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# **gs.group.messages.add.mbox2gs Documentation**

***Release 2.1.3***

**GroupServer.org**

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This product provides mbox2gs script, which allows to import email messages from `mbox` archives to [GroupServer](#). It can be used for migration of mailing-list archives ie. to migrate mailing-lists from Mailman to GroupServer.

Contents:



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## How to import mbox files into GroupServer

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The following describes all steps before **mbox2gs** can be called. This document is intended for advanced users only. **Only** attempt to use this if you are really sure you know what you are doing! You have been warned.

1. **(Optional)** Disable SMTP (sending emails) in your GroupServer instance. You can disable SMTP in one of two ways.

- (a) Modify `etc/gsconfig.ini` in your GroupServer installation

- In `etc/gsconfig.ini` you have sections `[config-default]`, which has set `smtp = on` by default. Set `smtp = off`.
- Stop and start again your instance so the configuration change takes effect.
- Test sending of email via your GroupServer instance. No message should be sent.

- (b) Re-configure your GroupServer instance to use Python's native SMTP daemon running in debug mode:

- SMTP port set to 2525 in `config.cfg`
- Run **Buildout**:

```
$ buildout -N
```

- Start the server:

```
$ sudo python -m smtpd -n -c DebuggingServer localhost:2525
```

- Test sending of email via your GroupServer instance. No message should be sent, but you should see the email in the DebuggingServer that you are running.

**Important** You may want to disable SMTP in your GroupServer instance while you are testing, or even migrating archives from old **Mailman** mailing-lists, because every email you import would be sent to your mailing list members. Which is something you may wish to avoid.

2. Prepare **Mailman** archives for migration.

Long story short, things are not in ideal shape in any **Mailman** archive out there, because:

- Email addresses are usually obfuscated (eg. *some.email at example.com, some.email*).
- A typical **Mailman** archive (usually gzipped) is often an invalid mbox file.

The `mailman2mbox` Python script deals with the issues and helps you to convert your **Mailman** archives to mbox format <<https://gist.github.com/corydolphin/1728592>>.

3. Create a new GroupServer group to which you intend to import mbox archive(s) in to.

Example: `http://groups.example.com/groups/my-group/`

4. Get a list of all email addresses from your Mailman mailing-list, or extract the list from mbox archives.
5. Load all email addresses to the group via the *Add members in bulk* page, linked from the *Admin* section of the group.

**Note** Unless you disable SMTP everyone on the list will get an email about the fact that you added them to the group.

6. All prepared. You are now ready to migrate your mbox archive(s) using **mbox2gs** (see [mbox2gs](#)).



## 2.1 Synopsis

```
mbx2gs [-h] [-v] [-l <LISTID>] [-f <FILE>] [-c <CONFIG>] [-i <INSTANCE>] url
```

## 2.2 Description

Usually, an advanced user of Groupserver calls **mbx2gs** when required to add email messages from mbox archive to a GroupServer group.

## 2.3 Positional Arguments

**url**

The URL for the GroupServer site.

## 2.4 Optional Arguments

**-h, --help**

Show a help message and exit.

**-v, --verbose**

Turn on verbose output (default is quiet: no news is good news).

**-l <LISTID>, --list <LISTID>**

The list to send the message to. By default it is extracted from the *x-original-to* header.

**-f <FILE>, --file <FILE>**

The name of the file that contains the mbox archive. Only one archive can be imported at the time. If omitted (or -) standard-input will be read.

**-c <CONFIG>, --config <CONFIG>**

The name of the GroupServer configuration file (default *INSTANCE\_HOME/etc/gsconfig.ini*) that contains the token that will be used to authenticate the script when it tries to add the email to the site. (See [Configuration file](#) for more information.)

**-i <INSTANCE>, --instance <INSTANCE>**

The identifier of the GroupServer instance configuration to use (default default).

## 2.5 Returns

The script returns 0 on success, or a non-zero on an error. In the case of an error, **mbox2gs** follows the convention specified in `/usr/include/sysexits.h`. In addition the error message that is written to `stderr` starts with the enhanced mail system status code ([RFC 3463](#)). See `smtp2gs` for more information.

## 2.6 Examples

Import the mbox archive stored in `/tmp/test.mbox` into the group `my_group` that is on the site `groups.example.com`, and produce verbose output:

```
$ mbox2gs -v -l my_group -f /tmp/test.mbox http://groups.example.com
```

---

## Configuration file

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The configuration for the `mbox2gs` script is handled by the `gs.config` module <sup>1</sup>. It is entirely concerned with token authentication <sup>2</sup>. To authenticate script needs to pass a token to the web pages that are used to add a post <sup>3</sup>. The pages compare the token that was passed in to one that is stored in the database. If they match the script is allowed to post.

### 3.1 Examples

Below is the configuration of the token for the GroupServer instance default:

```
[webservice-default]
token = theValueOfTheToken
```

A more complex system, which has separate testing and production environments:

```
[config-testing]
...
webservice = testing

[config-production]
...
webservice = production

[webservice-testing]
token = theValueOfTheTokenForTesting

[webservice-production]
token = theValueOfTheTokenForProduction
```

The token-configuration for two separate sites (accessed through different URLs) that are supported by the same database:

```
[config-firstSite]
...
webservice = default

[config-secondSite]
...
webservice = default
```

---

<sup>1</sup> See `gs.config` <<https://github.com/groupserver/gs.config>>

<sup>2</sup> See `gs.auth.token` <<https://github.com/groupserver/gs.auth.token>>

<sup>3</sup> See `gs.group.messages.add.base` <<https://github.com/groupserver/gs.group.messages.add.base>>

```
[webservice-default]  
token = theValueOfTheDefaultToken
```

Both pages are provided by the `gs.group.messages.add.base` module<sup>1</sup>; the data is sent by the `gs.form.post_multipart` function<sup>2</sup>, with `gs.auth.token`<sