' module:

```
require 'dspam'
```

`number dspam` (*number* `msg`, *number* `mode_flags`; *number* `class_source`) [Built-in Function]

Analyze a message using DSPAM. The message is identified by its descriptor, passed in the *msg* argument.

The *mode_flags* argument controls the function behavior. Its value is a bitwise OR of operation mode, flag, tokenizer and training mode. *Operation mode* defines what `dspam` is supposed to do with the message. Its value is either '`DSM_PROCESS`' if full processing of the message is intended (the default), or '`DSM_CLASSIFY`', if the message must only be classified.

Optional *flag* bits turn on additional functionality. The '`DSF_SIGNATURE`' bit instructs `dspam` to create a signature for the message – a unique string which can subsequently be used to identify that particular message. Upon return from the function, the signature is stored in the `dspam_signature` variable.

The '`DSF_NOISE`' bit enables Bayesian noise reduction, and '`DSF_WHITELIST`' enables automatic whitelisting.

Additional flags are available for defining the algorithm to split the message into tokens (*tokenizer*) and *training mode*. See Section 5.28.2.1 [flags-dspam], page 163,

for a complete list of these. All these are optional, any missing values will be read from the DSPAM *configuration file*.

The configuration file must always be present. Its full file name must be stored in the global variable `dspam_config`. There is no default value, so make sure this variable is initialized. If a specific profile section should be read, store the name of that profile in the variable `dspam_profile`.

When called to process or classify the message, `dspam` returns an integer code of the class of the message. The value '`DSR_ISSPAM`' means that this message was classified as spam. The value '`DSR_ISINNOCENT`' means it is a clean ("ham") message.

The probability and confidence values are returned in global variables `dspam_probability` and `dspam_confidence`. Since MFL lacks floating-point data type, both variables keep integers, obtained from the corresponding floating point values by shifting the decimal point `dspam_prec` digits to the right and rounding the resulting value to the nearest integer. The same method is used in `spamc` function (see [sa-floating-point-conversion], page 159). The default value for `dspam_prec` variable is 3. You can use the `sa_format_score` function to convert these values to strings representing floating point numbers, e.g.:

```
require 'dspam'
require 'sa'

prog eom
do
  if dspam(current_message(), DSM_PROCESS | DSM_SIGNATURE)
       == DSR_ISSPAM
    header_add("X-DSPAM-Result", "Spam")
  else
    header_add("X-DSPAM-Result", "Innocent")
  fi
  header_add("X-DSPAM-Probability",
             sa_format_score(dspam_probability, dspam_prec))
  header_add("X-DSPAM-Confidence",
             sa_format_score(dspam_confidence, dspam_prec))
  header_add("X-DSPAM-Signature", dspam_signature)
done
```

Optional *class_source* argument is used when training the DSPAM classifier. It is a bitwise OR of the message class and message source values. *Message class* specifies the class this message belongs to. Possible values are '`DSR_ISSPAM`', for spam messages, and '`DSR_ISINNOCENT`', for clean messages. *Message source* informs DSPAM where this message comes from. The value '`DSS_ERROR`' means the message was previously misclassified by DSPAM. The value '`DSS_CORPUS`' indicates the message comes from a corpus feed. Finally, the value '`DSS_INOCULATION`' means that the message is in pristine form, and should be trained as an inoculation. *Inoculation* is a more intense mode of training, usually used on honeypots.

The following example calls `dspam` to train the classifier on the current message if it was sent to a honeypot address, and uses `dspam` to analyze the message class

otherwise. The `honeypot` variable is supposed to be set elsewhere in the code (e.g. in the '`envrcpt`' handler):

```
prog eom
do
  number res
  if honeypot
    set res dspam(current_message(), DSM_PROCESS,
                  DSR_ISSPAM | DSS_INOCULATION)
    discard
  else
    if dspam(current_message(), DSM_PROCESS | DSM_SIGNATURE)
             == DSR_ISSPAM
      header_add("X-DSPAM-Result", "Spam")
    else
      header_add("X-DSPAM-Result", "Innocent")
    fi
    header_add("X-DSPAM-Probability",
               sa_format_score(dspam_probability, dspam_prec))
    header_add("X-DSPAM-Confidence"
               sa_format_score(dspam_confidence, dspam_prec))
    header_add("X-DSPAM-Signature", dspam_signature)
  fi
done
```

5.28.2.1 DSPAM Operation Modes and Flags.

The tables below summarize flags which can be used in the *mode_flags* argument to `dspam` function. The argument is a bitwise OR of *operation mode*, *flags*, *tokenizer* and *training mode* bits. Only one operation mode bit can be used. Flags, tokenizer and training mode are optional. Any number of flags, but no more than one tokenizer type and one training mode bit are allowed. Missing values will be supplied from the configuration file.

Mode	**Meaning**
DSM_PROCESS	Process message
DSM_CLASSIFY	Classify message only (do not write changes)

Table 5.2: DSPAM Operation modes

Flag	**Meaning**
DSF_SIGNATURE	Create a signature
DSF_NOISE	Use Bayesian Noise Reduction
DSF_WHITELIST	Use Automatic Whitelisting

Table 5.3: DSPAM flags

Constant	Meaning
DSZ_WORD	Use *WORD* tokenizer
DSZ_CHAIN	Use *CHAIN* tokenizer
DSZ_SBPH	Use *SBPH* tokenizer
DSZ_OSB	Use *OSB* tokenizer

Table 5.4: DSPAM Tokenizer bits

Mode	Meaning
DST_TEFT	Train Everything
DST_TOE	Train-on-Error
DST_TUM	Train-until-Mature

Table 5.5: DSPAM Training Modes

5.28.2.2 DSPAM Class and Source Bits

The tables below summarize flags which can be used in the *class_source* argument to `dspam` function. The argument is a bitwise OR of *classification* and *source* bits. At most one classification and one source bit can be given. If not supplied, '`DSR_NONE|DSS_NONE`' is used.

The classification flags are also used as the return code, as shown in the following table.

Mode	As return value	As argument
DSR_NONE	N/A	Classify message
DSR_ISSPAM	Message is spam	Learn as spam
DSR_ISINNOCENT	Message is innocent	Learn as innocent

Table 5.6: DSPAM Classification

Source	Meaning
DSS_NONE	No classification source (use only with DSR_NONE)
DSS_ERROR	Misclassification by libdspam
DSS_CORPUS	Message came from a corpus feed
DSS_INOCULATION	Message inoculation

Table 5.7: DSPAM Source

5.28.2.3 DSPAM Global Variables

Following global variables affect the behavior of the `dspam` function:

`string dspam_config` [Built-in variable]

Name of the DSPAM configuration file. You must set this variable prior to calling `dspam`. There is no default value.

`string dspam_profile` [Built-in variable]
Name of the configuration profile to be used. If empty (the default), use global configuration settings.

`string dspam_user` [Built-in variable]
Name of the user on behalf of which `dspam` is called. Default is empty (no user).

`string dspam_group` [Built-in variable]
Name of the user group on behalf of which `dspam` is called. Default is empty (no group).

`number dspam_prec` [Built-in variable]
Number of decimal digits to retain in the `dspam_probability` and `dspam_confidence` values. See [dspam probability and confidence], page 162, for more information and examples.

Before returning, `dspam` stores additional information in the following variables:

`string dspam_signature` [Built-in variable]
Signature of the classified message. This variable is initialized if '`DSF_SIGNATURE`' bit is set in the *mode_flags* argument (see [dspam classify example], page 163),

`number dspam_probability` [Built-in variable]
Spam probability value converted to integer by shifting decimal point `dspam_prec` positions to the right and rounding the resulting number. See [dspam probability and confidence], page 162, for more information and examples.

`number dspam_confidence` [Built-in variable]
Spam confidence converted to integer using the same algorithm as for `dspam_probability`. See [dspam probability and confidence], page 162, for more information and examples.

5.28.3 ClamAV

`boolean clamav` (*number* `msg`, *string* `url`) [Built-in Function]
Pass the message *msg* to the ClamAV daemon at *url*. Return `true` if it detects a virus in it. Return virus name in `clamav_virus_name` global variable.

The `clamav` function can signal the following exceptions: `e_failure` if failed to connect to the server, `e_url` if the supplied URL is invalid and `e_range` if the supplied port number is out of the range 1–65535.

An example usage:

```
prog eom
do
  if clamav(current_message(), "tcp://192.168.10.1:6300")
    reject 550 5.7.0 "Infected with %clamav_virus_name"
  fi
done
```

5.29 Rate limiting functions

`number rate` (*string* `key`, *number* `sample-interval`, [*number* `min-samples`, *number* `threshold`]) [Built-in Function]

Returns the mail sending rate for *key* per *sample-interval*. Optional *min-samples*, if supplied, specifies the minimal number of mails needed to obtain the statistics. The default is 2. Optional *threshold* controls rate database updates. If the observed rate (per *sample-interval* seconds) is higher than the *threshold*, the hit counters for that key are not incremented and the database is not updated. Although the *threshold* argument is optional[5], its use is strongly encouraged. Normally, the value of *threshold* equals the value compared with the return from *rate*, as in:

```
if rate("$f-$client_addr", rate_interval, 4, maxrate) > maxrate
  tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Mail sending rate exceeded.  Try again later"
fi
```

This function is a low-level interface. Instead of using it directly, we advise to use the `rateok` function, described below.

`boolean rateok` (*string* `key`, *number* `sample-interval`, *number* `threshold`, [number *min-samples*]) [Library Function]

To use this function, require the `rateok` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100), e.g.: `require rateok`.

The `rateok` function returns '`True`' if the mail sending rate for *key*, computed for the interval of *sample-interval* seconds is less than the *threshold*. Optional *min-samples* parameter supplies the minimal number of mails needed to obtain the statistics. It defaults to 4.

See Section 3.12 [Sending Rate], page 25, for a detailed description of the `rateok` and its use. The `interval` function (see [interval], page 114) is often used in the second argument to `rateok` or `rate`.

`boolean tbf_rate` (*string* `key`, *number* `cost`, *number* `sample-interval`, *number* `burst-size`) [Built-in Function]

This function implements a classical token bucket filter algorithm. Tokens are added to the bucket identified by the *key* at constant rate of 1 token per *sample-interval* microseconds, to a maximum of *burst-size* tokens. If no bucket is found for the specified key, a new bucket is created and initialized to contain *burst-size* tokens. If the bucket contains *cost* or more tokens, *cost* tokens are removed from it and `tbf_rate` returns '`True`'. Otherwise, the function returns '`False`'.

For a detailed description of the Token Bucket Algorithm and its use to limit mail rates, see [TBF], page 26.

[5] It is made optional in order to provide backward compatibility with the releases of mailfromd prior to 5.0.93.

5.30 Greylisting functions

`boolean greylist` (*string* `key`, *number* `interval`) [Built-in Function]

Returns '`True`' if the *key* is found in the greylist database (controlled by `database greylist` configuration file statement, see Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200). The argument *interval* gives the greylisting interval in seconds. The function stores the number of seconds left to the end of greylisting period in the global variable `greylist_seconds_left`. See Section 3.13 [Greylisting], page 27, for a detailed explanation.

The function `greylist` can signal `e_dbfailure` exception.

`boolean is_greylisted` (*string* `key` [Built-in Function]

Returns '`True`' if the *key* is still greylisted. If '`true`' is returned, the function also stores the number of seconds left to the end of greylisting period in the global variable `greylist_seconds_left`.

This function is available only if Con Tassios implementation of greylisting is used. See [greylisting types], page 28, for a discussion of available greylisting implementations. See Section 4.2.5 [greylist], page 55, for a way to switch to Con Tassios implementation.

5.31 Special Test Functions

`boolean portprobe` (*string* `host`, [*number* `port`]) [Library Function]
`boolean listens` (*string* `host`, [*number* `port`]) [Library Function]

Returns `true` if the IP address or host name given by *host* argument listens on the port number *port* (default 25).

This function is defined in the module `portprobe`.

`boolean validuser` (*string* `name`) [Built-in Function]

Returns `true` if authenticity of the user *name* is confirmed using mailutils authentication system. See Section 3.14 [Local Account Verification], page 30, for more details.

`boolean valid_domain` (*string* `domain`) [Library Function]

Returns `true` if the domain name *domain* has a corresponding A record or if it has any '`MX`' records, i.e. if it is possible to send mail to it.

To use this function, require the `valid_domain` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100):

```
require valid_domain
```

`number heloarg_test` (*string* `arg`, *string* `remote_ip`, *string* `local_ip`) [Library Function]

Verify if an argument of '`HELO`' ('`EHLO`') command is valid. To use this function, require the `heloarg_test` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

Arguments:

arg '`HELO`' ('`EHLO`') argument. Typically, the value of `$s` Sendmail macro;

remote_ip IP address of the remote client. Typically, the value of `$client_addr` Sendmail macro;

local_ip IP address of this SMTP server;

The function returns a number describing the result of the test, as described in the following table.

Code	Meaning
HELO_SUCCESS	*arg* successfully passes all tests.
HELO_MYIP	*arg* is our IP address.
HELO_IPNOMATCH	*arg* is an IP, but it does not match the remote party IP address.
HELO_ARGNORESOLVE	*arg* is an IP, but it does not resolve.
HELO_ARGNOIP	*arg* is in square brackets, but it is not an IP address.
HELO_ARGINVALID	*arg* is not an IP address and does not resolve to one.
HELO_MYSERVERIP	*arg* resolves to our server IP.
HELO_IPMISMATCH	*arg* does not resolve to the remote client IP address.

5.32 Mail Sending Functions

The mail sending functions are new interfaces, introduced in version 3.1.

The underlying mechanism for sending mail, called *mailer*, is specified by `--mailer` command line option. This global setting can be overridden using the last optional argument to a particular function. In any case, the mailer is specified in the form of a URL.

Mailer URL begins with a protocol specification. Two protocol specifications are currently supported: '`sendmail`' and '`smtp`'. The former means to use a `sendmail`-compatible program to send mails. Such a program must be able to read mail from its standard input and must support the following options:

`-oi` Do not treat '`.`' as message terminator.

`-f addr` Use *addr* as the address of the sender.

`-t` Get recipient addresses from the message.

These conditions are met by most existing MTA programs, such as `exim` or `postfix` (to say nothing of `sendmail` itself).

Following the protocol specification is the *mailer location*, which is separated from it with a colon. For the '`sendmail`' protocol, the mailer location sets the full file name of the Sendmail-compatible MTA binary, for example:

```
sendmail:/usr/sbin/sendmail
```

A special form of a sendmail URL, consisting of protocol specification only ('`sendmail:`') is also allowed. It means "use the sendmail binary from the `_PATH_SENDMAIL` macro in your `/usr/include/paths.h` file". This is the default mailer.

The '`smtp`' protocol means to use an SMTP server directly. In this case the mailer location consists of two slashes, followed by the IP address or host name of the SMTP server, and, optionally, the port number. If the port number is present, it is separated from the rest of URL by a colon. For example:

```
smtp://remote.server.net
smtp://remote.server.net:24
```

`void send_mail` (*string* ***msg*** [, *string* ***to***, *string* ***from***, *string* ***mailer***]) [Built-in Function]

Sends message *msg* to the email address *to*. The value of *msg* must be a valid RFC 2822 message, consisting of headers and body. Optional argument *to* can contain several email addresses. In this case the message will be sent to each recipient specified in *to*. If it is not specified, recipient addresses will be obtained from the message headers.

Other optional arguments are:

from Sets the sender address. By default '`<>`' is used.

mailer The URL of the mailer to use

Sample usage:

```
set message <<- EOT
      Subject: Test message
      To: Postmaster <postmaster@gnu.org.ua>
      From: Mailfromd <devnull@gnu.org.ua>
      X-Agent: %__package__ (%__version__)

      Dear postmaster,

      This is to notify you that our /etc/mailfromd.mf
      needs a revision.
      --
      Mailfromd filter administrator
EOT
send_mail(message, "postmaster@gnu.org.ua")
```

`void send_text` (*string* ***text***, *string* ***headers*** [, *string* ***to***, *string* ***from***, *string* ***mailer***]) [Built-in Function]

A more complex interface to mail sending functions.

Mandatory arguments:

text Text of the message to be sent.

headers Headers for the message.

Optional arguments:

to Recipient email addresses.

from Sender email address.

mailer URL of the mailer to use.

The above example can be rewritten using `send_text` as follows:

```
set headers << -EOT
      Subject: Test message
      To: Postmaster <postmaster@gnu.org.ua>
      From: Mailfromd <devnull@gnu.org.ua>
      X-Agent: %__package__ (%__version__)
EOT
set text <<- EOT
      Dear postmaster,

      This is to notify you that our /etc/mailfromd.mf
      needs a revision.
      --
      Mailfromd filter administrator
EOT
send_text(text, headers, "postmaster@gnu.org.ua")
```

`void send_message` (*number* ***msg*** [*string* ***to***, *string* ***from***, *string* ***mailer***]) [Built-in Function]

Send the message identified by descriptor *msg* (see Section 5.16 [Message functions], page 129).

Optional arguments are:

to Recipient email addresses.

from Sender email address.

mailer URL of the mailer to use.

`void send_dsn` (*string* ***to***, *string* ***sender***, *string* ***rcpt***, *string* ***text*** [, *string* ***headers***, *string* ***from***, *string* ***mailer***]) [Built-in Function]

This is an experimental interface which will change in the future versions. It sends a message disposition notification (RFC 2298, RFC 1894), of type '`deleted`' to the email address *to*. Arguments are:

to Recipient email address.

sender Original sender email address.

rcpt Original recipient email address.

text Notification text.

Optional arguments:

headers Message headers

from Sender address.

mailer URL of the mailer to use.

`void create_dsn` (*string* ***sender***, *string* ***rcpt***, *string* ***text*** [, *string* ***headers***, *string* ***from***]) [Built-in Function]

Creates DSN message and returns its descriptor. Arguments are:

sender Original sender email address.

rcpt Original recipient email address.

text Notification text.

headers Message headers

from Sender address.

5.33 Blacklisting Functions

The functions described in this subsection allow to check whether the given IP address is listed in certain *black list* DNS zone.

`boolean match_dnsbl` (*string* `address`, *string* `zone`, *string* `range`) [Library Function]

This function looks up *address* in the DNS blacklist zone *zone* and checks if the return falls into the given *range* of IP addresses.

It is intended as a replacement for the Sendmail macros '`dnsbl`' and '`enhdnsbl`'.

To use `match_dnsbl`, require the `match_dnsbl` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

Arguments:

address IP address of the SMTP server to be tested.

zone FQDN of the DNSbl zone to test against.

range The range of IP addresses in CIDR notation or the word '`ANY`', which stands for '`127.0.0.0/8`'.

The function returns `true` if dns lookup for *address* in the zone *dnsbl* yields an IP that falls within the range, specified by *cidr*. Otherwise, it returns `false`.

This function raises the following exceptions: `e_invip` if *address* is invalid and `e_invcidr` if *cidr* is invalid.

`boolean match_rhsbl` (*string* `email`, *string* `zone`, *string* `range`) [Library Function]

This function checks if the IP address, corresponding to the domain part of *email* is listed in the RHS DNS blacklist zone *zone*, and if so, whether its record falls into the given range of IP addresses *range*.

It is intended as a replacement for the Sendmail macro '`rhsbl`' by Derek J. Balling.

To use this function, require the `match_rhsbl` module (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

Arguments:

email E-mail address, whose domain name should be tested (usually, it is `$f`)

zone Domain name of the RHS DNS blacklist zone.

range The range of IP addresses in CIDR notation.

5.34 SPF Functions

Sender Policy Framework, or SPF for short, is an extension to SMTP protocol that allows to identify forged identities supplied with the `MAIL FROM` and `HELO` commands. The framework is explained in detail in RFC 4408 (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4408`) and on the SPF Project Site (`http://www.openspf.org/`). The following description is a short introduction only, and the users are encouraged to refer to the original specification for the detailed description of the framework.

The domain holder publishes an *SPF record* – a special DNS resource record that contains a set of rules declaring which hosts are, and are not, authorized to use a domain name for `HELO` and `MAIL FROM` identities. This resource record is usually of type `TXT`.[6]

The MFL script can verify if the identity matches the published SPF record by calling `check_host` function and analyzing its return code. The function can be called either in `helo` or in `envfrom` handler. Its arguments are:

ip The IP address of the SMTP client that is emitting the mail. Usually it is `$client_addr`.

domain The domain that provides the sought-after authorization information; Normally it is the domain portion of the `MAIL FROM` or `HELO` identity.

sender The `MAIL FROM` identity.

helo_domain
The `HELO` identity.

my_domain
The SMTP domain served by the local server.

The function returns a numeric result code. For convenience, all possible return values are defined as macros in module `spf.mf`. The table below describes each value along with the recommended actions for it:

`None` A result of `None` means that no records were published by the domain or that no checkable sender domain could be determined from the given identity. The checking software cannot ascertain whether or not the client host is authorized. Such a message can be subject to further checks that will decide about its fate.

`Neutral` The domain owner has explicitly stated that he cannot or does not want to assert whether or not the IP address is authorized. This result must be treated exactly like `None`; the distinction between them exists only for informational purposes

`Pass` The client is authorized to send mail with the given identity. The message can be subject to further policy checks with confidence in the legitimate use of the identity or it can be accepted in the absence of such checks.

`Fail` The client is not authorized to use the domain in the given identity. The proper action in this case can be to mark the message with a header explicitly stating it is spam, or to reject it outright.

[6] Although RFC 4408 introduces a special `SPF` record type for this purpose, it is not yet widely used. As of version 8.11, MFL does not support `SPF` DNS records.

If you choose to reject such mails, we suggest to use `reject 550 5.7.1`, as recommended by RFC 4408. The reject can return either a default explanation string, or the one supplied by the domain that published the SPF records, as in the example below:

```
reject 550 5.7.1 "SPF check failed:\n%spf_explanation"
```

(for the description of `spf_explanation`, see [spf_explanation], page 174)

`SoftFail` The domain believes the host is not authorized but is not willing to make that strong of a statement. This result code should be treated as somewhere in between a `Fail` and a `Neutral`. It is not recommended to reject the message based solely on this result.

`TempError`
A transient error occurred while performing SPF check. The proper action in this case is to accept or temporarily reject the message. If you choose the latter, we suggest to use SMTP reply code of '`451`' and DSN code '`4.4.3`', for example:

```
tempfail 451 4.4.3
         "Transient error while performing SPF verification"
```

`PermError`
This result means that the domain's published records could not be correctly interpreted. This signals an error condition that requires manual intervention to be resolved, as opposed to the `TempError` result.

The following example illustrates the use of SPF verification in `envfrom` handler:

```
#include_once <status.mfh>
require spf

prog envfrom
do
  switch check_host($client_addr, domainpart($f), $f, $s)
  do
  case Fail:
    string text ""
    if spf_explanation != ""
      set text "%text\n%spf_explanation"
    fi
    reject 550 5.7.1 "SPF MAIL FROM check failed: %text"

  case Pass:
    accept

  case TempError:
    tempfail 451 4.4.3
             "Transient error while performing SPF verification"

  default:
    on poll $f do
```

```
        when success:
          accept
        when not_found or failure:
          reject 550 5.1.0 "Sender validity not confirmed"
        when temp_failure:
          tempfail 450 4.7.0 "Temporary failure during sender verification"
        done
      done
    done
```

The SPF support is implemented in MFL in two layers: a built-in layer that provides basic support, and a library layer that provides a convenience wrapper over the library function.

The library layer is implemented in the module `spf.mf` (see Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100).

The rest of this node describes available SPF functions and variables.

`number spf_check_host` (*string* `ip`, *string* `domain`, *string* `sender`, *string* `helo_domain`, *string* `my_domain`) [Built-in Function]

This function is the basic implementation of the `check_host` function, defined in RFC 4408, chapter 4. It fetches SPF records, parses them, and evaluates them to determine whether a particular host (*ip*) is or is not permitted to send mail from a given email address (*sender*). The function returns an *SPF result code*.

Arguments are:

ip The IP address of the SMTP client that is emitting the mail. Usually it is `$client_addr`.

domain The domain that provides the sought-after authorization information; Normally it is the domain portion of the `MAIL FROM` or `HELO` identity.

sender The `MAIL FROM` identity.

helo_domain
The `HELO` identity.

my_domain
The SMTP domain served by the local server.

Before returning the `spf_check_host` function stores additional information in global variables:

`spf_explanation`
If the result code is `Fail`, this variable contains the explanation string as returned by the publishing domain, prefixed with the value of the global variable `spf_explanation_prefix`.

For example, if `spf_explanation_prefix` contains '`The domain %{o} explains: `', and the publishing domain '`example.com`' returns the explanation string '`Please see`

`http://www.example.com/mailpolicy.html`', than the value of `spf_explanation` will be:

```
The domain example.com explains:
Please see http://www.example.com/mailpolicy.html
```

(see RFC 4408 (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4408`), chapter 8, for the description of SPF macro facility).

`spf_mechanism`
: Name of the SPF mechanism that decided about the result code of the SPF record. If one or more '`include`' or '`redirect`' mechanisms were traversed before arriving at that mechanism, their values are appended in the reverse order.

`number spf_test_record` (*string* `record`, *string* `ip`, *string* `domain`, *string* `sender`, *string* `helo_domain`, *string* `my_domain`) [Built-in Function]

Evaluate SPF record *record* as if it were published by *domain*. The rest of arguments are the same as for `spf_check_host` above.

This function is designed primarily for testing and debugging purposes. You would hardly need to use it.

The `spf_test_record` function sets the same global variables as `spf_check_host`.

`number check_host` (*string* `ip`, *string* `domain`, *string* `sender`, *string* `helo`) [Library Function]

This function implements the `check_host` function, defined in RFC 4408, chapter 4. It fetches SPF records, parses them, and evaluates them to determine whether a particular host (*ip*) is or is not permitted to send mail from a given email address (*sender*). The function returns an *SPF result code*.

This function is a wrapper over the built-in `spf_check_host`.

The arguments are:

ip
: The IP address of the SMTP client that is emitting the mail. Usually it is the same as the value of `$client_addr`.

domain
: The domain that provides the sought-after authorization information; Normally it is the domain portion of the `MAIL FROM` or `HELO` identity.

sender
: The `MAIL FROM` identity.

helo
: The `HELO` identity.

`string spf_status_string` (*number* `code`) [Library Function]

Converts numeric SPF result *code* to its string representation.

`string spf_explanation` [Built-in variable]

If `check_host` (or `spf_check_host` or `spf_test_record`) returned `Fail`, this variable contains the explanation string as returned by the publishing domain, prefixed with the value of the global variable `spf_explanation_prefix`.

For example, if `spf_explanation_prefix` contains '`The domain %{o} explains: `', and the publishing domain '`example.com`' returns the explanation string '`Please see`

`http://www.example.com/mailpolicy.html`', than the value of `spf_explanation` will be:

```
The domain example.com explains:
Please see http://www.example.com/mailpolicy.html
```

`string spf_mechanism` [Built-in variable]

Set to the name of a SPF mechanism that decided about the result code of the SPF record.

`string spf_explanation_prefix` [Built-in variable]

The prefix to be appended to the explanation string before storing it in the `spf_explanation` variable. This string can contain valid SPF macros (see RFC 4408 (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4408`), chapter 8), for example:

```
set spf_explanation_prefix "%{o} explains: "
```

The default value is '`""`' (an empty string).

5.35 DKIM

DKIM or *DomainKeys Identified Mail* is an email authentication method that allows recipients to verify if an email was authorized by the owner of the domain that email claims to originate from. It does so by adding a digital signature which is verified using a public key published as a DNS TXT record. For technical details about DKIM, please refer to RFC 6376 (`http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6376`).

MFL provides functions for DKIM signing and verification.

`number dkim_verify` (*number msg*) [Built-in Function]

Verifies the message *msg* (a message descriptor, obtained from a call to `current_message`, `mailbox_get_message`, `message_from_stream` or a similar function).

Return value (constants defined in the '`status`' module):

DKIM_VERIFY_OK
: The message contains one or more '`DKIM-Signature`' headers and one of them verified successfully.

DKIM_VERIFY_PERMFAIL
: The message contains one or more '`DKIM-Signature`' headers, all of which failed to verify.

DKIM_VERIFY_TEMPFAIL
: The message was not signed using DKIM, or the DNS query to obtain the public key failed, or an internal software error occured during verification.

The following two global variables are always set upon return from this function: '`dkim_explanation`' and '`dkim_explanation_code`'. These can be used to clarify the verification result to the end user.

Upon successful return, the variable '`dkim_verified_signature`' is set to the value of the successfully verified DKIM signature.

`string dkim_explanation` [Built-in variable]

An explanatory message clarifying the verification result.

`number dkim_explanation_code` [Built-in variable]

A numeric code corresponding to the '`dkim_explanation`' string. Its possible values are defined in '`status.mf`':

'`DKIM_EXPL_OK`'
: DKIM verification passed.

'`DKIM_EXPL_NO_SIG`'
: No DKIM signature.

'`DKIM_EXPL_INTERNAL_ERROR`'
: Internal error

'`DKIM_EXPL_SIG_SYNTAX`'
: Signature syntax error

'`DKIM_EXPL_SIG_MISS`'
: Signature is missing required tag

'`DKIM_EXPL_DOMAIN_MISMATCH`'
: Domain part of the `i=` tag does not match and is not a subdomain of the domain listed in the `d=` tag.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_VERSION`'
: Incompatible DKIM version listed in the `v=` tag.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_ALGORITHM`'
: Unsupported algorithm.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_QUERY`'
: Unsupported query method.

'`DKIM_EXPL_FROM`'
: From field not signed.

'`DKIM_EXPL_EXPIRED`'
: Ssignature expired.

'`DKIM_EXPL_DNS_UNAVAIL`'
: Public key unavailable.

'`DKIM_EXPL_DNS_NOTFOUND`'
: Public key not found.

'`DKIM_EXPL_KEY_SYNTAX`'
: Key syntax error.

'`DKIM_EXPL_KEY_REVOKED`'
: Key revoked.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_BODY`'
: Body hash did not verify.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_BASE64`'
: Can't decode the content of the `b=` tag.

'`DKIM_EXPL_BAD_SIG`'
: Signature did not verify.

`string dkim_verified_signature` [Built-in variable]

Upon successful return from the `dkim_verify` function, this variable holds the value of the successfully verified DKIM header. This value is unfolded and all whitespace is removed from it.

An example of using the '`dkim_verify`' function:

```
require status
require dkim

prog eom
do
  string result
  switch dkim_verify(current_message())
  do
     case DKIM_VERIFY_OK:
         set result "pass; verified for " .
                    dkim_verified_signature_tag('i')
     case DKIM_VERIFY_PERMFAIL:
         set result "fail (%dkim_explanation)"
     case DKIM_VERIFY_TEMPFAIL:
         set result "neutral"
  done
  header_add("X-Verification-Result", "dkim=%result")
done
```

The '`dkim`' module defines convenience functions for manipulating with DKIM signatures:

`dkim_signature_tag (string` *`sig`*, *string* `tag`) [Library Function]

Extracts the value of the tag *tag* from the DKIM signature *sig*. Signature must be normalized by performing the header unwrapping and removing whitespace characters.

If the tag was not found, returns empty string, unless *tag* is one of the tags listed in the table below. If any of these tags are absent, the following values are returned instead:

Tag	**Default value**
c	'`simple/simple`'
q	'`dns/txt`'
i	'`@`' + the value of the '`d`' tag.

`string dkim_verified_signature_tag (`*string* `tag`) [Library Function]

Returns the value of tag *tag* from the '`dkim_verified_signature`' variable.

`void dkim_sign (`*string* `d`, *string* `s`, *string* `keyfile`, [*string* `ch`, *string* `cb`, *string* `headers`]) [Built-in Function]

This function is available only in the `eom` handler.

Signs the current message. *Notice*, that no other modification should be attempted on the message after calling this function. Doing so wold make the signature invalid.

Mandatory arguments:

d Name of the domain claiming responsibility for an introduction of a message into the mail stream. It is also known as the signing domain identifier (SDID).

s The selector name. This value, along with *d* identifies the location of the DKIM public key necessary for verifying the message. The public key is stored in the DNS TXT record for

```
s._domainkey.d
```

keyfile Name of the disk file that keeps the private key for signing the message. The file must be in PEM format.

Optional arguments:

ch Canonicalization algorithm for message headers. Valid values are: '`simple`' and '`relaxed`'. '`simple`' is the default.

cb Canonicalization algorithm for message body. Valid and default values are the same as for *ch*.

headers A colon-separated list of header field names that identify the header fields that must be signed. Optional whitespace is allowed at either side of each colon separator. Header names are case-insensitive. This list must contain at least the '`From`' header.

It may contain names of headers that are not present in the message being signed. This provides a way to explicitly assert the absence of a header field. For example, if *headers* contained '`X-Mailer`' and that header is not present in the message being signed, but is added by a third party later, the signature verification will fail.

Similarly, listing a header field name once more than the actual number of its occurrences in a message allows you to prevent any further additions. For example, if there is a single '`Comments`' header field at the time of signing, putting '`Comments:Comments:`' in the *headers* parameter is sufficient to prevent any surplus '`Comments`' headers from being added later on.

Multiple instances of the same header name are allowed. They mean that multiple occurrences of the corresponding header field will be included in the header hash. When such multiple header occurrences are referenced, they will be presented to the hashing algorithm in the reverse order. E.g. if the *header* list contained '`Received:Received`') and the current message contained three '`Received`' headers:

```
Received: A
Received: B
Received: C
```

then these headers will be signed in the following order:

```
Received: C
Received: B
```

The default value for this parameter, split over multiple lines for readability, is as follows:

- "From:From:"
- "Reply-To:Reply-To:"
- "Subject:Subject:"
- "Date:Date:"
- "To:"
- "Cc:"
- "Resent-Date:"
- "Resent-From:"
- "Resent-To:"
- "Resent-Cc:"
- "In-Reply-To:"
- "References:"
- "List-Id:"
- "List-Help:"
- "List-Unsubscribe:"
- "List-Subscribe:"
- "List-Post:"
- "List-Owner:"
- "List-Archive"

An example of using this function:

```
precious domain "example.org"
precious selector "s2048"
prog eom
do
  dkim_sign("example.org", "s2048", "/etc/pem/my-private.pem",
            "relaxed", "relaxed", "from:to:subject")
done
```

Note on interation of dkim_sign with MMQ

The functions `header_add` and `header_insert` (see Section 5.8 [Header modification functions], page 122) as well as the `add` action (see [header manipulation], page 86) cannot interact properly with `dkim_sign` due to the shortcomings of the Milter API. If any of these was called, `dkim_sign` will throw the `e_badmmq` exception with the diagnostics following diagnostics:

`MMQ incompatible with dkim_sign:` *op* `on` *h*`, value` *v*

where *op* is the operation code (‘`ADD HEADER`’ or ‘`INSERT HEADER`’), *h* is the header name and *v* is its value.

The following example shows one graceful way of handling such exception:

```
prog eom
do
    try
    do
        dkim_sign("example.org", "s2048", "/etc/pem/my-private.pem")
    done
    catch e_badmmq
    do
        # Purge the message modification queue
        mmq_purge()
        # and retry
        dkim_sign("example.org", "s2048", "/etc/pem/my-private.pem")
    done
done
```

See Section 5.10 [Message modification queue], page 124, for a discussion of the message modification queue.

5.35.1 Setting up a DKIM record

Follow these steps to set up your own DKIM record:

1. Generate the key pair Use the `openssl genrsa` command. Run:

   ```
   openssl genrsa -out private.pem 2048
   ```

   The last argument is the size of the private key to generate in bits.
2. Extract the public key

   ```
   openssl rsa -in private.pem -pubout -outform PEM -out public.pem
   ```
3. Set up a DKIM record in your domain A DKIM record is a TXT type DNS record that holds the public key part for verifying messages. Its format is defined in RFC 4871[7]. The label for this record is composed as follows:

   s`._domainkey.`*d*

   where *d* is your domain name, and *s* is the selector you chose to use. You will use these two values as parameters to the `dkim_sign` function in your `eom` handler. E.g. if your domain in '`example.com`' and selector is '`s2048`', then the DKIM TXT record label is '`s2048._domainkey.example.com`'.

   The public key file generated in step 2 will have the following contents:

   ```
   -----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY-----
   base64
   -----END PUBLIC KEY-----
   ```

   where *base64* is the key itself in base64 encoding. The minimal DKIM TXT record will be:

   "v=DKIM1; p=*base64*"

   The only mandatory *tag* is in fact '`p=`'. The use of '`v=`' is recommended. More tags can be added as needed. In particular, while testing the DKIM support, it is advisable to add the '`t=y`' tag.

[7] `https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4871`

5.36 Sockmap Functions

Socket map (*sockmap* for short) is a special type of database used in Sendmail and MeTA1. It uses a simple server/client protocol over INET or UNIX stream sockets. The server listens on a socket for queries. The client connects to the server and sends it a query, consisting of a *map name* and a *key* separated by a single space. Both map name and key are sequences of non-whitespace characters. The map name serves to identify the type of the query. The server replies with a response consisting of a *status indicator* and *result*, separated by a single space. The result part is optional.

For example, following is the query for key '`smith`' in map '`aliases`':

```
11:aliases news,
```

A possible reply is:

```
18:OK root@domain.net,
```

This reply means that the key '`news`' was found in the map, and the value corresponding to that key is '`root@domain.net`'.

The following reply means the key was not found:

```
8:NOTFOUND,
```

For a detailed description of the sockmap protocol, see Section "Protocol" in *Smap manual*.

The MFL library provides two primitives for dealing with sockmaps. Both primitives become available after requiring the `sockmap` module.

`string sockmap_lookup` (*number* `fd`, *string* `map`, *string* `key`) [Library Function]

This function look ups the *key* in the *map*. The *fd* refers to the sockmap to use. It must be obtained as a result of a previous call to `open` with the URL of the sockmap as its first argument (see Section 5.24 [I/O functions], page 149). For example:

```
number fd open("@ unix:///var/spool/meta1/smap/socket")
string ret sockmap_query(fd, "aliases", $rcpt_to)
if ret matches "OK (.+)"
  set alias \1
fi
close(fd)
```

`string sockmap_single_lookup` (*string* `url`, *string* `map`, *string* `key`) [Library Function]

This function connects to the sockmap identified by the *url*, queries for *key* in *map* and closes the connection. It is useful when you need to perform only a single lookup on the sockmap.

5.37 National Language Support Functions

The *National Language Support* functions allow you to write your scripts in such a way, that any textual messages they display are automatically translated to your native language, or, more precisely, to the language required by your current locale.

This section assumes the reader is familiar with the concepts of program *internationalization* and *localization*. If not, please refer to Section "The Purpose of GNU `gettext`" in *GNU gettext manual*, before reading further.

In general, internationalization of any MFL script follows the same rules as described in the *GNU gettext manual*. First of all, you select the program *message domain*, i.e. the identifier of a set of translatable messages your script contain. This identifier is then used to select appropriate translation. The message domain is set using `textdomain` function. For the purposes of this section, let's suppose the domain name is '`myfilter`'. All NLS functions are provided in the `nls` module, which you need to require prior to using any of them.

To find translations of textual message to the current locale, the underlying `gettext` mechanism will look for file *`dirname`*`/`*`locale`*`/LC_MESSAGES/`*`domainname`*`.mo`, where *dirname* is the message catalog hierarchy name, *locale* is the locale name, and *domainname* is the name of the message domain. By default *dirname* is `/usr/local/share/locale`, but you may change it using `bindtextdomain` function. The right place for this initial NLS setup is in the '`begin`' block (see Section 4.12 [begin/end], page 71). To summarize all the above, the usual NLS setup will look like:

```
require nls

begin
do
  textdomain("myfilter")
  bindtextdomain("myfilter", "/usr/share/locale");
done
```

For example, given the settings above, and supposing the environment variable `LC_ALL` is set to '`pl`', translations will be looked in file `/usr/share/locale/pl/LC_MESSAGES/myfilter.mo`.

Once this preparatory work is done, you can request each message to be translated by using `gettext` function, or `_` (underscore) macro. For example, the following statement will produce translated textual description for '`450`' response:

```
tempfail 450 4.1.0 _("Try again later")
```

Of course it assumes that the appropriate `myfile.mo` file already exists. If it does not, nothing bad happens: in this case the macro `_` (as well as `gettext` function) will simply return its argument unchanged, so that the remote party will get the textual message in English.

The '`mo`' files are binary files created from '`po`' source files using `msgfmt` utility, as described in Section "Producing Binary MO Files" in *GNU gettext manual*. In turn, the format of '`po`' files is described in Section "The Format of PO Files" in *GNU gettext manual*.

`string bindtextdomain` (*string* *`domain`*, *string* *`dirname`*) [Built-in Function]

This function sets the base directory of the hierarchy containing message catalogs for a given message domain.

domain is a string identifying the textual domain. If it is not empty, the base directory for message catalogs belonging to domain *domain* is set to *dirname*. It is important that *dirname* be an absolute pathname; otherwise it cannot be guaranteed that the message catalogs will be found.

If *domain* is '`""`', `bindtextdomain` returns the previously set base directory for domain *domain*.

The rest of this section describes the NLS functions supplied in the `nls` module.

`string dgettext` (*string* `domain`, *string* `msgid`) [Built-in Function]
: `dgettext` attempts to translate the string *msgid* into the currently active locale, according to the settings of the textual domain *domain*. If there is no translation available, `dgettext` returns *msgid* unchanged.

`string dngettext` (*string* `domain`, *string* `msgid`, *string* `msgid_plural`, *number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
: The `dngettext` functions attempts to translate a text string into the language specified by the current locale, by looking up the appropriate singular or plural form of the translation in a message catalog, set for the textual domain *domain*.

  See Section "Additional functions for plural forms" in *GNU gettext utilities*, for a discussion of the plural form handling in different languages.

`string textdomain` (*string* `domain`) [Library Function]
: The `textdomain` function sets the current message domain to *domain*, if it is not empty. In any case the function returns the current message domain. The current domain is '`mailfromd`' initially. For example, the following sequence of `textdomain` invocations will yield:

```
textdomain("") ⇒ "mailfromd"
textdomain("myfilter") ⇒ "myfilter"
textdomain("") ⇒ "myfilter"
```

`string gettext` (*string* `msgid`) [Library Function]
: `gettext` attempts to translate the string *msgid* into the currently active locale, according to the settings of the current textual domain (set using `textdomain` function). If there is no translation available, `gettext` returns *msgid* unchanged.

`string ngettext` (*string* `msgid`, *string* `msgid_plural`, *number* `n`) [Library Function]
: The `ngettext` functions attempts to translate a text string into the language specified by the current locale, by looking up the appropriate singular or plural form of the translation in a message catalog, set for the current textual domain.

  See Section "Additional functions for plural forms" in *GNU gettext utilities*, for a discussion of the plural form handling in different languages.

5.38 Syslog Interface

The basic means for outputting diagnostic messages is the '`echo`' instruction (see Section 4.16.4 [Echo], page 87), which sends its arguments to the currently established logging channel. In daemon mode, the latter is normally connected to syslog, so any echoed messages are sent there with the facility selected in mailfromd configuration and priority '`info`'.

If you want to send a message to another facility and/or priority, use the '`syslog`' function:

`void syslog` (*number* `priority`, *string* `text`) [Built-in Function]
Sends *text* to syslog. The priority argument is formed by ORing the facility and the level values (explained below). The facility level is optional. If not supplied, the currently selected logging facility is used.

The facility specifies what type of program is logging the message, and the level indicates its relative severity. The following symbolic facility values are declared in the `syslog` module: '`LOG_KERN`', '`LOG_USER`', '`LOG_MAIL`', '`LOG_DAEMON`', '`LOG_AUTH`', '`LOG_SYSLOG`', '`LOG_LPR`', '`LOG_NEWS`', '`LOG_UUCP`', '`LOG_CRON`', '`LOG_AUTHPRIV`', '`LOG_FTP`' and '`LOG_LOCAL0`' through '`LOG_LOCAL7`'

The declared severity levels are: '`LOG_EMERG`', '`LOG_ALERT`', '`LOG_CRIT`', '`LOG_ERR`', '`LOG_WARNING`', '`LOG_NOTICE`', '`LOG_INFO`' and '`LOG_DEBUG`'.

5.39 Debugging Functions

These functions are designed for debugging the MFL programs.

`void debug` (*string* `spec`) [Built-in Function]
Enable debugging. The value of *spec* sets the debugging level. See [debugging level specification], page 42, for a description of its format.

For compatibility with previous versions, this function is also available under the name '`mailutils_set_debug_level`'.

`number debug_level` ([*string* `srcname`]) [Built-in Function]
This function returns the debugging level currently in effect for the source module *srcname*, or the global debugging level, if called without arguments.

For example, if the program was started with `--debug='all.trace5; engine.trace8'` option, then:

```
debug_level() ⇒ 127
debug_level("engine") ⇒ 1023
debug_level("db") ⇒ 0
```

`boolean callout_transcript` ([*boolean* `value`]) [Built-in Function]
Returns the current state of the callout SMTP transcript. The result is 1 if the transcript is enabled and 0 otherwise. The transcript is normally enabled either by the use of the `--transcript` command line option (see [SMTP transcript], page 45) or via the '`transcript`' configuration statement (see Section 7.3 [conf-server], page 195).

The optional *value*, supplies the new state for SMTP transcript. Thus, calling '`callout_transcript(0)`' disables the transcript.

This function can be used in bracket-like fashion to enable transcript for a certain part of MFL program, e.g.:

```
number xstate callout_transcript(1)
on poll $f do
  ...
done
set xstate callout_transcript(0)
```

Note, that the use of this function (as well as the use of the `--transcript` option) makes sense only if callouts are performed by the `mailfromd` daemon itself. It will not work if a dedicated callout server is used for that purpose (see Chapter 10 [calloutd], page 217).

`string debug_spec` ([*string* `catnames`, *bool* `showunset`]) [Built-in Function]

Returns the current debugging level specification, as given by `--debug` command line option or by the `debug` configuration statement (see Section 7.5 [conf-debug], page 197).

If the argument *srcnames* is specified, it is treated as a semicolon-separated list of categories for which the debugging specification is to be returned.

For example, if `mailfromd` was started with `--debug=all.trace5;spf.trace1;engine.trace8;db.trace0`, then:

```
debug_spec() ⇒ "all.trace5,engine.trace8"
debug_spec("all;engine") ⇒ "all.trace5,engine.trace8"
debug_spec("engine;db") ⇒ "db.trace0;engine.trace8"
debug_spec("prog") ⇒ ""
```

When called without arguments, `debug_spec` returns only those categories which have been set, as shown in the first example above.

Optional *showunset* parameters controls whether to return unset module specifications. To print all debugging specifications, whether set or not, use

```
debug_spec("", 1)
```

These three functions are intended to complement each other. The calls to `debug` can be placed around some piece of code you wish to debug, to enable specific debugging information for this code fragment only. For example:

```
/* Save debugging level for dns.c source */
set dlev debug_spec("dns", 1)
/* Set new debugging level */
debug("dns.trace8")
.
.
.
/* Restore previous level */
debug(dlev)
```

`void program_trace` (*string* `module`) [Built-in Function]

Enable tracing for a set of modules given in *module* argument. See [–trace-program], page 207, for a description of its format.

`void cancel_program_trace` (*string* `module`) [Built-in Function]

Disable tracing for given modules.

This pair of functions is also designed to be used together in a bracket-like fashion. They are useful for debugging `mailfromd`, but are not advised to use otherwise, since tracing slows down the execution considerably.

`void stack_trace ()` [Built-in Function]
Generate a stack trace in this point. See [tracing runtime errors], page 47, for the detailed description of stack traces.

The functions below are intended mainly for debugging MFL run-time engine and for use in `mailfromd` testsuite. You will hardly need to use them in your programs.

`void _expand_dataseg` (*number* `n`) [Built-in Function]
Expands the run-time data segment by at least *n* words.

`number _reg` (*number* `r`) [Built-in Function]
Returns the value of the register *r* at the moment of the call. Symbolic names for run-time registers are provided in the module `_register`:

Name	**Register**
REG_PC	Program counter
REG_TOS	Top of stack
REG_TOH	Top of heap
REG_BASE	Frame base
REG_REG	General-purpose accumulator
REG_MATCHSTR	Last matched string pointer

`void _wd` ([*number* `n`]) [Built-in Function]
Enters a time-consuming loop and waits there for *n* seconds (by default – indefinitely). The intention is to facilitate attaching to `mailfromd` with the debugger. Before entering the loop, a diagnostic message is printed on the '`crit`' facility, informing about the PID of the process and suggesting the command to be used to attach to it, e.g.:

```
mailfromd: process 21831 is waiting for debug
mailfromd: to attach: gdb -ex 'set variable mu_wd::_count_down=0'
 /usr/sbib/mailfromd 21831
```

6 Using the GNU Emacs MFL Mode

MFL sources are usual ASCII files and you may edit them with any editor you like. However, the best choice for this job (as well as for many others) is, without doubt, GNU Emacs. To ease the work of editing script files, the `mailfromd` package provides a special Emacs mode, called *MFL mode*.

The elisp source file providing this mode, `mfl-mode.el`, is installed automatically, provided that GNU Emacs is present on your machine. To enable the mode, add the following lines to your Emacs setup file (either system-wide `site-start.el`, or your personal one, `~/.emacs`):

```
(autoload 'mfl-mode "mfl-mode")
(setq auto-mode-alist (append auto-mode-alist
                      '(("/etc/mailfromd.mf" . mfl-mode)
                        ("\\.mf$" . mfl-mode))))
```

The first directive loads the MFL mode, and the second one tells Emacs to apply it to any file whose name ends in `/etc/mailfromd.mf`[1] or in a '`.mf`' suffix.

MFL mode provides automatic indentation and syntax highlighting for MFL sources. The default indentation setup is the same as the one used throughout this book:

- Handler and function definitions start at column 1;
- A block statement, i.e. '`do`', '`done`', '`if`', '`else`', '`elif`' and '`fi`', occupies a line by itself, with the only exception that '`do`' after an '`on`' statement is located on the same line with it;
- A '`do`' statement that follows function or handler definition is placed in column 1.
- Each subsequent level of nesting is indented two columns to the right (see [mfl-basic-offset], page 190).
- A closing statement ('`done`', '`else`', '`elif`', '`fi`') is placed at the same column as the corresponding opening statement;
- Branch statements ('`case`' and '`when`') are placed in the same column as their controlling keyword ('`switch`' and '`on`', correspondingly (see [mfl-case-line-offset], page 190).
- Loop substatements (see Section 4.18 [Loops], page 89) are offset 5 columns to the right from the controlling `loop` keyword. (see [mfl-loop-statement-offset], page 191). Continuation statements within loop header are offset 5 columns from the indentation of their controlling keyword, either `for` or `while` (see [mfl-loop-continuation-offset], page 191).

The mode provides two special commands that help navigate through the complex filter scripts:

`C-M-a` Move to the beginning of current function or handler definition.

`C-M-e` Move to the end of current function or handler definition.

Here, *current function or handler* means the one within which your cursor currently stays.

[1] This will match most existing installations. In the unlikely case that your `$sysconfdir` does not end in `/etc`, you will have to edit the directive accordingly.

You can use *C-M-e* repeatedly to walk through all function and handler definitions in your script files. Similarly, repeatedly pressing *C-M-a* will visit all the definitions in the opposite direction (from the last up to the very first one).

Another special command, *C-c C-c*, allows to verify the syntax of your script file. This command runs `mailfromd` in syntax check mode (see Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33) and displays its output in a secondary window, which allows to navigate through eventual diagnostic messages and to jump to source locations described by them.

All MFL mode settings are customizable. To change any of them, press *M-x customize* and visit '`Environment/Unix/Mfl`' customization group. This group offers two subgroups: '`Mfl Lint group`' and '`Mfl Indentation group`'.

'`Mfl Lint group`' controls invocation of mailfromd by *C-c C-c*. This group contains two variables:

`mfl-mailfromd-command` [MFL-mode setting]
: The `mailfromd` to be invoked. By default, it is '`mailfromd`'. You will have to change it, if `mailfromd` cannot be found using `PATH` environment variable, or if you wish to pass it some special options. However, do not include `--lint` or `-I` options in this variable. The `--lint` option is given automatically, and include paths are controlled by `mfl-include-path` variable (see below).

`mfl-include-path` [MFL-mode setting]
: A list of directories to be appended to `mailfromd` include search path (see [include search path], page 51). By default it is empty.

'`Mfl Indentation group`' controls automatic indentation of MFL scripts. This group contains the following settings:

`mfl-basic-offset` [MFL-mode setting]
: This variable sets the basic indentation increment. It is set to 2, by default, which corresponds to the following indentation style:

```
prog envfrom
do
  if $f = ""
    accept
  else
    ...
  fi
done
```

`mfl-case-line-offset` [MFL-mode setting]
: Indentation offset for `case` and `when` lines, relative to the column of their controlling keyword. The default is 0, i.e.:

```
switch x
do
case 0:
  ...
default:
```

```
  ...
done
```

`mfl-returns-offset` [MFL-mode setting]

Indentation offset of `returns` and `alias` statements, relative to the controlling `func` keyword. The default value is 2, which corresponds to:

```
func foo()
  alias bar
  returns string
```

`mfl-comment-offset` [MFL-mode setting]

Indentation increment for multi-line comments. The default value is 1, which makes:

```
 /* first comment line
    second comment line */
```

`mfl-loop-statement-offset` [MFL-mode setting]

Indentation increment for parts of a `loop` statement. The default value is 5, which corresponds to the following style:

```
loop for stmt,
     while cond,
     incr
do
```

`mfl-loop-continuation-offset` [MFL-mode setting]

If any of the `loop` parts occupies several lines, the indentation of continuation lines relative to the first line is controlled by `mfl-loop-continuation-offset`, which defaults to 5:

```
loop for set n 0
          set z 1,
     while n != 10
          or z != 2,
     set n n + 1
```

7 Configuring mailfromd

Upon startup, `mailfromd` checks if the file `/etc/mailfromd.conf` exists.[1] If it does, the program attempts to retrieve its configuration settings from that file.

The `mailfromd.conf` file must be written in the *GNU mailutils configuration format*, as described in Section "conf-syntax" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*. This format can be summarized as follows:

Comments
: Inline comments begin with '`//`' or '`#`' and end at the end of the line. Multiline comments are delimited by '`/*`' and '`*/`'. Multiline comments cannot be nested, but can contain inline comment markers.

Empty lines and whitespace
: Empty lines are ignored. Whitespace characters (i.e. horizontal, vertical space, and newline) are ignored, except as they serve to separate tokens.

Statements
: A statement consists of a keyword and a value, separated by whitespace. Statements terminate with a semicolon. E.g.

```
pidfile /var/run/mailfromd.pid;
```

Block statements
: A block statement consists of a keyword and a list of statements enclosed in '`{`' and '`}`' characters. Optional *label* can appear between the keyword and opening curly brace. E.g.:

```
logging {
  syslog on;
  facility mail;
}
```

Block statement is not required to terminate with a semicolon, although it is allowed to.

File Inclusion
: The `include` statement causes inclusion of the file listed as its value:

```
include /usr/share/mailfromd/config.inc;
```

The `mailfromd.conf` file is used by all programs that form the '`mailfromd`' package, i.e. `mailfromd`, `calloutd`, `mfdbtool`, and `pmult`. Since the sets of statements understood by each of them differ, special syntactic means are provided to separate program-specific configurations from each other.

First of all, if the argument to `include` is a directory, then the program will search that directory for a file with the same name as the base name of the program itself. If found, this file will be loaded after finishing parsing the `mailfromd.conf` file. Otherwise, this statement is ignored.

[1] The exact location is determined at compile time: the `/etc` directory is the system configuration directory set when building `mailfromd` (see Chapter 2 [Building], page 9).

Secondly, the special block statement `program tag` is processed only if *tag* matches the base name of the program being run. Again, it is processed after the main `mailfromd.conf` file.

Thus, if you need to provide configuration for the `calloutd` component, there are two ways of doing so. First, you can place it to a file named `calloutd` placed in a separate directory (say, `/etc/mailfromd.d`), and use the name of that directory in a `include` statement in the main configuration file:

```
include /etc/mailfromd.d;
```

Secondly, you can use the `program` statement as follows:

```
program calloutd {
  ...
}
```

7.1 Special Configuration Data Types

In addition to the usual data types (see Section "Statements" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*), `mailfromd` configuration introduces the following two special ones:

time interval specification

The *time interval specification* is a string that defines an interval, much the same way we do this in English: it consists of one or more pairs '`number`'-'`time unit`'. For example, the following are valid interval specifications:

```
1 hour
2 hours 35 seconds
1 year 7 months 2 weeks 2 days 11 hours 12 seconds
```

The pairs can occur in any order, however unusual it may sound to a human ear, e.g. '`2 days 1 year`'. If the '`time unit`' is omitted, seconds are supposed.

Connection URL

unix://*file*
unix:*file*
local://*file*
local:*file* A named pipe (socket).

inet://*address*:*port*
inet:*port*@*address*
An IPv4 connection to host *address* at port *port*. Port must be specified either as a decimal number or as a string representing the port name in `/etc/services`.

inet6:*port*@*address*
An IPv6 connection to host *address* at port *port*. This port type is not yet supported.

7.2 Base Mailfromd Configuration

`script-file` *file* [Mailfromd Conf]

Read filter script from *file*. By default it is read from *`sysconfdir`*`/mailfromd.mf`.

`setvar` *name value* [Mailfromd Conf]
Initialize MFL variable *name* to *value*.

`include-path` *path* [Mailfromd Conf]
Add directories to the list of directories to be searched for header files. See [include search path], page 51.

Argument is a list of directory names separated by colons.

`state-directory` *dir* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set program state directory. See [statedir], page 11.

`relayed-domain-file` *file* [Mailfromd Conf]
Append domain names from the named *file* to the list of relayed domains. This list can be inspected from MFL script using the '`relayed`' function (see [relayed], page 149).

The *file* argument is either a single file name or a list of file names, e.g.:

```
relayed-domain-file /etc/mail/sendmail.cw;
relayed-domain-file (/etc/mail/sendmail.cw, /etc/mail/relay-domains);
```

`source-ip` *ipaddr* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set source IP address for outgoing TCP connections.

`pidfile` *file* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set the name of the file to store PID value in. The file must be writable for the user or group `mailfromd` runs as (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200).

7.3 Server Configuration

A single `mailfromd` daemon can run several *servers*. These are configured in the following statement:

```
server type {
  id name;
  listen url;
  backlog num;
  max-instances num;
  single-process bool;
  reuseaddr bool;
  option list;
  default bool;
  callout url;
  acl { ... }
}
```

`server` *type* [Mailfromd Conf]
Define a server. The *type* is either '`milter`' or '`callout`'. See Section 3.7 [SMTP Timeouts], page 19, for a description of various types of servers.

The substatements in the `server` block provide parameters for configuring this server.

`id` *name* [server]
: Assign an identifier to this server. This identifier is used as a suffix to syslog tag (see [syslog tag], page 41) in messages related to this server. For example, if a server block had the following statement in it:

```
id main;
```

then all messages related to this server will be marked with tag '`mailfromd#main`'.

The part before the '`#`' is set using the `tag` statement in `logging` block (see Section "Logging Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

`listen` *url* [server]
: Listen for connections on the given URL. See [milter port specification], page 194, for a description of allowed *url* formats.

Example:

```
listen inet://10.10.10.1:3331;
```

`backlog` *num* [server]
: Configures the size of the queue of pending connections. Default value is 8.

`max-instances` *number* [server]
: Sets the maximum number of instances allowed for this server.

`single-process` *bool* [server]
: When set to '`yes`', this server will run in *single-process* mode, i.e. it will not fork subprocesses to serve requests. This option is meant exclusively to assist in debugging `mailfromd`. Don't use it for anything else but for debugging!

`reuseaddr` *bool* [server]
: When set to '`yes`', `mailfromd` will attempt to reuse existing socket addresses. This is the default behavior.

If the server *type* is '`callout`', the following statement is also allowed:

`option` *list* [server]
: Configures server options. As of version 8.11 only one option is defined:

default
: Mark this server as the default one. This means it will be used by every milter server that doesn't define the `callout-url` statement.

`default` *bool* [server]
: When set to '`yes`', this server is marked as a default callout server for all milter servers declared in the configuration. This is equivalent to `option default`.

if the server *type* is '`milter`', you can use the following statement to query a remote callout server:

`callout` *url* [server]
: Use a callout server at *url* (see [milter port specification], page 194).

You can also set a *global callout server*, which will be used by all milter servers that do not set the `callout` statement:

`callout-url` *url* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set global callout server. See [milter port specification], page 194, for allowed *url* formats.

7.4 Milter Connection Configuration

`milter-timeout` *time* [Mailfromd Conf]
Sets the timeout value for connection between the filter and the MTA. Default value is 7210 seconds. You normally do not need to change this value.

`acl` [Mailfromd Conf]
This block statement configures *access control list* for incoming Milter connections. See Section "ACL Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*, for a description of its syntax. E.g.:

```
acl {
  allow from 10.10.10.0/24;
  deny from any;
}
```

7.5 Logging and Debugging configuration

`logger` *mech* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set default logger mechanism. Allowed values for *mech* are:

stderr Log everything to the standard error.

syslog Log to syslog.

syslog:async
Log to syslog using the asynchronous syslog implementation.

See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40, for a detailed discussion. See also [syslog-async], page 11, for information on how to set default syslog implementation at compile time.

`debug` *spec* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set `mailfromd` debug verbosity level. The *spec* must be a valid debugging level specification (see [debugging level specification], page 42).

`stack-trace` *bool* [Mailfromd Conf]
Enables stack trace dumps on runtime errors. This feature is useful for locating the source of an error, especially in complex scripts. See [tracing runtime errors], page 47, for a detailed description.

`trace-actions` *bool* [Mailfromd Conf]
Enable action tracing. If *bool* is '`true`', `mailfromd` will log all executed actions. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40, for a detailed description of action tracing.

`trace-program` *modlist* [Mailfromd Conf]

Enable program instruction tracing for modules in *modlist*, a comma-separated list of source code modules, e.g.:

```
trace-program (bi_io,bi_db);
```

This statement enables tracing for functions from modules `bi_io.c` and `bi_db.c` (notice, that you need not give file suffixes).

This tracing is useful for debugging `mailfromd`, but is not advised to use otherwise, since it is very time-costly.

`transcript` *bool* [Mailfromd Conf]

Enable transcripts of call-out SMTP sessions. See [SMTP transcript], page 45, for a detailed description of SMTP transcripts.

7.6 Timeout Configuration

The SMTP timeouts used in callout sessions are configured via `smtp-timeout` statement:

Syntax

```
smtp-timeout type {
  connection interval;
  initial-response interval;
  helo interval;
  mail interval;
  rcpt interval;
  rset interval;
  quit interval;
}
```

`smtp-timeout` *type* [Mailfromd Conf]

Declare SMTP timeouts of the given *type*, which may be '`soft`' or '`hard`'.

Callout SMTP sessions initiated by polling functions, are controlled by two sets of timeouts: '`soft`' and '`hard`'. *Soft timeouts* are used by the mailfromd milter servers. *Hard timeouts* are used by callout servers (see [callout server], page 19). When a soft timeout is exceeded, the calling procedure is delivered an '`e_temp_failure`' exception and the session is scheduled for processing by a callout server. The latter re-runs the session using hard timeouts. If a hard timeout is exceeded, the address is marked as '`not_found`' and is stored in the cache database with that status.

Normally, soft timeouts are set to shorter values, suitable for use in MFL scripts without causing excessive delays. Hard timeouts are set to large values, as requested by RFC 2822 and guarantee obtaining a definite answer (see below for the default values).

Statements

The *time* argument for all `smtp-timeout` sub-statements is expressed in time interval units, as described in [time interval specification], page 194.

`connection` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Sets initial connection timeout for callout tests. If the connection is not established within this time, the corresponding callout function returns temporary failure.

`initial-response` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Sets the time to wait for the initial SMTP response.

`helo` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Timeout for a response to '`HELO`' (or '`EHLO`') command.

`mail` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Timeout for a response to '`MAIL`' command.

`rcpt` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Timeout for a response to '`RCPT`' command.

`rset` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Timeout for a response to '`RSET`' command.

`quit` *time* [smtp-timeout]
: Timeout for a response to '`QUIT`' command.

Default Values

The default timeout settings are:

Timeout	**Soft**	**Hard**
connection	10s	5m
initial-response	30s	5m
helo	I/O	5m
mail	I/O	10m
rcpt	I/O	5m
rset	I/O	5m
quit	I/O	2m

Table 7.1: Default SMTP timeouts

`io-timeout` *time* [Mailfromd Conf]
: Sets a general SMTP I/O operation timeout. This timeout is used as the default for entries marked with '`I/O`' in the above table. The default is 3 seconds.

7.7 Call-out Configuration

`ehlo-domain` *string* [Mailfromd Conf]
: Sets default domain used in '`EHLO`' (or '`HELO`') SMTP command when probing the remote host. This value can be overridden by '`from`' parameter to `poll` command (see [poll], page 99).

  This statement assigns the value *string* to the '`ehlo_domain`' variable (see [ehlo_domain], page 64), and is therefore equivalent to

```
setvar ehlo_domain string;
```

`mail-from-address` *string* [Mailfromd Conf]

Sets default email addresses used in '`MAIL FROM:`' SMTP command when probing the remote host. This value can be overridden by '`as`' parameter to `poll` command (see [poll], page 99).

This statement assigns the value *string* to the '`mailfrom_address`' variable (see [mailfrom_address], page 65), and is therefore equivalent to

```
setvar mailfrom_address string;
```

`enable-vrfy` *bool* [Mailfromd Conf]

Enables the use of SMTP VRFY statement prior to normal callout sequence. If VRFY is supported by the remote server, `mailfromd` relies on its reply and does not perform normal callout.

The use of this statement is not recommended, because many existing VRFY implementations always return affirmative result, no matter is the requested email handled by the server or not.

The default is `enable-vrfy no`, i.e. VRFY is disabled.

7.8 Privilege Configuration

`user` *name* [Mailfromd Conf]

Switch to this user's privileges after startup. See Section 8.2 [Starting and Stopping], page 208, for a discussion of the privileges `mailfromd` runs under and the options that affect them. See also `group` below.

`group` *name* [Mailfromd Conf]

Retain the supplementary group *name* when switching to user privileges. By default `mailfromd` clears the list of supplementary groups when switching to user privileges, but this statement allows to retain the given group. It can be specified multiple times to retain several groups. This option may be necessary to maintain proper access rights for various files. See Section 8.2 [Starting and Stopping], page 208.

7.9 Database Configuration

Syntax

```
database dbname {
  file name;
  enable bool;
  expire-interval interval;
  positive-expire-interval interval;
  negative-expire-interval interval;
}
```

`database` *dbname* [Mailfromd Conf]

The `database` statement controls run-time parameters of a DBM database identified by *dbname*. Allowed values for the latter are: '`cache`', '`rate`' and '`greylist`' for main cache, DNS lookup, sending rate and greylisting databases, correspondingly.

Statements

`file` *name* [database]
Set the database file name.

`enable` *bool* [database]
Enable or disable this database.

`expire-interval` *time* [database]
Set the expiration interval for this database *dbname*. See [time interval specification], page 194, for a description of *time* format.

`positive-expire-interval` *time* [database]
This statement is valid only for '`cache`' database. It sets the expiration interval for positive ('`success`') cache entries.

`negative-expire-interval` *time* [database]
This statement is valid only for '`cache`' database, where it sets expiration interval for negative ('`not_found`') cache entries.

Additional Statements

`database-type` *type* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set default database type. *type* is one of the database types supported by mailutils (i.e., for Mailutils 3.0: '`gdbm`', '`ndbm`', '`bdb`', '`kc`', and '`tc`'). Run

```
mailfromd --show-defaults | grep 'supported databases:'
```

to get a list of type names supported by your build of `mailfromd`.

`database-mode` *mode* [Mailfromd Conf]
Defines file mode for newly created database files. *mode* must be a valid file mode in octal.

`lock-retry-count` *number* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set maximum number of attempts to acquire the lock. The time between each two successive attempts is given by `lock-retry-timeout` statement (see below). After the *number* of failed attempts, `mailfromd` gives up.

`lock-retry-timeout` *time* [Mailfromd Conf]
Set the time span between the two locking attempts. Any valid time interval specification (see [time interval specification], page 194) is allowed as argument.

7.10 Runtime Constants Configuration

`runtime` { *statements* } [Mailfromd Conf]
The statements in the `runtime` section configure various values used by MFL builtin functions.

`max-streams` *number* [runtime]
Sets the maximum number of stream descriptors that can be opened simultaneously. Default is 1024. See Section 5.24 [I/O functions], page 149.

`max-open-mailboxes` *number* [runtime]
: Sets the maximum number of available mailbox descriptors. This value is used by MFL mailbox functions (see Section 5.15 [Mailbox functions], page 128).

`max-open-messages` *number* [runtime]
: Sets the maximum number of messages that can be opened simultaneously using the `mailbox_get_message` function. See Section 5.16 [Message functions], page 129, for details.

7.11 Standard Mailutils Statements

The following standard Mailutils statements are understood:

Statement	**Reference**
auth	See Section "auth statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
debug	See Section "debug statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
include	See Section "include" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
logging	See Section "logging statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
mailer	See Section "mailer statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
locking	See Section "locking statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.

8 `Mailfromd` Command Line Syntax

The `mailfromd` binary is started from the command line using the following syntax (brackets indicate optional parts):

```
$ mailfromd [options] [asgn] [script]
```

The meaning of each invocation part is described in the table below:

options The command line options (see Section 8.1 [options], page 203).

asgn Sendmail macro assignments. These are currently meaningful only with the `--test` option (see [test mode], page 34), but this may change in the future. Each assignment has the form:

```
var=value
```

where *var* is the name of a Sendmail macro and *value* is the value to be assigned to it.

script The file name of the filter script, if other than the default one.

8.1 Command Line Options.

8.1.1 Operation Modifiers

`--daemon` Run in daemon mode (default).

`--run[=`*start*`]`
: Load the script named in the command line and execute the function named *start*, or '`main`', if *start* is not given. See Section 3.17 [Run Mode], page 35, for a detailed description of this feature.

`--show-defaults`
: Show compilation defaults. See Section 3.15 [Databases], page 31.

`-t[`*state*`]`
`--test[=`*state*`]`
: Run in test mode. See Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33. Default *state* is '`envfrom`'. This option implies `--stderr` (see [–stderr], page 208).

8.1.2 General Settings

`--callout-socket=`*string*
: Set socket for the default callout server. This is mainly useful together with the `--mtasim` option.

`--foreground`
: Stay in foreground. When given this option, `mailfromd` will not disconnect itself from the controlling terminal and will run in the foreground.

`-g` *name*
`--group=`*name*
: Retain the group *name* when switching to user privileges. See Section 8.2 [Starting and Stopping], page 208.

This option complements the `group` configuration statement (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200).

`--include=`*dir*
`-I` *dir* Add the directory *dir* to the list of directories to be searched for header files. This will affect the functioning of `#include` statement. See [include], page 51, for a discussion of file inclusion.

`--mailer=`*url*
`-M` *url* Set the URL of the mailer to use. See Section 5.32 [Mail Sending Functions], page 168.

`--mtasim` This option is reserved for use by `mtasim` (see Chapter 12 [mtasim], page 227).

`-O[`*level*`]`
`--optimize[=`*level*`]`
Set optimization level for code generator. Two levels are implemented: '`0`', meaning no optimization, and '`1`', meaning full optimization.

`-p` *string*
`--port=`*string*
`--milter-socket=`*string*
Set communication socket. Overrides the `listen` configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.4 [conf-milter], page 197).

`--pidfile=`*file*
Set pidfile name. Overrides the `pidfile` configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

`--relayed-domain-file=`*file*
Read relayed domains from *file*. Overrides the `relayed-domain-file` configuration statement (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194), which you are advised to use instead. See Section 3.8 [Avoiding Verification Loops], page 20, and the description of `relayed` function (see [relayed], page 149) for more information.

`--resolv-conf-file=`*file*
Read resolver settings from *file*, instead of the default `/etc/resolv.conf`.

`--state-directory=`*dir*
Set new program state directory. See [statedir], page 11, for the description of this directory and its purposes. This option overrides the settings of `state-directory` configuration statement, described in Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194.

`-S` *ip*
`--source-ip=`*ip*
Set source address for TCP connections. Overrides the '`source-ip`' configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

`-u` *name*
`--user` *name*
: Switch to this user privileges after startup. Overrides the `user` configuration file statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200). Default user is '`mail`'.

`-v` *var*`=`*value*
`--variable` *var*`=`*value*
: Assign *value* to the global variable *var*. The variable must be declared in your startup script. See [overriding initial values], page 34, for a detailed discussion of this option.

8.1.3 Preprocessor Options

Following command line options control the preprocessor feature. See Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103, for a detailed discussion of these.

`--no-preprocessor`
: Do not run the preprocessor.

`--preprocessor=`*command*
: Use *command* as the external preprocessor instead of the default `m4`.

`-D` *name*`[=`*value*`]`
`--define=`*name*`[=`*value*`]`
: Define a preprocessor symbol *name* to have a value *value*.

`-U` *name*
`--undefine=`*name*
: Undefine the preprocessor symbol *name*.

`-E`
: Stop after the preprocessing stage; do not run the compiler proper. The output is in the form of preprocessed source code, which is sent to the standard output.

8.1.4 Timeout Control

See [time interval specification], page 194, for information on *interval* format.

`--milter-timeout=`*interval*
: Set MTA connection timeout. Overrides `milter-timeout` statement in the `mailfromd` configuration file, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.4 [conf-milter], page 197).

8.1.5 Logging and Debugging Options

`--location-column`
`--no-location-column`
: Mention column number in error messages. See Section 3.16 [location-column], page 33. Use `--no-location-column` to disable

`-d` *string*
`--debug=`*string*
: Set debugging level. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--dump-code`
: Parse and compile the script file and dump the disassembled listing of the produced code to the terminal. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--dump-grammar-trace`
: Enable debugging the script file parser. While parsing the file, the detailed dump of the parser states and tokens seen will be output.

`--dump-lex-trace`
: Enable debugging the lexical analyzer. While parsing the script file, the detailed dump of the lexer states and matched rules will be output.

`--dump-macros`
: Show Sendmail macros used in the script file. The macro names are displayed as comma-separated lists, grouped by handler names. See Section 9.1 [Sendmail], page 211, for a detailed description of this option and its usage.

`--dump-tree`
: Parse and compile the script file and dump the parse tree in a printable form to the terminal.

`--dump-xref`
: Print a cross-reference of variables used in the filter script. See Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33.

`-E`
: Stop after the preprocessing stage; do not run the compiler proper. The output is in the form of preprocessed source code, which is sent to the standard output. See Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103.

`--lint`
: Check script file syntax and exit. If the file is OK, return 0 to the shell, otherwise print appropriate messages to stderr and exit with code 78 (‘`configuration error`’).

`--single-process`
: Do not fork sub-processes to serve requests. This option is meant to assist in debugging `mailfromd`. Don’t use it for anything else but for debugging, as it terribly degrades performance!

`--stack-trace`
`--no-stack-trace`
: Add MFL stack trace information to runtime error output. Overrides `stack-trace` configuration statement. Use the `--no-stack-trace` to disable trace information.

  See [tracing runtime errors], page 47, for more information on this feature.

`--gacopyz-log=`*`level`*
: Set desired logging level for `gacopyz` library (see Appendix A [Gacopyz], page 247). There are five logging levels. The following table lists them in order of decreasing priority:

  fatal
  : Log fatal errors.

  err
  : Log error messages.

warn Log warning messages.

info Log informational messages. In particular, this enables printing messages on each subprocess startup and termination, which look like that:

```
Apr 28 09:00:11 host mailfromd[9411]: connect
    from 192.168.10.1:50398
Apr 28 09:00:11 host mailfromd[9411]: finishing
    connection
```

This level can be useful for debugging your scripts.

debug Log debugging information.

proto Log Milter protocol interactions. This level prints huge amounts of information, in particular it displays dumps of each Milter packet sent and received.

Although it is possible to set these levels independently of each other, it is seldom practical. Therefore, the option `--gacopyz-log=`*`level`* enables all logging levels from *level* up. For example, `--gacopyz-log=warn` enables log levels '`warn`', '`err`' and '`fatal`'. It is the default. If you need to trace each subprocess startup and shutdown, set `--gacopyz-log=info`. Setting the logging level to '`proto`' can be needed only for `Gacopyz` developers, to debug the protocol.

See Section 3.16 [Testing Filter Scripts], page 33.

`--logger=`*`mech`*
Set logger mechanism (*mech* is one of '`stderr`', '`syslog`', '`syslog:async`'). See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--log-facility=`*`facility`*
Output logs to syslog *facility*.

`--log-tag=`*`string`*
Tag syslog entries with the given *string*, instead of the program name.

`--source-info`
`--no-source-info`
Include C source information in debugging messages. This is similar to setting `line-info yes` in the `debug` configuration block (see Section "debug statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

The `--no-source-info` can be used to cancel the effect of the `line-info yes` configuration statement.

You do not need this option, unless you are developing or debugging `mailfromd`.

`--syntax-check`
Synonym for `--lint`.

`--trace`

`--no-trace`
Enable or disable action tracing. If `--trace` is given, `mailfromd` will log all executed actions. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--trace-program[=`*string*`]`
: Enable program instruction tracing. With this option `mailfromd` will log execution of every instruction in the compiled filter program. The optional arguments allows to specify a comma-separated list of source code modules for which the tracing is to be enabled, for example `--trace-program=bi_io,bi_db` enables tracing for functions from modules `bi_io.c` and `bi_db.c` (notice, that you need not give file suffixes in *string*).

  This option is useful for debugging `mailfromd`, but is not advised to use otherwise, since it is very time-costly.

`-X`
`--transcript`
`--no-transcript`
: Enable or disable transcript of the SMTP sessions to the log channel. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--syslog` Selects default syslog mechanism for diagnostic output.

`--stderr` Directs all logging to standard output. Similar to `--logger=stderr`.

`--xref` Same as `--dump-xref`. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

8.1.6 Informational Options

`-?`
`--help` Give a short help summary.

`--usage` Give a short usage message.

`-V`
`--version`
: Print program version.

8.2 Starting and Stopping

Right after startup, when `mailfromd` has done the operations that require root privileges, it switches to the privileges of the user it is configured to run as (see [default user privileges], page 10) or the one given in its configuration file (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200). During this process it will drop all supplementary groups and switch to the principal group of that user.

Such limited privileges of the daemon can cause difficulties if your filter script needs to access some files (e.g. `Sendmail` databases) that are not accessible to that user and group. For example, the following fragment using `dbmap` function:

```
if dbmap("/etc/mail/aliases.db", $f, 1)
  ...
fi
```

will normally fail, because `/etc/mail/aliases.db` is readable only to the root and members of the group '`smmsp`'.

In such situations you need to instruct `mailfromd` to retain the privileges of one or several supplementary groups when switching to the user privileges. This is done using

group statement in the mailfromd configuration file (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200). In example above, you need to use the following settings:

```
group smmsp;
```

(The same effect can be achieved with --group command line option: *mailfromd --group=smmsp*).

To stop a running instance of mailfromd use one of the following signals: SIGQUIT, SIGTERM, SIGINT. All three signals have the same effect: the program cancels handling any pending requests, uninitializes the communication socket (if it is a UNIX socket, the program unlinks it) and exits.

To restart the running mailfromd instance, send it SIGHUP. For restart to be possible, two conditions must be met: mailfromd must be invoked with the full file name, and the configuration file name must be full as well. If either of them is not met, mailfromd displays a similar warning message:

```
warning: script file is given without full file name
warning: restart (SIGHUP) will not work
```

or:

```
warning: mailfromd started without full file name
warning: restart (SIGHUP) will not work
```

The reaction of mailfromd on SIGHUP in this case is the same as on the three signals described previously, i.e. cleanup and exit immediately.

The PID of the master instance of mailfromd is kept on the *pidfile*, which is named mailfromd.pid and is located in the program *state directory*. Assuming the default location of the latter, the following command will stop the running instance of the daemon:

```
kill -TERM `head -n1 /usr/local/var/mailfromd/mailfromd.pid`
```

The default pidfile location is shown in the output of mailfromd --show-defaults (see Section 3.15 [Databases], page 31), and can be changed at run time using pidfile statement (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

To facilitate the use of mailfromd, it is shipped with a shell script that can be used to launch it on system startup and shut it down when the system goes down. The script, called rc.mailfromd, is located in the directory /etc of the distribution. It takes a single argument, specifying the action that should be taken:

start — Start the program.

stop — Shut down the program

reload — Reload the program, by sending it SIGHUP signal.

restart — Shut down the program and start it again.

status — Display program status. It displays the PID of the master process and its command line, for example:

```
$ /etc/rc.d/rc.mailfromd status
mailformd appears to be running at 26030
26030 /usr/local/sbin/mailfromd --group smmsp
```

If the second line is not displayed, this most probably mean that there is a 'stale' pidfile, i.e. the one left though the program is not running.

An empty `rc.mailfromd status` output means that `mailfromd` is not running.

configtest [*file*]
: Check the script file syntax, report any errors found and exit. If *file* is given it is checked instead of the default one.

macros [-c] [*file*]
: Parse the script file (or *file*, if it is given, extract the names of Sendmail macros it uses and generate corresponding export statements usable in the Sendmail configuration file. By default, `mc` statements are generated. If `-c` (`--cf`) is given, the statements for `sendmail.cf` are output. See the next chapter for the detailed description of this mode.

You can pass any additional arguments to `mailfromd` by editing `ARGS` variable near line 22.

The script is not installed by default. You will have to copy it to the directory where your system start-up scripts reside and ensure it is called during the system startup and shut down. The exact instructions on how to do so depend on the operating system you use and are beyond the scope of this manual.

9 Using mailfromd with Various MTAs

The following sections describe how to configure various Milter-capable MTAs to work with mailfromd.

9.1 Using mailfromd with Sendmail.

This chapter assumes you are familiar with Sendmail configuration in general and with Milter configuration directives in particular. It concentrates only on issues, specific for mailfromd.

To prepare Sendmail to communicate with mailfromd you need first to set up the *milter port*. This is done with INPUT_MAIL_FILTER statement in your Sendmail file:

```
INPUT_MAIL_FILTER('mailfrom', 'S=unix:/usr/local/var/mailfromd/mailfrom')
```

Make sure that the value of 'S' matches the value of listen statement in your mailfromd.conf file (see Section 7.4 [conf-milter], page 197). Notice, however, that they may not be literally the same, because listen allows to specify socket address in various formats, whereas Sendmail's 'S' accepts only milter format.

If you prefer to fiddle directly with sendmail.cf file, use this statement instead:

```
Xmailfrom, S=unix:/usr/local/var/mailfromd/mailfrom
```

If you are using Sendmail version 8.14.0 or newer, you may skip to the end of this section. These versions implement newer Milter protocol that enables mailfromd to negotiate with the MTA the macros it needs for each state.

Older versions of Sendmail do not offer this feature. For Sendmail versions prior to 8.14.0, you need to manually configure Sendmail to export macros you need in your mailfromd.mf file. The simplest way to do so is using rc.mailfromd script, introduced in the previous chapter. Run it with macros command line argument and copy its output to your sendmail.mc configuration file:

```
$ rc.mailfromd macros
```

If you prefer to work with sendmail.cf directly, use -c (--cf) command line option:

```
$ rc.mailfromd macros -c
```

Finally, if you use other mailfromd script file than that already installed (for example, you are preparing a new configuration while the old one is still being used in production environment), give its name in the command line:

```
$ rc.mailfromd macros newscript.mf
# or:
$ rc.mailfromd macros -c newscript.mf
```

If you use this method, you can skip the rest of this chapter. However, if you are a daring sort of person and prefer to do everything manually, follow the instructions below.

First of all you need to build a list of macros used by handlers in your mailfromd.mf file. You can obtain it running mailfromd --dump-macros. This will display all macros used in your handlers, grouped by handler name, for example:

```
envfrom i, f, {client_addr}
envrcpt f, {client_addr}, {rcpt_addr}
```

Now, modify `confMILTER_MACROS_handler` macros in your `mc` file. Here, *handler* means the uppercase name of the `mailfromd` handler you want to export macros to, i.e. the first word on each line of the above `mailfromd --dump-macros` output. *Notice,* that in addition to these macros, you should also export the macro `i` for the very first handler (`rc.mailfromd macros` takes care of it automatically, but you preferred to do everything yourself...) It is necessary in order for `mailfromd` to include '`Message-ID`' in its log messages (see [Message-ID], page 41).

For example, given the above macros listing, which corresponds to our sample configuration (see Section 4.23 [Filter Script Example], page 105), the `sendmail.mc` snippet will contain:

```
define(‘confMILTER_MACROS_ENVFROM’,dnl
confMILTER_MACROS_ENVFROM ‘, i, f, {client_addr}’)
define(‘confMILTER_MACROS_ENVRCPT’,dnl
confMILTER_MACROS_ENVRCPT ‘, f, {client_addr}, {rcpt_addr}’)
```

Special attention should be paid to `s` macro ('`HELO`' domain name). In `Sendmail` versions up to 8.13.7 (at least) it is available only to `helo` handler. If you wish to make it available elsewhere you will need to use the method described in Section 3.9 [HELO Domain], page 22,

Now, if you are a *really* daring person and prefer to do everything manually *and* to hack your `sendmail.cf` file directly, you certainly don't need any advices. Nonetheless, here's how the two statements above *could* look in this case:

```
O Milter.macros.envfrom=i, {auth_type}, {auth_authen}, \
   {auth_ssf}, {auth_author}, {mail_mailer}, {mail_host}, \
   {mail_addr} ,{mail_addr}, {client_addr}, f
O Milter.macros.envrcpt={rcpt_mailer}, {rcpt_host}, \
   {rcpt_addr} ,i, f, {client_addr}
```

9.2 Using `mailfromd` with MeTA1.

MeTA1 (`http://www.meta1.org`) is an MTA of next generation which is designed to provide the following main features:

- Security
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Configurability
- Extendibility

Instead of using Sendmail-compatible Milter protocol, it implements a new protocol, called *policy milter*, therefore an additional program is required to communicate with `mailfromd`. This program is a *Pmilter–Milter multiplexer* `pmult`, which is part of the '`Mailfromd`' distribution. See Chapter 13 [pmult], page 237, for a detailed description of its configuration.

The configuration of '`Meta1--Mailfromf`' interaction can be subdivided into three tasks.

1. Configure `mailfromd`

   This was already covered in previous chapters. No special '`MeTA1`'-dependent configuration is needed.

2. Configure pmult to communicate with mailfromd

   This is described in detail in Chapter 13 [pmult], page 237.

3. Set up MeTA1 to communicate with pmult

   The MeTA1 configuration file is located in /etc/meta1/meta1.conf. Configure the smtps component, by adding the following section:

```
policy_milter {
    socket {
        type = type;
        address = addr;
        [path = path;]
        [port = port-no;]
    };
    [timeout = interval;]
    [flags = { flag };]
};
```

   Statements in square brackets are optional. The meaning of each instruction is as follows:

   type = *type*

   Set the type of the socket to communicate with pmult. Allowed values for *type* are:

   inet — Use INET socket. The socket address and port number are set using the address and port statements (see below).

   unix — Use UNIX socket. The socket path is given by the path statement (see below).

   Notice, that depending on the type setting you have to set up either address/port or path, but not both.

   address = *addr*

   Configure the socket address for type = inet. *Addr* is the IP address on which pmult is listening (see Section 13.1.1 [pmult-conf], page 238).

   port = *port-no*

   Port number pmult is listening on (see Section 13.1.1 [pmult-conf], page 238).

   path = *socket-file*

   Full pathname of the socket file, if type = unix.

   timeout = *interval*

   Sets the maximum amount of time to wait for a reply from pmult.

   The behavior of smtps in case of time out depends on the flags settings:

   flags = { *flag* }

   Flag is one of the following:

   abort — If pmult does not respond, abort the current SMTP session with a '421' error.

accept_but_reconnect
: If `pmult` does not respond, continue the current session but try to reconnect for the next session.

For example, if the `pmult` configuration has:

```
listen inet://127.0.0.1:3333;
```

then the corresponding part in `/etc/meta1/meta1.conf` will be

```
smtps {
    policy_milter {
        socket {
            type = inet;
            address = 127.0.0.1;
            port = 3333;
        };
        ...
    };
    ...
};
```

Similarly, if the `pmult` configuration has:

```
listen unix:///var/spool/meta1/pmult/socket;
```

then the `/etc/meta1/meta1.conf` should have:

```
smtps {
    policy_milter {
        socket {
            type = unix;
            path = /var/spool/meta1/pmult/socket;
        };
        ...
    };
    ...
};
```

9.3 Using `mailfromd` with Postfix

To configure `postfix` to work with your filter, you need to inform it about the socket your filter is listening on. The `smtpd_milters` (or `non_smtpd_milters`) statement in `/etc/postfix/main.cf` serves this purpose. If the filter is to handle mail that arrives via SMTP, use `smtpd_milters`. If it is to handle mail submitted locally to the queue, use `non_smtpd_milters`. In both cases, the value is a whitespace-separated list of socket addresses. Note, that Postfix syntax for socket addresses differs from that used by Sendmail and mailfromd. The differences are summarized in the following table:

Sendmail	**Mailfromd**	**Postfix**
inet:*port*@*host*	inet://*host*:*port*	inet:*host*:*port*
unix:*file*	unix://*file*	unix:*file*

Table 9.1: Socket addresses in various formats

For example, if your mailfromd listens on '`inet://127.0.0.1:4111`', add the following to `/etc/postfix/main.cf`:

```
smtpd_milters = inet:127.0.0.1:4111
```

Mailfromd uses Milter protocol version 6. Postfix, starting from version 2.6 uses the same version. Older versions of Postfix use Milter protocol 2 by default. Normally, it should not be a problem, as mailfromd tries to detect what version the server is speaking. If, however, it fails to select the proper version, you will have to instruct Postfix what version to use. To do so, add the following statement to `/etc/postfix/main.cf`:

```
milter_protocol = 6
```

The way Postfix handles macros differs from that of Sendmail. Postfix emulates a limited subset of Sendmail macros, and not all of them are are available when you would expect them to. In particular, the '`i`' macro is not available before the '`DATA`' stage, which brings two consequences. First, mailfromd log messages will not include message ID until the '`DATA`' stage is reached. Secondly, you cannot use '`i`' in handlers '`connect`', '`helo`', '`envfrom`' and '`envrcpt`',

If you wish to tailor Postfix defaults to export the actual macros used by your filter, run `mailfromd --dump-macros` and filter its output through the `postfix-macros.sed` filter, which is installed to the *prefix*`/share/mailfromd` directory, e.g.:

```
$ mailfromd --dump-macros | \
  sed -f /usr/share/mailfromd/postfix-macros.sed
milter_helo_macros = {s}
milter_mail_macros = {client_addr} {s} {f}
milter_rcpt_macros = {rcpt_addr} {f} {client_addr}
milter_end_of_data_macros = {i}
```

Cut and paste its output to your `/etc/postfix/main.cf`.

For more details regarding Postfix interaction with Milter and available Postfix configuration options, see Postfix before-queue Milter support (`http://www.postfix.org/MILTER_README.html`).

10 calloutd

The callout verification is usually performed by a special instance of `mailfromd` (see [callout server], page 19). However, it is also possible to set up a dedicated callout server on a separate machine. You can choose to do so, for instance, in order to reduce the load on the server running `mailfromd`.

This stand-alone callout facility is provided by the `calloutd` daemon.

10.1 Calloutd Configuration

Main configuration file `/etc/mailfromd.conf` is used (see Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193). The configuration statements are basically the same as for `mailfromd`.

The address to listen on is defined in the `server` statement. Basically, it is the only statement the configuration file is required to have. The minimal configuration can look like:

```
program calloutd {
  server {
    listen inet://198.51.100.1:3535;
  }
}
```

To instruct the `mailfromd` daemon to use this server, the following statement should be added to the `/etc/mailfromd.conf` file:

```
program mailfromd {
  callout-url inet://198.51.100.1:3535;
}
```

The `server` statement differs a little from the similar statement for `mailfromd`. This and another `calloutd`-specific statements are described in detail in the subsections that follow. The rest of statements is shared with `mailfromd`. The following table lists all supported configuration statements along with cross-references to the correspondent descriptions:

Statement	**Reference**
`acl`	See Section "acl statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`auth`	See Section "auth statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`database`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`database-mode`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`database-type`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`debug` (section)	See Section "debug statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`debug`	See Section 10.1.3 [conf-calloutd-log], page 219.
`ehlo-domain`	See Section 7.7 [conf-callout], page 199.
`enable-vrfy`	See Section 7.7 [conf-callout], page 199.
`group`	See Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200.
`include`	See Section "include" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.

`io-timeout`	See Section 7.6 [conf-timeout], page 198.
`locking`	See Section "locking statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`lock-retry-count`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`lock-retry-timeout`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`logger`	See Section 10.1.3 [conf-calloutd-log], page 219.
`logging`	See Section "logging statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`mailer`	See Section "mailer statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
`mail-from-address`	See Section 7.7 [conf-callout], page 199.
`pidfile`	See Section 10.1.1 [conf-calloutd-setup], page 218.
`server`	See Section 10.1.2 [conf-calloutd-server], page 218.
`source-ip`	See Section 10.1.1 [conf-calloutd-setup], page 218.
`smtp-timeout`	See Section 7.6 [conf-timeout], page 198.
`state-directory`	See Section 10.1.1 [conf-calloutd-setup], page 218.
`transcript`	See Section 10.1.3 [conf-calloutd-log], page 219,
`user`	See Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200.

10.1.1 `calloutd` General Setup

`source-ip` *IP* [Calloutd Conf]

Sets source IP address for TCP connections.

`pidfile` *filename* [Calloutd Conf]

Defines the name of the file to store PID value in.

`state-directory` *dir* [Calloutd Conf]

Sets the name of the program state directory. See [statedir], page 11.

10.1.2 The `server` statement

The `server` statement configures how `calloutd` will communicate with the client `mailfromd` server.

```
server {
  id name;
  listen url;
  backlog num;
  max-instances num;
  single-process bool;
  reuseaddr bool;
  default bool;
  callout url;
  acl { ... }
}
```

`server` [Calloutd Conf]

Define a server. Optional label may follow the `server` keyword. The label is ignored.

The substatements in the `server` block provide parameters for configuring this server.

`id` *name* [server]
: Assign an identifier to this server. This identifier is used as a suffix to syslog tag (see [syslog tag], page 41) in messages related to this server. For example, if a server block had the following statement in it:

```
id main;
```

then all messages related to this server will be marked with tag '`calloutd#main`'.

The part before the '`#`' is set using the `tag` statement in `logging` block (see Section "Logging Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

`listen` *url* [server]
: Listen for connections on the given URL. See [milter port specification], page 194, for a description of allowed *url* formats.

Example:

```
listen inet://10.10.10.1:3331;
```

`backlog` *num* [server]
: Configures the size of the queue of pending connections. Default value is 8.

`max-instances` *number* [server]
: Sets the maximum number of instances allowed for this server.

`single-process` *bool* [server]
: When set to '`yes`', this server will run in *single-process* mode, i.e. it will not fork subprocesses to serve requests. This option is meant exclusively to assist in debugging `calloutd`. Don't use it for anything else but for debugging!

`reuseaddr` *bool* [server]
: When set to '`yes`', `calloutd` will attempt to reuse existing socket addresses. This is the default behavior.

`acl` *statements* [server]
: Defines access control list for this server. See Section "ACL Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*, for a detailed discussion.

If the global ACL is defined as well, an incoming connection is checked against both lists: first the per-server ACL, then the global one. The connection will be permitted only if it passes both checks.

10.1.3 `calloutd` logging

`logger` *mech* [Calloutd Conf]
: Set default logger mechanism. Allowed values for *mech* are:

stderr
: Log everything to the standard error.

syslog
: Log to syslog.

syslog:async
: Log to syslog using the asynchronous syslog implementation.

See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40, for a detailed discussion. See also [syslog-async], page 11, for information on how to set default syslog implementation at compile time.

`debug` *spec* [Calloutd Conf]
: Set `mailfromd` debug verbosity level. The *spec* must be a valid debugging level specification (see [debugging level specification], page 42).

`transcript` *bool* [Calloutd Conf]
: If the boolean value *bool* is '`true`', enables the transcript of call-out SMTP sessions.

10.2 Calloutd Command-Line Options

The `calloutd` invocation syntax is:

```
calloutd [option...]
```

The following options are available:

Server configuration modifiers

`--foreground`
: Stay in foreground. When given this option, `calloutd` will not disconnect itself from the controlling terminal and will run in the foreground.

`-g` *name*
`--group=`*name*
: Retain the group *name* when switching to user privileges. See Section 8.2 [Starting and Stopping], page 208.

`--pidfile=`*file*
: Set pidfile name. Overrides the `pidfile` configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

`--resolv-conf-file=`*file*
: Read resolver settings from *file*, instead of the default `/etc/resolv.conf`.

`-S` *ip*
`--source-ip=`*ip*
: Set source address for TCP connections. Overrides the '`source-ip`' configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

`--single-process`
: Do not fork sub-processes to serve requests. This option is meant to assist in debugging `calloutd`. Don't use it for anything else but for debugging, as it terribly degrades performance!

`--state-directory=`*dir*
: Set new program state directory. See [statedir], page 11, for the description of this directory and its purposes.

`-u` *name*
`--user` *name*
: Switch to this user's privileges after startup. Overrides the `user` configuration file statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.8 [conf-priv], page 200). Default user is '`mail`'.

Logging and debugging options

`-d` *string*
`--debug=`*string*
: Set debugging level. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--log-facility=`*facility*
: Output logs to syslog *facility*.

`--log-tag=`*string*
: Tag syslog entries with the given *string*, instead of the program name.

`--logger=`*mech*
: Set logger mechanism (*mech* is one of '`stderr`', '`syslog`', '`syslog:async`'). See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

`--syslog` Selects default syslog mechanism for diagnostic output.

`--stderr` Directs all logging to standard output. Similar to `--logger=stderr`.

`-S` *ip*
`--source-ip=`*ip*
: Set source address for TCP connections. Overrides the '`source-ip`' configuration statement, which you are advised to use instead (see Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194).

`--debug-level=`*level*
: Set Mailutils debugging level. See `http://mailutils.org/wiki/Debug_level`, for a detailed discussion of *level* argument.

`--source-info`
`--no-source-info`
: Include C source information in debugging messages. This is similar to setting `line-info yes` in the `debug` configuration block (see Section "debug statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

  The `--no-source-info` can be used to cancel the effect of the `line-info yes` configuration statement.

  You do not need this option, unless you are developing or debugging `calloutd`.

`-X`
`--transcript`
`--no-transcript`
: Enable or disable transcript of the SMTP sessions to the log channel. See Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40.

Configuration file control

`--config-file=`*file*
: Load this configuration file.

`--config-lint`
: Check syntax of configuration files and exit. Exit code is 0 if the file or files are OK, and 78 otherwise.

`--config-verbose`
: Verbosely log parsing of the configuration files.

`--no-site-config`
`--no-config`
: Don't load site-wide configuration file.

`--set=`*`param`*`=`*`value`*
: Set configuration parameter

Informational options

`--config-help`
: Show configuration file summary.

`--show-config-options`
: Show compilation options.

`-?`
`--help`
: Give a short help list.

`--usage`
: Give a short usage message.

`-V`
`--version`
: Print program version

10.3 The Callout Protocol

This section describes the protocol used to communicate with the `calloutd` server.

The protocol works over stream-oriented TCP/IP transport. Either UNIX or IPv4 socket can be used. Commands and responses are terminated by a single CR LF pair. Each command occupies exactly one line. If the server succeeded in executing the command, it replies with a line starting with the word '`OK`'. Depending on the command, this keyword may be followed by a single space character and additional information. More information can be returned in *unsolicited replies* before the '`OK`' line. Each unsolicited reply line starts with and asterisk followed by a single horizontal space character.

On error, the server replies with '`NO`' followed by a horizontal space character and human-readable description of the problem.

The valid commands are discussed below. In examples illustrating the commands, the lines sent by the client are prefixed with *`C:`*, and lines sent by the server are prefixed with *`S:`*.

`vrfy` *`email`* [*`option arg`*] [Command]

Adds *email* to the queue of email addresses to be verified. Available *option*s are:

`mode` *`kw`*
: Sets verification mode for this email address. Available modes are:

  mxfirst
  default
  : The default mode.

    If the `host` option is also given, its argument is taken as the domain name. Otherwise, domain part of *email* is used.

The verification goes as follows. First, determine MX servers for that domain. Query each of them in order of increasing priority. First of them that replies determines the result of the test.

If no MX servers are defined for that domain, look for its 'A' record. If available, run SMTP probe on that IP.

mxonly Query MX servers for the domain specified with the `host` option.

hostonly Query the server whose name or IP address is supplied with the `host` option.

hostfirst The reverse of `mxfirst`: first query the host, then the MX servers. The domain must be specified using the `host` option.

`host` *name* Supplies the domain name for `mxonly` and mode, and host name or IP address for `hostfirst` and `hostonly` modes. The use of this keyword with any of these modes is mandatory.

`ehlo` *string*
Use *string* as the argument to the SMTP `EHLO` command.

`mailfrom` *email*
Use *email* in the SMTP `MAIL FROM` command.

On success, the server replies with 'OK', followed by a non-negative session ID for that email:

```
C: VRFY gray@example.org
S: OK 0000000001
```

`get` *arg* [*arg*] [Command]
Query value of internal callout parameters. Valid values for *arg* are:

ehlo Return the string used as argument to the SMTP `EHLO` command.

mailfromd Return the email address that is used in the SMTP `MAIL FROM` command.

On success, the server returns the requested value (if found) in an unsolicited reply:

```
C: GET ehlo timeout
S: * ehlo=example.net
S: OK
```

`sid` *string* [Command]
Sets *string* as session identifier for that session. Example:

```
C: SID deadbeef
S: OK
```

`timeout` *connect initial helo mail rcpt rset quit* [Command]
Sets timeouts for various stages of SMTP session. On success, 'OK' is returned.

```
C: timeout 300 300 300 600 300 300 120
S: OK timeouts set
```

`run` [Command]

Runs callout session for emails registered with the `vrfy` command. On success, results of the check are returned after the '`OK`' keyword in a whitespace-separated list of '*`id=result`*' pairs. In each pair, *id* is its identifier as returned in the reply to the `VRFY` command and *result* is one of the following result strings: '`success`', '`not_found`', '`failure`', '`temp_failure`', '`timeout`'.

Additional information about each callout session is returned in unsolicited replies. Each such reply is prefixed with the email identifier and callout stage name. Stage names are:

`INIT` *`remote_name`*
: The `calloutd` server is establishing communication with the remote SMTP server *remote_name*.

`GRTNG` *`line`*
: `calloutd` received initial response from the remote server. *line* is the first line of the reply.

`HELO` *`line`* `calloutd` received response to the `EHLO` (or `HELO`) command. In case of multiline response, *line* is the first line.

`SENT` *`command`*
: The SMTP command *command* has been sent to the remote server.

`RECV` *`line`* The remote server returned *line* in response. In case of multiline response, *line* is the first line.

Example of verification session:

```
C: RUN
S: * 0000000000 INIT mx.example.org
S: * 0000000000 GRTNG 220 mx.example.org ESMTP Ready
S: * 0000000000 HELO 250-mx.example.org Hello tester
S: * 0000000000 SENT RCPT TO:<gray@example.org>
S: * 0000000000 RECV 250 Accepted
S: * 0000000001 INIT foo.example.net
S: * 0000000001 GRTNG 220 foo ESMTP server ready
S: * 0000000001 HELO 250-foo.example.net Hello
S: * 0000000001 SENT RCPT TO:<gray@example.net>
S: * 0000000001 RECV 450 4.7.0 You are greylisted for 3600 seconds
OK 0000000000=success 0000000001=temp_failure
```

`drop` *`serial`* [Command]

Drop the email with the given *serial* number from the verification queue. Example:

```
C: DROP 0000000002
S: OK
```

`quit` [Command]

Finishes the current session and disconnects from the callout server.

```
C: QUIT
S: OK bye
```

11 mfdbtool

The `mfdbtool` utility manages `mailfromd` databases.

11.1 Invoking `mfdbtool`

The following options request the operation to be performed on the database. Exactly one of them must be specified. Each of them implied the `--stderr` option (see [–stderr], page 208).

`--list` List the database. By default, '`cache`' database is assumed. To list another database, use `--format` option (see [–format], page 226).

See Section 3.15.2 [Basic Database Operations], page 32.

`--delete` Delete given entries from the database (see [deleting from databases], page 33). By default, '`cache`' database is assumed. To specify another database, use `--format` option (see [–format], page 226).

See Section 3.15.2 [Basic Database Operations], page 32.

`--expire` Delete all expired entries from the database (see Section 3.15.3 [Database Maintenance], page 33). By default, '`cache`' database is assumed. To specify another database, use `--format` option (see [–format], page 226). Full database name can be given in the command line (see `--file` option below), if it differs from the one specified in the script file.

Use with the option `--all` (see [–all], page 225) to expire all databases.

See Section 3.15.3 [Database Maintenance], page 33.

`--compact`

Compact database (see [compaction], page 33). By default, '`cache`' database is compacted. To specify another database, use `--format` option (see [–format], page 226). Full database name can be given in the command line (see `--file` option below), if it differs from the one specified in the script file.

Use with the option `--all` (see [–all], page 225) to compact all databases.

See [compaction], page 33.

The following options modify the behavior of `mfdbtool`:

`--all` When used with `--compact` or `--expire` option, applies the action to all available databases. See [compact cronjob], page 33.

`-d` *string*
`--debug=`*string*

Sets debugging level. The *string* argument must be a valid mailfromd debug level specification, as described in [debugging level specification], page 42.

`-e` *interval*
`--expire-interval=`*interval*

Set expiration intervals for all databases to the specified interval. See [time interval specification], page 194, for a description of *interval* format. The option overrides the `expire-interval` configuration statement (see [expire-interval-conf], page 201), which you are advised to use instead.

`-f` *filename*
`--file=`*filename*
: Set the name of the database to operate upon (for `--compact`, `--delete`, `--expire`, and `--list` options). Useful if, for some reason, you need to operate on a database whose file name does not match the one `mfdbtool` is configured to use.

`-H` *dbformat*
`--format=`*dbformat*
: Use database of the given format, instead of the default '`cache`'. See Section 3.15.2 [Basic Database Operations], page 32.

`--ignore-failed-reads`
: Ignore records that cannot be retrieved while compacting the database. Without this option, `mfdbtool` will abort the compaction if any such error is encountered.

`--predict=`*rate-limit*
: Used with `--list` enables printing of the estimated times of sending along with the '`rate`' database dump. Implies `--list --format=rate`. See [estimated time of sending], page 32.

`--state-directory=`*dir*
: Sets program state directory. See [statedir], page 11, for the description of this directory and its purposes. This option overrides the `state-directory` configuration statement, described in Section 7.2 [conf-base], page 194.

`--time-format=`*format*
: Set format to be used for timestamps in listings, produced by `--list`. The *format* is any valid `strftime` format string, see Appendix B [Time and Date Formats], page 249, for a detailed description. The default *format* is '`%c`' (see [%c time format], page 249). To analyze *`mfdbtool --list`* output using text tools, such as `awk` or `grep`, the following format might be useful: '`%s`' (see [%s time format], page 250). Another format I find useful is '`%Y-%m-%d_%H:%M:%S`'.

11.2 Configuring `mfdbtool`

Configuration settings are read from the `/etc/mailfromd.conf` file (see Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193). The following statements are understood:

Statement	**Reference**
`database`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`database-mode`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`database-type`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`debug`	See Section 10.1.3 [conf-calloutd-log], page 219.
`lock-retry-count`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`lock-retry-timeout`	See Section 7.9 [conf-database], page 200.
`state-directory`	See Section 10.1.1 [conf-calloutd-setup], page 218.

12 `mtasim` — a testing tool

The `mtasim` utility is a MTA simulator for testing `mailfromd` filter scripts. By default it operates in *stdio* mode, similar to that of `sendmail -bs`. In this mode it reads SMTP commands from standard input and sends its responses to the standard output. There is also another mode, called *daemon*, where `mtasim` opens a TCP socket and listens on it much like any MTA does. In both modes no actual delivery is performed, the tool only simulates the actions an MTA would do and responses it would give.

This tool is derived from the program `mta`, which I wrote for GNU Anubis test suite.

12.1 `mtasim` interactive mode mode

If you start `mtasim` without options, you will see the following:

```
220 mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
(mtasim) _
```

The first line is an usual RFC 2821 reply. The second one is a prompt, indicating that `mtasim` is in interactive mode and ready for input. The prompt appears only if the package is compiled with GNU Readline and `mtasim` determines that its standard input is connected to the terminal. This is called *interactive mode* and is intended to save the human user some typing by offering line editing and history facilities (see Section "Command Line Editing" in *GNU Readline Library*). If the package is compiled without GNU Readline, you will see:

```
220 mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
_
```

where '`_`' represents the cursor. Whatever the mode, `mtasim` will wait for further input.

The input is expected to consist of valid SMTP commands and special `mtasim` statements. The utility will act exactly like a RFC 2821-compliant MTA, except that it will not do actual message delivery or relaying. Try typing `HELP` to get the list of supported commands. You will see something similar to:

```
250-mtasim (mailfromd 8.11); supported SMTP commands:
250- EHLO
250- HELO
250- MAIL
250- RCPT
250- DATA
250- HELP
250- QUIT
250- HELP
250  RSET
```

You can try a simple SMTP session now:

```
220 mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
(mtasim) ehlo localhost
250-pleased to meet you
250 HELP
(mtasim) mail from: <me@localhost>
250 Sender OK
```

```
(mtasim) rcpt to: <him@domain>
250 Recipient OK
(mtasim) data
354 Enter mail, end with '.' on a line by itself
(mtasim) .
250 Mail accepted for delivery
(mtasim) quit
221 Done
```

Notice, that `mtasim` does no domain checking, so such thing as '`rcpt to: <him@domain>`' was eaten without complaints.

So far so good, but what all this has to do with `mailfromd`? Well, that's what we are going to explain. To make `mtasim` consult any milter, use `--port` (`-X`) command line option. This option takes a single argument that specifies the milter port to use. The port can be given either in the usual Milter format (See [milter port specification], page 194, for a short description), or as a full `sendmail.cf` style `X` command, in which case it allows to set timeouts as well:

```
$ mtasim --port=inet:999@localhost
# This is also valid:
$ mtasim --port='mailfrom, S=inet:999@localhost, F=T, T=C:100m;R:180s'
```

If the milter is actually listening on this port, `mtasim` will connect to it and you will get the following initial prompt:

```
220-mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
220 Connected to milter inet://localhost:999
(mtasim)
```

Notice, that it makes no difference what implementation is listening on that port, it may well be some other filter, not necessarily `mailfromd`.

However, let's return to `mailfromd`. If you do not want to connect to an existing `mailfromd` instance, but prefer instead to create a new one and run your tests with it (a preferred way, if you already have a stable filter running but wish to test a new script without disturbing it), use `--port=auto`. This option instructs `mtasim` to do the following:

1. Create a unique temporary directory in `/tmp` and create a communication socket within it.
2. Spawn a new instance of `mailfromd`. The arguments and options for that instance may be given in the invocation of `mtasim` after a double-dash marker ('`--`')
3. Connect to that filter.

When `mtasim` exits, it terminates the subsidiary `mailfromd` process and removes the temporary directory it has created. For example, the following command will start `mailfromd -I. -I../mflib test.rc`:

```
$ mtasim -Xauto -- -I. -I../mflib test.rc
220-mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
220 Connected to milter unix:/tmp/mtasim-j6tRLC/socket
(mtasim)
```

The /tmp/mtasim-j6tRLC directory and any files within it will exist as long as mtasim is running and will be removed when you exit from it.[1] You can also instruct the subsidiary mailfromd to use this directory as its state directory (see [statedir], page 11). This is done by --statedir command line option:

```
$ mtasim -Xauto --statedir -- -I. -I../mflib test.rc
```

(notice that --statedir is the mtasim option, therefore it must appear *before* '--')

Special care should be taken when using mtasim from root account, especially if used with -Xauto and --statedir. The mailfromd utility executed by it will switch to privileges of the user given in its configuration (see Section 8.2 [Starting and Stopping], page 208) and will not be able to create data in its state directory, because the latter was created using 'root' as owner. To help in this case, mtasim understands --user and --group command line options, that have the same meaning as for mailfromd.

Now, let's try HELP command again:

```
250-mtasim (mailfromd 8.11); supported SMTP commands:
250- EHLO
250- HELO
250- MAIL
250- RCPT
250- DATA
250- HELP
250- QUIT
250- HELP
250- RSET
250-Supported administrative commands:
250- \Dname=value [name=value...]       Define Sendmail macros
250- \Ecode                             Expect given SMTP reply code
250- \L[name] [name...]                 List macros
250- \Uname [name...]                   Undefine Sendmail macros
250  \Sfamily hostname address [port]   Define sender socket address
```

While the SMTP commands do not need any clarification, some words about the *administrative commands* are surely in place. These commands allow to define, undefine and list arbitrary Sendmail macros. Each administrative command consists of a backslash followed by a command letter. Just like SMTP ones, administrative commands are case-insensitive. If a command takes arguments, the first argument must follow the command letter without intervening whitespace. Subsequent arguments can be delimited by arbitrary amount of whitespace.

For example, the \D command defines Sendmail macros:

```
(mtasim) \Dclient_addr=192.168.10.1 f=sergiusz@localhost i=testmsg
(mtasim)
```

Notice that mailfromd does not send any response to the command, except if there was some syntactic error, in which case it will return a '502' response.

[1] However, this is true only if the program is exited the usual way (via QUIT or end-of-file). If it is aborted with a signal like SIGINTR, the temporary directory is not removed.

Now, you can list all available macros:

```
(mtasim) \L
220-client_addr=192.168.10.1
220-f=sergiusz@localhost
220 i=testmsg
(mtasim)
```

or just some of them:

```
(mtasim) \Lclient_addr
220 client_addr=192.168.10.1
(mtasim)
```

To undefine a macro, use `\U` command:

```
(mtasim) \Ui
(mtasim) \l
220-client_addr=192.168.10.1
220 f=sergiusz@localhost
(mtasim)
```

The `\S` command declare sender socket and host name. These parameters are passed to the `connect` handler, if one is declared (see [connect handler], page 66). To give you a chance to use this command, `mtasim` does not invoke `connect` handler right after connecting to the milter. Instead it waits until either the `\S` command or any SMTP command (except '`HELP`') is given. After calling `connect` handler the `\S` is disabled (to reflect it, it also disappears from the `HELP` output).

The `\S` command takes 1 to 4 arguments. The first argument supplies the socket family (see Table 4.3). Allowed values are: '`stdio`', '`unix`', '`inet`', '`inet6`' or numbers from '`0`' to '`3`'.

The `\S stdio` (or `\S 0`) command needs no additional arguments. It indicates that the SMTP connection is obtained from the standard input. It is the default if sender socket is not declared explicitly.

The command `\S unix` indicates that the connection is accepted from a UNIX socket. It requires two more argument. The first one supplies sender host name and the second one supplies full path name of the socket file. For example:

```
\S unix localhost /var/run/smtp.sock
```

The commands `\S inet` and `\S inet6` indicate that the connection came from an '`INET`' IPv4 or IPv6 socket, correspondingly[2]. They require all four arguments to be specified. The additional arguments are: host name, IP address, and port number, in that order. For example:

```
\S inet relay.gnu.org.ua 213.130.31.41 34567
```

or

```
\S inet6 relay.gnu.org.ua 2001:470:1f0a:1be1::2 34567
```

Sender socket address can also be configured from the command line (see Section 12.6 [option summary], page 234).

[2] Depending on how `mailfromd` is configured, '`inet6`' may be not available.

Now, let's try a real-life example. Suppose you wish to test the greylisting functionality of the filter script described in Section 4.23 [Filter Script Example], page 105. To do this, you start `mtasim`:

```
$ mtasim -Xauto -- -I. -I../mflib test.rc
220-mtasim (mailfromd 8.11) ready
220 Connected to milter unix:/tmp/mtasim-ak3DEc/socket
(mtasim)
```

The script in `test.rc` needs to know `client_addr` macro, so you supply it to `mtasim`:

```
(mtasim) \Dclient_addr=10.10.1.13
```

Now, you try an SMTP session:

```
(mtasim) ehlo yahoo.com
250-pleased to meet you
250 HELP
(mtasim) mail from: <gray@yahoo.com>
250 Sender OK
(mtasim) rcpt to: <gray@localhost>
450 4.7.0 You are greylisted for 300 seconds
```

OK, this shows that the greylisting works. Now quit the session:

```
(mtasim) quit
221 Done
```

12.2 `mtasim` expect commands

Until now we were using `mtasim` interactively. However, it is often useful in shell scripts, for example the `mailfromd` test suite is written in shell and `mtasim`. To avoid the necessity to use auxiliary programs like `expect` or `DejaGNU`, `mtasim` contains a built-in expect feature. The administrative command `\E` introduces the SMTP code that the next command is expected to yield. For example,

```
\E250
rcpt to: <foo@bar.org>
```

tells `mtasim` that the response to `RCPT TO` command must begin with '`250`' code. If it does, `mtasim` continues execution. Otherwise, it prints an error message and terminates with exit code 1. The error message it prints looks like:

```
Expected 250 but got 470
```

The expect code given with the `\E` command may have less than 3 digits. In this case it specifies the first digits of expected reply. For example, the command '`\E2`' matches replies '`200`', '`220`', etc.

This feature can be used to automate your tests. For example, the following script tests the greylisting functionality (see the previous section):

```
# Test the greylisting functionality
#
\E220
\Dclient_addr=10.10.1.13
\E250
```

```
ehlo yahoo.com
\E250
mail from: <gray@yahoo.com>
\E450
rcpt to: <gray@localhost>
\E221
quit
```

This example also illustrates the fact that you can use '`#`'-style comments in the `mtasim` input. Such a script can be used in shell programs, for example:

```
mtasim -Xauto --statedir -- -I. -I../mflib test.rc < scriptfile
if $? -ne 0; then
  echo "Greylisting test failed"
fi
```

12.3 Trace Files

It is possible to log an entire SMTP session to a file. This is called *session tracing*. Two options are provided for this purpose:

`--trace-file=`*file*
: Sets the name of the trace file, i.e. a file to which the session transcript will be written. Both the input commands, and the `mtasim` responses are logged. If the file *file* exists, it will be truncated before logging. This, however, can be changed using the following option:

`-a`
`--append` If the trace file exists, append new trace data to it.

12.4 Daemon Mode

To start `mtasim` in *daemon* mode, use the `--daemon` (or `-bd`) command line option. This mode is not quite the same as Sendmail `-bd` mode. When started in *daemon* mode, `mtasim` selects the first available TCP port to use from the range '`1024 -- 65535`'. It prints the selected port number on the standard output and starts listening on it. When a connection comes, it serves a *single* SMTP session and exits immediately when it is ended.

This mode is designed for use in shell scripts and automated test cases.

12.5 Summary of the `mtasim` Administrative Commands

This section provides a summary of administrative commands available in `mtasim`.

`\D` *name=value* [*name=value...*] [mtasim command]
: Defines Sendmail macro *name* to the given *value*. Any number of *name=value* pairs can be given as arguments.

See [D command], page 229.

`\E` *code* [mtasim command]
: Instructs `mtasim` to expect next SMTP command to return given *code* (a three-digit decimal number).

See Section 12.2 [expect commands], page 231.

`\L` [*name...*] [mtasim command]
Lists defined macros. See [L command], page 229.

`\U` *name* [*name...*] [mtasim command]
Undefines macros given as its arguments.

`\S` *family* [*hostname address* [*port*]] [mtasim command]
Declares the sender socket parameters. See [S command], page 230, for a detailed description and examples.

This command is available only at the initial stage of a `mtasim` session, before the first SMTP command was given. It is disabled if the `--sender-socket` option was given in the command line (see Section 12.6 [option summary], page 234). The `help` output reflects whether or not this command is available.

If neither this command nor the `--sender-socket` option were given, `mtasim` behaves as if given the `\S stdio` command.

The *family* argument supplies the socket family, i.e. the first argument to the `connect` handler (see [connect handler], page 66). It can have either literal or numeric value, as described in the table below:

Literal	**Numeric**	**Meaning**
stdio	0	Standard input/output (the MTA is run with `-bs` option)
unix	1	UNIX socket
inet	2	IPv4 protocol
inet6	3	IPv6 protocol

Table 12.1: Socket families

See also Table 4.3.

Depending on the *family*, the rest of arguments supply additional parameters:

stdio — The *hostname* argument can be specified. It defines the first argument of the `connect` handler (see [hostname in connect handler], page 66).

inet
inet6 — All arguments must be specified.

argument	`connect` **argument**	**meaning**
hostname	1	Sender host name
address	4	Sender IP address
port	3	Sender port number

unix — *Hostname* and *address* must be supplied. The *address* argument must be a full pathname of the UNIX socket.

12.6 `mtasim` command line options

This section summarizes all available `mtasim` command line options.

`--append`
`-a` Append to the trace file. See Section 12.3 [traces], page 232.

`--body-chunk=`*`number`*
Set the body chunk length (bytes) for `xxfi_body` calls.

`--daemon`
`-bd` Run as daemon. See Section 12.4 [daemon mode], page 232.

`--define=`*`macro`*`=`*`value`*
`-D` *`macro`*`=`*`value`*
Define Sendmail macro *macro* to the given *value*. It is similar to the `\D` administrative command (see [D command], page 229)

`--gacopyz-log=`*`level`*
Set desired logging level for `gacopyz` library (see Appendix A [Gacopyz], page 247). See [gacopyz-log option], page 206, for a detailed description of *level*. Notice, that unless this option is used, the `--verbose` (`-v`) command line option implies `--gacopyz-log=debug`.

`--group=`*`name`*
`-g` *`name`* When switching to user's privileges as requested by the `--user` command line option, retain the additional group *name*. Any number of `--group` options may be given to supply a list of additional groups.

`--user=`*`name`*
`-u` *`name`* Run with this user privileges. This option and the `--group` option have effect only if `mtasim` was started with root privileges.

`--help`
`-?` Display a short help summary

`--milter-version=`*`version`*
Force using the given Milter protocol version number. The *version* argument is either a numeric version (e.g. '`2`'), or a version string in form '*`major.minor`*`[.patch]`', where square brackets indicate optional part. The default is '`1.0.0`'. If *version* is any of '`2`', '`3`' or '`1.0.0`', the default protocol capabilities and actions for that version are set automatically. This option is intended for development and testing of the Gacopyz library (see Appendix A [Gacopyz], page 247).

`--milter-proto=`*`bitmask`*
Set Milter protocol capabilities. See `gacopyz/gacopyz.h` for the meaning of various bits in the *bitmask*. Look for the C macros with the prefix '`SMFIP_`'.

`--milter-timeout=`*`values`*
Set timeouts for various Milter operations. *Values* is a comma-separated list of assignments '*`T`*`=`*`V`*', where T is a *timeout code*, indicating which timeout to set, and V is its new value. Valid timeout codes are:

C Timeout for connecting to a filter.

W

S Timeout for sending information from the simulator to a filter.

R Timeout for reading reply from the filter.

E Overall timeout between sending end-of-message to filter and receiving final acknowledgment. Indirectly, it configures the upper limit on the execution time of the `eom` handler (see [eom handler], page 70).

`--milter-actions=`*bitmask*
Set Milter actions. See `gacopyz/gacopyz.h` for the meaning of various bits in the *bitmask*. Look for the C macros with the prefix '`SMFIF_`'.

`--no-interactive`
Not-interactive mode (disable readline). See Section "Command Line Editing" in *GNU Readline Library*.

`--port=`*port*
`-X` *port* Communicate with given Milter *port*. See [mtasim milter port], page 228.

`--prompt=`*string*
Set readline prompt. The default prompt string is '`(mtasim) `'.

`--sender-socket=`*family*`[,`*hostname*`,`*address*`[,`*port*`]]`
Declare sender socket address. This option has the same effect as the `S command`. See [S command], page 230, for a detailed discussion and a description of its arguments.

`--statedir`
When using `-Xauto`, use the temporary directory name as `mailfromd` state directory (see [statedir mtasim option], page 228).

`--stdio`
`-bs` Use the SMTP protocol on standard input and output. This is the default mode for `mtasim`. See Section 12.1 [interactive mode], page 227.

`--trace-file=`*file*
Set name of the trace file. See Section 12.3 [traces], page 232.

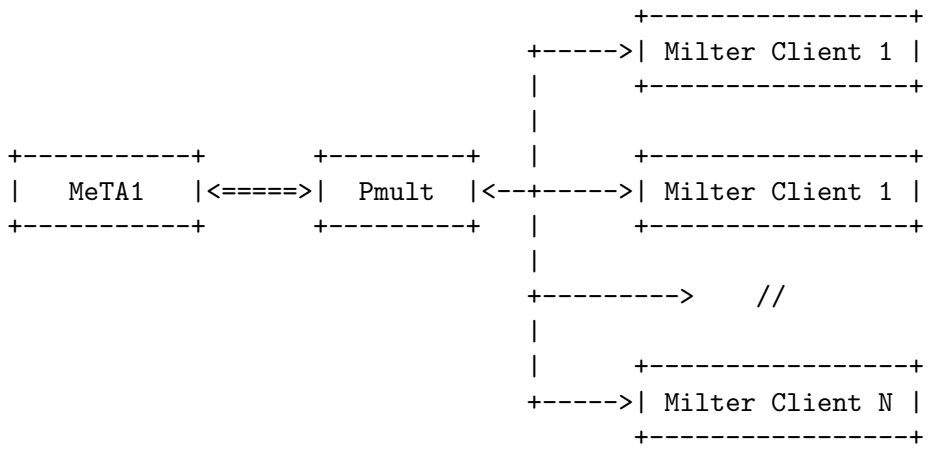
`--usage` Display option summary

`--verbose`
`-v` Increase verbosity level. Implies `--gacopyz-log=debug`, unless that option is used explicitly.

`--version`
`-V` Print program version

13 Pmilter multiplexer program.

`Pmult` is a *Pmilter–Milter multiplexer*, i.e. a program that acts as a mediator between the *Pmilter* server and one or several *Milter* clients. Usually, the former is an instance of `smtps` from MeTA1, and the latter are running `mailfromd` instances. `Pmult` receives Pmilter commands from the server, translates them into equivalent Milter commands and passes the translated requests to a preconfigured set of Milter filters. When the filters reply, the reverse operation is performed: Milter responses are translated into their Pmilter equivalents and are sent back to the server.



Due to the specifics nature of the threaded MeTA1 libraries, `pmult` does not detach from the controlling terminal (i.e. does not become a daemon). To run it as a background process, we recommend to use `pies` daemon. '`Pies`' is a powerful utility that allows you to launch several foreground-designed programs in the background and control their execution. See Section "Pies" in *Pies Manual*, for a detailed description of the program. For a practical advice on how to use it with `pmult`, see Section "Simple Pies" in *Pies Manual*. For a description on how to start both `pmult` and MeTA1 from the same `pies` configuration file, see Section "Hairy Pies" in *Pies Manual*.

13.1 Pmult Configuration

`Pmult` reads its configuration from the main configuration file `/etc/mailfromd.conf`. Unless it is the only component of the '`Mailfromd`' package that is being run, its configuration should be explicitly marked as such by using either `program` or `include` statement, as described in Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193.

The following standard Mailutils statements are understood:

Statement	**Reference**
debug	See Section "debug statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
logging	See Section "logging statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.
include	See Section "include" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*.

13.1.1 Multiplexer Configuration.

`Pmult` listens for Pmilter requests on a socket, configured using `listen` statement:

`listen` *`url`* [Pmult Conf]
: Listen on the given *url*. Argument is a valid Mailutils URL. See [milter port specification], page 194, for a description of *url*.

Since `pmult` runs as a foreground program, it does not write its PID number to a file by default. If this behavior is required, it can be enabled using the following statement:

`pidfile` *`file`* [Pmult Conf]
: Store PID of the `pmult` process in *file*.

The following three limits require MeTA1 version '`PreAlpha30.0`' or later.

`max-threads-soft` *`n`* [Pmult Conf]
: "Soft" limit on the number of '`pmilter`' threads. Default is 2.

`max-threads-hard` *`n`* [Pmult Conf]
: "Hard" limit on the number of '`pmilter`' threads. This is roughly equivalent to the number of emails `pmult` is able to handle simultaneously. The default value is 6. Raise this limit if you experience long delays when connecting to the SMTP port.

`max-pmilter-fd` *`n`* [Pmult Conf]
: Maximum number of file descriptors '`pmilter`' library is allowed to open simultaneously. Default is 10.

13.1.2 Translating MeTA1 macros.

MeTA1's notion of macros differs considerably from that of Sendmail. Macros in MeTA1 are identified by integer numbers and only a limited number of macros can be provided for each *Pmilter stage*. Pmilter stages mostly correspond to Milter states (see [handler names], page 13), except that there are no distinct header and body stages, instead these two are combined into a single '`data`' stage. This comes unnoticed to mailfromd scripts, because `pmult` takes care to invoke right Milter handlers within the single '`data`' Pmilter state. Therefore in the discussion that follows we will refer to Mailfromd handlers, rather than to Pmilter stages.

The most important standard Milter macros are always provided by `pmult` itself. These are:

client_addr
: The IP address of the SMTP client. As of version 8.11, only IPv4 addresses are supported. Defined in all handlers.

client_port
: The port number of the SMTP client. Defined in all handlers.

i
: MeTA1 session ID. Defined in all handlers.

f
: The envelope sender (from) address. Defined in `envfrom` and subsequent handlers.

nbadrcpts The number of bad recipients for a single message. Defined in `envfrom` and `envrcpt` handlers.

ntries The number of delivery attempts. As of version 8.11 it is always '`1`'. Defined in `envfrom` and subsequent handlers.

nrcpts The number of validated recipients for a single message. Defined in `envfrom` and `envrcpt` handlers.

r Protocol used to receive the message. The value of this macro is always '`SMTP`'. Defined in all handlers.

rcpt_host The host from the resolved triple of the address given for the SMTP RCPT command. Defined in `envrcpt` handler.

rcpt_addr The address part of the resolved triple of the address given for the SMTP RCPT command. Defined in `envrcpt` handler.

s Sender's helo domain (parameter to `EHLO` or `HELO` command).

Two additional macros are provided for all handlers that allow to identify whether the message is processed via `pmult`:

multiplexer
Canonical name of the multiplexer program, i.e. '`pmult`'.

mult_version
Version of `pmult`.

These macros can be used in mailfromd filters to provide alternative processing for messages coming from a MeTA1 server.

Macros defined in MeTA1 can be made available in Mailfromd handlers using the `define-macros` statement.

`define-macros` *handler macros* [Pmult Conf]
Define a set of Sendmail macros for the given Mailfromd handler. Allowed values for *handler* are: '`connect`', '`helo`', '`mail`' (or '`envfrom`'), '`rcpt`' (or '`envrcpt`'), '`data`' (or '`header`' or '`body`'), '`dot`' ('`eom`'). A list of these values is also accepted, in which case *macros* are defined for each handler from the list.

The second argument specifies a list of names of the macros that should be defined in this handler. Allowed macro names are:

hostname Hostname of SMTP server.

client_resolve
Result of client lookup.

tls_version TLS/SSL version used.

tls_cipher_suite
TLS cipher suite used.

tls_cipher_bits
Effective key length of the symmetric encryption algorithm.

tls_cert_subject
: The DN (distinguished name) of the presented certificate.

tls_cert_issuer
: The DN (distinguished name) of the CA (certificate authority) that signed the presented certificate (the cert issuer).

tls_alg_bits
: Maximum key length of the symmetric encryption algorithm. This may be less than the effective key length for export controlled algorithms.

tls_vrfy
: The result of the verification of the presented cert.

tls_cn_subject
cn_subject
: The CN (common name) of the presented certificate.

tls_cn_issuer
cn_issuer
: The CN (common name) of the CA that signed the presented certificate.

auth_type
: The mechanism used for SMTP authentication (only set if successful).

auth_authen
: The client's authentication credentials as determined by authentication (only set if successful). The actual format depends on the mechanism used, it might be just '`user`', or '`user@realm`', or something similar.

auth_author
: The authorization identity, i.e. the '`AUTH=`' parameter of the SMTP MAIL command if supplied.

taid
: MeTA1 transaction id.

msgid
: Message-Id of the message.

c
: The hop count. Basically, this is the number of '`Received:`' headers.

Notice the following limitations:

1. '`taid`' cannot be requested before '`mail`' stage.
2. '`msgid`' can be requested only in '`dot`' stage.
3. All '`tls_*`' macros are valid only after a `STARTTLS` command.
4. The number of MeTA1 macros per stage is limited by `PM_MAX_MACROS` define in `include/sm/pmfdef.h`. In MeTA1 versions up to and including 1.0.PreAlpha28.0, this number is 8. If you need more macros, increase this number and recompile MeTA1.

`auth-macros` *bool* [Pmult Conf]

If *bool* is `true` (see Section "Statements" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*), pass auth macros to mailfromd '`mail`' handler. It is equivalent to:

```
define-macros mail (auth_type, auth_authen, auth_author);
```

13.1.3 Pmult Client Configuration.

In `pmult` terminology, remote Milters are *clients*. The number of clients `pmult` is able to handle is not limited. Each client is declared using `client` statement:

```
client [ident] {
  # Set remote protocol type.
  type protocol-type;
  # Set remote client URL.
  url arg;
  # Set write timeout.
  write-timeout duration;
  # Set read timeout.
  read-timeout duration;
  # Set timeout for EOM.
  eom-timeout duration;
  # Set connect timeout.
  connect-timeout duration;
  # Set log verbosity level.
  log-level level;
};
```

`client` [*ident*] { *statements* } [Pmult Conf]

Declare a Milter client. Optional *ident* gives the identifier of this client, which will be used in diagnostics messages.

Statements are described below.

`type` *typestr* [Pmult Conf]

This statement is reserved for future use. In version 8.11 it is a no-op.

If given, the value of *typestr* must be '`milter`'.

In future versions this statement will declare the protocol to be used to interact with this client. The syntax for *typestr* is

```
type [version]
```

where *type* is either '`milter`' or '`pmilter`', and optional *version* is minimal protocol version.

`url` *arg* [Pmult Conf]

Set remote client URL. See [milter port specification], page 194, for a description of *url*.

`connect-timeout` *interval* [Pmult Conf]

Configure Milter initial connection timeout. Default is 300.

See [time interval specification], page 194, for information on *interval* format.

`write-timeout` *interval* [Pmult Conf]

Configure Milter write timeout. Default is 10.

See [time interval specification], page 194, for information on *interval* format.

`read-timeout` *interval* [Pmult Conf]

Configure Milter read timeout. Default is 10.

See [time interval specification], page 194, for information on *interval* format.

`eom-timeout` *interval* [Pmult Conf]

Configure Milter end of message timeout. Default is 300.

See [time interval specification], page 194, for information on *interval* format.

`log-level` *arg* [Pmult Conf]

Set Milter log verbosity level for this client. Argument is a list of items separated by commas or whitespace. Each item is a log level optionally prefixed with '`!`' to indicate "any level except this", '`<`', meaning "all levels up to and including this", or with '`>`', meaning "all levels starting from this".

Log levels in order of increasing priority are: '`proto`', '`debug`', '`info`', '`warn`', '`err`', '`fatal`'. The first two levels are needed for debugging `libgacopyz` and Milter protocol. See Appendix A [Gacopyz], page 247, for the description of the `libgacopyz` library. See also the following subsection.

13.1.4 Debugging Pmult

If needed, `pmult` can be instructed to provide additional debugging information. The amount of this information is configured by three configuration statements. First of all, the standard `debug` block statement controls debugging of the underlying GNU Mailutils libraries (see Section "Debug Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*). Secondly, the `debug` statement controls debugging output of the `pmult` utility itself. The `pmilter-debug` statement controls debugging output of the underlying MeTA1 libraries, and, finally, the `log-level` statement, described in the previous subsection, defines debugging level for the Milter library (`libgacopyz`).

`debug` *spec* [Pmult Conf]

Set debugging level for the `pmult` code. See Section "Debug Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*, for a description of *spec* syntax. Multiplexor-specific debugging is enabled by the '`pmult`' category. The following levels are used:

pmult.trace1
: Prints the following information:
  - opening and closing incoming connections;
  - entering particular Pmilter stage handlers;
  - received requests with unknown command code;
  - header modification requests that does not match any headers.

pmult.trace2
: Information about milter to Pmilter request translation.

pmult.trace7
: Detailed dump of message body chunks received during Pmilter '`DATA`' stage.

pmult.error
: Logs bad recipient addresses.

This information is printed using the output channel defined in the `logging` statement (see Section "Logging Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

`pmilter-debug` *level* [Pmult Conf]

Set debug verbosity level for the Pmilter library. Argument is a positive integer between zero (no debugging, the default), and 100 (maximum debugging).

Pmilter debugging information is printed on the standard error. Use `pies stderr` statement to capture this stream and redirect it to the syslog or file (see Section "Output Redirectors" in *Pies Manual*).

13.2 Pmult Example

The following is an example of a working `pmult` configuration. The multiplexer listens on localhost, port '`3333`'. It prints its diagnostics using syslog facility `local2`. A single Mailfromd client is declared, which listens on UNIX socket `/usr/local/var/mailfromd/mailfrom`. The log verbosity level for this client is set to '`info`' and higher, i.e.: '`info`', '`warn`', '`err`' and '`fatal`'.

```
listen inet://127.0.0.1:3333;

logging {
   facility local2;
};

debug {
   level "pmult.trace7";
}

define-macros envmail (auth_type, auth_authen, auth_author, tls_vrfy);
define-macros envrcpt (auth_type, auth_authen, auth_author);

client {
   type milter;
   url /usr/local/var/mailfromd/mailfrom;
   log-level ">info";
   # Set write timeout.
   write-timeout 30 seconds;
   # Set read timeout.
   read-timeout 5 minutes;
   # Set timeout for EOM.
   eom-timeout 5 minutes;
}
```

13.3 Pmult Invocation

Normally, `pmult` is invoked without command line arguments. However, it does support several command line options. First of all, the common GNU Mailutils options are understood, which are useful for checking `pmult` configuration file for syntax errors. See Section "Common Options" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*, for a detailed description of these.

The rest of command line options supported by `pmult` is useful mostly for debugging. These options are summarized in the table below:

`--log-tag=`*`string`*
: Set the identifier used in syslog messages to *string*. This option mostly is for debugging purposes. We advise to use `logging` configuration statement for this purpose (see Section "Logging Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*).

`--no-signal-handler`
: Disable signal handling in the main thread. This is for debugging purposes.

`--syslog`
: Log to the syslog. This is the default. See Section "Logging Statement" in *GNU Mailutils Manual*, for information on how to configure syslog logging.

`-s`
`--stderr`
: Log to the standard error stream.

`--url=`*`url`*
: Listen on the given *url*. This overrides the `url` configuration statement (see Section 13.1.3 [pmult-client], page 241).

`-x`
`--debug=`*`level`*
: Set debug verbosity level. This overrides the `debug` configuration statement. See Section 13.1.4 [pmult-debug], page 242, for more information.

14 How to Report a Bug

> *Documentation is like sex: when it is good, it is very, very good; and when it is bad, it is better than nothing.*
> Dick Brandon

Although the author has tried to make this documentation as detailed as is possible and practical, he is well aware that the result is rather "better than nothing", than "very good". So, if you find that some piece of explanation is lousy or if you find anything that should have been mentioned here, but is not, please report it to `bug-mailfromd@gnu.org.ua`.

Similarly, if the program itself fails to meet your expectations, or does not do what is described in this document; if you have found a bug or happen to have any suggestion... or have written a useful function you wish to share with the rest of `mailfromd` users, or wish to express your thanks, email it to the same address, `bug-mailfromd@gnu.org.ua`.

If you think you've found a bug, please be sure to include maximum information needed to reliably reproduce it, or at least to analyze it. The information needed is:

- Version of the package you are using.
- Compilation options used when configuring the package.
- Run-time configuration (`mailfromd.mf` file and the command line options used).
- Conditions under which the bug appears.

Appendix A Gacopyz

> *Gacopyz, panie, to mówią ze to mysa... Ze to tako mysa co świeckę w kościele zjadła i wniebowstąpienia dostąpiła. A to nie je mysa, ino gacopyz! To nadprzyrodzłune, to głową na dół śpi!*
>
> Kazimierz Grześkowiak

'`Gacopyz`' is the client library implementing Milter protocol. It differs considerably from the Sendmail implementation and offers a new and more flexible API. The old API is supported for compatibility with `libmilter`.

The library name comes from the song '`Rozprawa o robokach`' by Kazimierz Grzeskowiak (`http://grzeskowiak.art.pl`). The phrase '`A to nie je mysa, ino gacopyz`' exactly describes what the library is: '`That is no libmilter, but gacopyz`'.

Future versions of this documentation will include a detailed description of the library.

Appendix B Time and Date Formats

This appendix documents the time format specifications understood by the command line option `--time-format` (see [–time-format], page 226). Essentially, it is a reproduction of the man page for GNU `strftime` function.

Ordinary characters placed in the format string are reproduced without conversion. Conversion specifiers are introduced by a '`%`' character, and are replaced as follows:

%a — The abbreviated weekday name according to the current locale.

%A — The full weekday name according to the current locale.

%b — The abbreviated month name according to the current locale.

%B — The full month name according to the current locale.

%c — The preferred date and time representation for the current locale.

%C — The century number (year/100) as a 2-digit integer.

%d — The day of the month as a decimal number (range 01 to 31).

%D — Equivalent to '`%m/%d/%y`'.

%e — Like '`%d`', the day of the month as a decimal number, but a leading zero is replaced by a space.

%E — Modifier: use alternative format, see below (see [conversion specs], page 251).

%F — Equivalent to '`%Y-%m-%d`' (the ISO 8601 date format).

%G — The ISO 8601 year with century as a decimal number. The 4-digit year corresponding to the ISO week number (see '`%V`'). This has the same format and value as '`%y`', except that if the ISO week number belongs to the previous or next year, that year is used instead.

%g — Like '`%G`', but without century, i.e., with a 2-digit year (00-99).

%h — Equivalent to '`%b`'.

%H — The hour as a decimal number using a 24-hour clock (range 00 to 23).

%I The hour as a decimal number using a 12-hour clock (range 01 to 12).

%j The day of the year as a decimal number (range 001 to 366).

%k The hour (24-hour clock) as a decimal number (range 0 to 23); single digits are preceded by a blank. (See also '`%H`'.)

%l The hour (12-hour clock) as a decimal number (range 1 to 12); single digits are preceded by a blank. (See also '`%I`'.)

%m The month as a decimal number (range 01 to 12).

%M The minute as a decimal number (range 00 to 59).

%n A newline character.

%O Modifier: use alternative format, see below (see [conversion specs], page 251).

%p Either '`AM`' or '`PM`' according to the given time value, or the corresponding strings for the current locale. Noon is treated as '`pm`' and midnight as '`am`'.

%P Like '`%p`' but in lowercase: '`am`' or '`pm`' or a corresponding string for the current locale.

%r The time in '`a.m.`' or '`p.m.`' notation. In the POSIX locale this is equivalent to '`%I:%M:%S %p`'.

%R The time in 24-hour notation ('`%H:%M`'). For a version including the seconds, see '`%T`' below.

%s The number of seconds since the Epoch, i.e., since 1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC.

%S The second as a decimal number (range 00 to 61).

%t A tab character.

%T The time in 24-hour notation ('`%H:%M:%S`').

%u The day of the week as a decimal, range 1 to 7, Monday being 1. See also '`%w`'.

%U The week number of the current year as a decimal number, range 00 to 53, starting with the first Sunday as the first day of week 01. See also '`%V`' and '`%W`'.

%V The ISO 8601:1988 week number of the current year as a decimal number, range 01 to 53, where week 1 is the first week that has at least 4 days in the current year, and with Monday as the first day of the week. See also '`%U`' and '`%W`'.

%w The day of the week as a decimal, range 0 to 6, Sunday being 0. See also '`%u`'.

%W The week number of the current year as a decimal number, range 00 to 53, starting with the first Monday as the first day of week 01.

%x The preferred date representation for the current locale without the time.

%X The preferred time representation for the current locale without the date.

%y The year as a decimal number without a century (range 00 to 99).

%Y The year as a decimal number including the century.

%z The time-zone as hour offset from GMT. Required to emit RFC822-conformant dates (using '`%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S %z`')

%Z The time zone or name or abbreviation.

%+ The date and time in *date(1)* format.

%% A literal '`%`' character.

Some conversion specifiers can be modified by preceding them by the '`E`' or '`O`' modifier to indicate that an alternative format should be used. If the alternative format or specification does not exist for the current locale, the behaviour will be as if the unmodified conversion specification were used. The Single Unix Specification mentions '`%Ec`', '`%EC`', '`%Ex`', '`%EX`', '`%Ry`', '`%EY`', '`%Od`', '`%Oe`', '`%OH`', '`%OI`', '`%Om`', '`%OM`', '`%OS`', '`%Ou`', '`%OU`', '`%OV`', '`%Ow`', '`%OW`', '`%Oy`', where the effect of the '`O`' modifier is to use alternative numeric symbols (say, roman numerals), and that of the '`E`' modifier is to use a locale-dependent alternative representation.

Appendix C Upgrading

The following sections describe procedures for upgrading between the consecutive Mailfromd releases. The absense of a section for a pair of versions *x*-*y* numbers means that no specific actions are required for upgrading from *x* to *y*.

C.1 Upgrading from 8.7 to 8.8

DKIM support (see Section 5.35 [DKIM], page 176) introduced in this version requires the Nettle cryptographic library[1]. It you need DKIM, make sure Nettle is installed prior to compiling `mailfromd`. Otherwise, no special actions are required.

C.2 Upgrading from 8.5 to 8.6

New configure option `--with-dbm` allows you to select any DBM flavor supported by GNU mailutils as the default DBM implementation for `mailfromd`.

C.3 Upgrading from 8.2 to 8.3 (or 8.4)

Versions 8.3 and 8.4 differ only in required minimal version of mailutils (3.3 and 3.4, correspondingly). Apart from that, the following instructions apply to both versions.

In version 8.3 I abandoned the legacy DNS resolver and switched to *GNU adns*. GNU ands is a standalone resolver library, which provides a number of advanced features. It is included in most distributions. The source code of the recent release is available from `http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~ian/adns/adns.tar.gz`.

This change brought a number of user-visible changes. In particular, arbitrary limits on the sizes of the RRs are removed. Consequently, the following configurations statements are withdrawn:

```
runtime.max-dns-reply-a
runtime.max-dns-reply-ptr
runtime.max-dns-reply-mx
max-match-mx
max-callout-mx
```

Secondly, the new resolver is less tolerant to deviations from the standard. This means that remote DNS misconfigurations that would have slipped unnoticed in previous versions, will be noticed by mailfromd 8.3. For example, a CNAME record pointing to another CNAME is treated as an error.

A new command line option was added to `mailfromd` and `calloutd`: `--resolv-conf-file`. This option instructs the programs to read resolver settings from the supplied file, instead of the default `/etc/resolv.conf`.

Another user-visible change is in handling of SPF checks. Previously, results if SPF checks were cached in a database. This proved to cause more problems than solutions and was removed in this version. As a result, the following MFL global variables have been withdrawn:

```
spf_ttl
```

[1] `http://www.gnu.org/software/nettle`

```
spf_cached
spf_database
spf_negative_ttl
```

C.4 Upgrading from 7.0 to 8.0

Version 8.0 is a major rewrite, that introduces a lot of new concepts and features. Nevertheless, it is still able to run the MFL scripts from version 7.0 without modifications.

Note the following important points:

- The `listen` configuration statement withdrawn

  Use the `server milter` statement instead. See Section 7.3 [conf-server], page 195.
- The `--remove` option withdrawn

  This option was a noop since version 7.0.91.
- The use of '`%`' before variable names is no longer supported

  The '`%`' characters is used as modulo operator. See Section 4.14.4 [Arithmetic operations], page 79.
- The `debug_spec` built-in function changed signature.

  See [debug_spec], page 186.
- `listens` and `portprobe`

  The `listens` function was moved to the `portprobe` module. It is actually an alias to the `portprobe` function. If your filter uses `listens`, make sure to `require` the `portprobe` module.

  See Section 5.31 [Special test functions], page 167.
- `_pollhost`, `_pollmx`, `stdpoll`, `strictpoll`

  These functions have been moved to the `poll` module, which must be required prior to using any of them.
- The `message_header_count` function.

  This function takes an optional string argument, supplying the header name. See [message_header_count], page 130.

C.5 Upgrading from 6.0 to 7.0

The release 7.0 removes the features which were declared as obsolete in 6.0 and introduces important new features, both syntactical, at the MFL level, and operational.

Unless your filter used any deprecated features, it should work correctly after upgrade to this version. It will, however, issue warning messages regarding the deprecated features (e.g. the use of '`%`' in front of identifiers, as described below). To fix these, follow the upgrade procedure described in [upgrade procedure], page 256.

The removed features are:

- Old-style functional notation
- The use of functional operators
- Implicit concatenations
- #pragma option

- #pragma database

The MFL syntax has changed: it is no longer necessary to use '`%`' in front of a variable to get its value. To reference a variable, simply use its name, e.g.:

```
set x var + z
```

The old syntax is still supported, so the following statement will also work:

```
set x %var + %z
```

It will, however, generate a warning message.

Of course, the use of '`%`' to reference variables within a string literal remains mandatory.

Another important changes to MFL are user-defined exceptions (see Section 4.19.2 [User-defined Exceptions], page 94) and the *try–catch* construct (see Section 4.19.3 [Catch and Throw], page 94).

Several existing MFL functions have been improved. In particular, it is worth noticing that the `open` function, when opening a pipe to or from a command, provides a way to control where the command's standard error would go (see [open], page 149).

The `accept` function (or action) issues a warning if its use would cancel any modifications to the message applied by, e.g., `header_add` and similar functions. See Section 5.10 [Message modification queue], page 124, for a detailed discussion of this feature.

The most important change in `mailfromd` operation is that the version 7.0 is able to run several servers (see Section 7.3 [conf-server], page 195). Dedicated *callout servers* make it possible to run sender verifications in background, using a set of long timeouts, as prescribed by RFC 2822 (see Section 3.7 [SMTP Timeouts], page 19). This diminishes the number of false positives, allows for coping with servers showing large delays and also reduces the number of callouts performed for such servers.

This release no longer includes the `smap` utility. It was moved into a self-standing project, which by now provides much more functionality and is way more flexible than this utility was. If you are interested in using `smap`, visit `http://www.gnu.org.ua/software/smap`, for a detailed information, including pointers to file downloads.

C.6 Upgrading from 5.x to 6.0

The 6.0 release is aimed to fix several logical inconsistencies that affected the previous versions. The most important one is that until version 5.2, the filter script file contained both the actual filter script, and the run-time configuration for `mailfromd` (in form of '`#pragma option`' and '`#pragma database`' statements). The new version separates run-time configuration from the filter script by introducing a special configuration file `mailfromd.conf` (see Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193).

Consequently, the '`#pragma option`' and '`#pragma database`' statements become deprecated. Furthermore, the following deprecated pragmas are removed: '`#pragma option ehlo`', '`#pragma option mailfrom`'. These pragmas became deprecated in version 4.0 (see Section C.13 [31x-400], page 260).

The second problem was that the default filter script file had '`.rc`' suffix, which usually marks a configuration file, not the source. In version 6.0 the script file is renamed to `mailfromd.mf`. In the absence of this file, the legacy file `mailfromd.rc` is recognized and parsed. This ensures backward compatibility.

This release also fixes various inconsistencies and dubious features in the MFL language.

The support for unquoted literals is discontinued. This feature was marked as deprecated in version 3.0.

The following features are deprecated: '`#pragma option`' (pragma-option (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/pragma_002doption.html`) and '`#pragma database`' (pragma-database (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/pragma_002ddatabase.html`)) directives, the legacy style of function declarations (old-style function declarations (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/old_002dstyle-function-declarations.html`)), calls to functions of one argument without parentheses (operational notation (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/implicit-concatenation.html`)), the '`#require`' statement (See Section 4.21.3 [import], page 102, for the new syntax) and implicit concatenation (implicit concatenation (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/implicit-concatenation.html`)). See Deprecated Features (`http://mailfromd.man.gnu.org.ua/historic/6/html_node/Deprecated-Features.html`), for more information about these.

This release also introduces important new features, which are summarized in the table below:

Feature	**Reference**
Configuration	See Chapter 7 [Mailfromd Configuration], page 193.
Module system	See Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100.
Explicit type casts	See [explicit type casts], page 82.
Concatenation operator	See Section 4.14.3 [Concatenation], page 78.
Scope of visibility	See Section 4.21.2 [scope of visibility], page 101.
Precious variables	See Section 3.10 [rset], page 23.

`Mailfromd` version '`6.0`' will work with unchanged scripts from '`5.x`'. When started, it will verbosely warn you about any deprecated constructs that are used in your filter sources and will create a script for upgrading them.

To upgrade your filter scripts, follow the steps below:

1. Run '`mailfromd --lint`'. You will see a list of warnings similar to this:

```
mailfromd: Warning: using legacy script file
 /usr/local/etc/mailfromd.rc
mailfromd: Warning: rename it to /usr/local/etc/mailfromd.mf
 or use script-file statement in /usr/local/etc/mailfromd.conf
 to disable this warning
mailfromd: /usr/local/etc/mailfromd.rc:19: warning: this pragma is
 deprecated: use relayed-domain-file configuration statement instead
mailfromd: /usr/local/etc/mailfromd.rc:23: warning: this pragma is
 deprecated: use io-timeout configuration statement instead
mailfromd: Info: run script /tmp/mailfromd-newconf.sh
 to fix the above warnings
```

```
...
```

2. At the end of the run `mailfromd` will create a shell script `/tmp/mailfromd-newconf.sh` for fixing these warnings. Run it:

   ```
   $ sh /tmp/mailfromd-newconf.sh
   ```

3. When the script finishes, run `mailfromd --lint` again. If it shows no more deprecation warnings, the conversion went correctly. Now you can remove the upgrade script:

   ```
   $ rm /tmp/mailfromd-newconf.sh
   ```

Notice, that the conversion script attempts to fix only deprecation warnings. It will not try to correct any other type of warnings or errors. For example, you may get warning messages similar to:

```
mailfromd: /etc/mailfromd.mf:7: warning: including a module file is unreliable and may
mailfromd: /etc/mailfromd.mf:7: warning: use 'require dns' instead
```

This means that you use '`#include`' where you should have used '`require`'. You will have to fix such warnings manually, as suggested in the warning message.

If, for some reason, you cannot upgrade your scripts right now, you may suppress deprecation warnings by setting the environment variable `MAILFROMD_DEPRECATION` to '`no`' before starting `mailfromd`. Nonetheless, I recommend to upgrade as soon as possible, because the deprecated features will be removed in version '`6.1`'.

C.7 Upgrading from 5.0 to 5.1

Upgrading from 5.0 to 5.1 does not require any changes in your filter scripts. Notice, however, the following important points:

- Starting from this release `mailfromd` supports Milter protocol version 6, which is compatible with Sendmail 8.14.0 and newer. While being backward compatible with earlier Sendmail releases, it allows you to use the new '`prog data`' handler (see Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66). It also supports macro negotiation, a feature that enables Mailfromd to ask MTA to export the macros it needs for each particular handler. This means that if you are using Sendmail 8.14.0 or higher (or Postfix 2.5 or higher), you no longer need to worry about exporting macro names in `sendmail.cf` file.

  The same feature is also implemented on the server side, in `mtasim` and `pmult`. Consequently, using `define-macros` in `pmult` configuration file is not strictly necessary. However, keep in mind that due to the specifics of MeTA1, the number of symbols that may be exported for each stage is limited (see Section 13.1.2 [pmult-macros], page 238).

- The semantics of `__preproc__` and `__statedir__` built-in constant is slightly different from what it used to be in 5.0. These constants now refer to the *current* values of the preprocessor command line and program state directory, correspondingly. This should not affect your script, unless you redefine the default values on run time. If your script needs to access default values, use `__defpreproc__` and `__defstatedir__`, correspondingly (see Section 4.8.1 [Built-in constants], page 60). The following example explains the difference between these:

  ```
  $ cat pval.mf
  prog envfrom
  do
  ```

```
  echo "Default value: " __defstatedir__
  echo "Current value: " __statedir__
done
$ mailfromd --state-directory=/var/mfd --test pval.mf
Default value: /usr/local/var/mailfromd
Current value: /var/mfd
```

- If your filter uses the `rate` function, you might consider using the new function `rateok` or `tbf_rate` instead. For a detailed discussion of these functions, see Section 3.12 [Sending Rate], page 25.
- If your script extensively uses database access functions, you might be interested in the new `#pragma dbprop` (see Section 4.2.4 [dbprop], page 55).

C.8 Upgrading from 4.4 to 5.0

This version of Mailfromd requires GNU mailutils (`http://www.gnu.org/software/mailutils`) version 2.0 or later.

Upgrading from version 4.4 to 5.0 requires no additional changes. The major differences between these two versions are summarized below:

1. Support for '`MeTA1`'.
2. New '`Mailutils`' configuration file.
3. New MFL functions.
   a. Message functions. See Section 5.16 [Message functions], page 129.
   b. Mailbox functions. See Section 5.15 [Mailbox functions], page 128.
   c. Mail body functions. See Section 5.12 [Mail body functions], page 127.
   d. Header modification functions. See Section 5.8 [Header modification functions], page 122.
   e. Envelope modification functions. See Section 5.7 [Envelope modification functions], page 121.
   f. Quarantine functions. See Section 5.17 [Quarantine functions], page 133.
   g. `getopt` and `varptr`. See Section 3.17.2 [getopt], page 37.
   h. Macro access functions. See Section 5.1 [Macro access], page 111.
   i. Character type functions. See Section 5.5 [Character Type], page 119.
   j. New string functions (see Section 5.3 [String manipulation], page 113): `verp_extract_user`, `sa_format_report_header`, `sa_format_score`.
   k. Sequential access to DBM files. See [dbm-seq], page 148.
4. Changes in MFL
   1. See [variadic functions], page 74.
   2. See [function alias], page 75.
5. New operation mode: See Section 3.17 [Run Mode], page 35.
6. Improved stack growth technique.

   The stack can be grown either by fixed size blocks, or exponentially. Upper limit can be specified. See Section 4.2.2 [stacksize], page 52.

7. Milter ports can be specified using URL notation.
8. Removed deprecated features.

   Support for some deprecated features has been withdrawn. These are:

   a. Command line options `--ehlo`, `--postmaster-email`, and `--mailfrom`. These became deprecated in version 4.0. See Section C.13 [31x-400], page 260.

C.9 Upgrading from 4.3.x to 4.4

The deprecated `--domain` command line option has been withdrawn. The short option `-D` now defines a preprocessor symbol (see Section 8.1.3 [Preprocessor Options], page 205).

This version correctly handles name clashes between constants and variables, which remained unnoticed in previous releases. See [variable–constant shadowing], page 84, for a detailed description of it.

To minimize chances of name clashes, all symbolic exception codes has been renamed by prefixing them with the '`e_`', thus, e.g. `divzero` became `e_divzero`, etc. The `ioerr` exception code is renamed to `e_io`. See [status.mf], page 92, for a full list of the new exception codes.

For consistency, the following most often used codes are available without the '`e_`' prefix: success, not_found, failure, temp_failure. This makes most existing user scripts suitable for use with version 4.4 without any modification. If your script refers to any exception codes other than these four, you can still use it by defining a preprocessor symbol `OLD_EXCEPTION_CODES`, for example:

```
$ mailfromd -DOLD_EXCEPTION_CODES
```

C.10 Upgrading from 4.2 to 4.3.x

Upgrading from 4.2 to 4.3 or 4.3.1 does not require any changes to your configuration and scripts. The only notable change in these versions is the following:

The asynchronous syslog implementation was reported to malfunction on some systems (notably on Solaris), so this release does not enable it by default. The previous meaning of the `--enable-syslog-async` configuration option is also restored. Use this option in order to enable asynchronous syslog feature. To set default syslog implementation, use `DEFAULT_SYSLOG_ASYNC` configuration variable (see [syslog-async], page 11).

The following deprecated features are removed:

1. `#pragma option ehlo` statement.

   It became deprecated in version 4.0. See [pragma-option-ehlo], page 260.
2. `#pragma option mailfrom` statement.

   It became deprecated in version 4.0. See [pragma-option-ehlo], page 260.
3. The `--config-file` command line option.

   It became deprecated in version 3.1. See Section C.14 [30x-31x], page 261.
4. Built-in exception codes in catch statements.

   They are deprecated since version 4.0. See Section C.13 [31x-400], page 260.

C.11 Upgrading from 4.1 to 4.2

Upgrading to this version does not require any special efforts. You can use your configuration files and filter scripts without any changes. The only difference worth noticing is that starting from this version `mailfromd` is always compiled with asynchronous syslog implementation. The `--enable-syslog-async` configuration file option is still available, but its meaning has changed: it sets the *default* syslog implementation to use (see [syslog-async], page 11). Thus, it can be used the same way it was in previous versions. You can also select the syslog implementation at run time, see Section 3.18 [Logging and Debugging], page 40, for more detailed information.

C.12 Upgrading from 4.0 to 4.1

Upgrading to this version does not require any special efforts. You can use your configuration files and filter scripts without any changes. Notice only the following major differences between 4.1 and 4.0:

- Input files are preprocessed before compilation. See Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103, for more information.
- There is a way to discern between a not-supplied optional parameter, and a supplied one, having null value (see [defined], page 103).
- The version 4.1 implements `sprintf` function (see Section 5.4 [String formatting], page 117) and `printf` macro (see Section 4.22 [Preprocessor], page 103).
- Support for some obsolete features is withdrawn. These include:
  1. Using '`&code`' to specify exception codes
  2. Pragma options: `retry`, `io-retry`, and `connect-retry`.

C.13 Upgrading from 3.1.x to 4.0

Before building this version, please re-read the chapter See Chapter 2 [Building], page 9, especially the section [syslog-async], page 11.

Starting from the version 4.0, MFL no longer uses the predefined symbolic names for exception codes (previous versions used the '`&`' prefix to dereference them). Instead, it relies on constants defined in the include file `status.mfh` (see [status.mf], page 92).

However, the script files from 3.1 series will still work, but the following warning messages will be displayed:

```
Warning: obsolete constant form used: &failure
Warning: remove leading '&' and include <status.mfh>

Warning: Using built-in exception codes is deprecated
Warning: Please include <status.mfh>
```

Another important difference is that pragmatic options '`ehlo`' and '`mailfromd`' are now deprecated, as well as their command line equivalents `--ehlo` and `--domain`. These options became superfluous after the introduction of `mailfrom_address` and `ehlo_domain` built-in variables. For compatibility with the previous versions, they are still supported by `mailfromd` 4.0, but a warning message is issued if they are used:

```
warning: ‘#pragma option ehlo’ is deprecated,
 consider using ‘set ehlo_domain "domain.name"’ instead
```

To update your startup scripts for the new version follow these steps:

1. Change `#pragma option mailfrom` *`value`* to `set mailfrom_address` *`value`*. Refer to [mailfrom_address], page 65, for a detailed discussion of this variable.
2. Change `#pragma option ehlo` *`value`* to `set ehlo_domain` *`value`*. Refer to [ehlo_domain], page 64, for a detailed discussion of this variable.
3. Include `status.mfh`. Add the following line to the top of your startup file:

   ```
   #include_once <status.mfh>
   ```
4. Remove all instances of ‘`&`’ in front of the constants. You can use the following `sed` expression: ‘`s/&\([a-z]\)/\1/g`’.
5. If your code uses any of the following functions: `hostname`, `resolve`, `hasmx` or `ismx`, add the following line to the top of your script:

   ```
   #require dns
   ```

   See Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100, for a detailed description of the module system.
6. Replace all occurrences of `next` with `pass`.
7. If your code uses function `match_cidr`, add the following line to the top of your script:

   ```
   #require match_cidr
   ```

   See Section 4.21 [Modules], page 100, for a description of MFL module system.

C.14 Upgrading from 3.0.x to 3.1

1. The `mailfromd` binary no longer supports `--config-file` (`-c`) option. To use an alternative script file, give it as an argument, i.e. instead of:

   ```
   $ mailfromd --config-file file.rc
   ```

   write:

   ```
   $ mailfromd file.rc
   ```

   For backward compatibility, the old style invocation still works but produces a warning message. However, if `mailfromd` encounters the `-c` option it will print a diagnostic message and exit immediately. This is because the semantics of this option will change in the future releases.
2. If a variable is declared implicitly within a function, it is created as automatic. This differs from the previous versions, where all variables were global. It is a common practice to use global variables to pass additional information between handlers (See Section 3.9 [HELO Domain], page 22, for an example of this approach). If your filter uses it, make sure the variable is declared as global. For example, this code:

   ```
   prog helo
   do
     # Save the host name for further use
     set helohost $s
   done
   ```

   Figure C.1: Implicit declaration, old style

has to be rewritten as follows:

```
set helohost ""

prog helo
do
  # Save the host name for further use
  set helohost $s
done
```

Figure C.2: Implicit declaration, new style

3. Starting from version 3.1 the function `dbmap` takes an optional third argument indicating whether or not to count the terminating null character in key (see [dbmap], page 147). If your startup script contained any calls to `dbmap`, change them as follows:

in 3.0.x	**in 3.1**
dbmap(*db*, *key*)	dbmap(*db*, *key*, 1)

C.15 Upgrading from 2.x to 3.0.x

Update your startup scripts and/or crontab entries. The `mailfromd` binary is now installed in `${prefix}/sbin`.

We also encourage you to update the startup script (run *`cp etc/rc.mailfromd /wherever-your-startup-lives`*), since the new version contains lots of enhancements.

C.16 Upgrading from 1.x to 2.x

If you are upgrading from version 1.x to 2.0, you will have to do the following:

1. Edit your script file and enclose the entire code section into:

   ```
   prog envfrom
   do
     ...
   done
   ```

   See Section 4.11 [Handlers], page 66, for more information about the `prog` statement.

2. If your code contained any `rate` statements, convert them to function calls (see Section 5.29 [Rate limiting functions], page 166), using the following scheme:

   ```
   Old statement: if rate key limit / expr
   New statement: if rate(key, interval("expr")) > limit
   ```

   For example,

   ```
   rate $f 180 / 1 hour 25 minutes
   ```

   should become

   ```
   rate($f, interval("1 hour 25 minutes")) > 180
   ```

3. Rebuild your databases using the following command:

   ```
   mailfromd --compact --all
   ```

   This is necessary since the format of `mailfromd` databases has changed in version 2.0: the key field now includes the trailing '`NUL`' character, which is also reflected in

its length. This allows for empty (zero-length) keys. See Section 3.15.3 [Database Maintenance], page 33, for more information about the database compaction.

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Version 1.2, November 2002

0. PREAMBLE

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Concept Index

This is a general index of all issues discussed in this manual

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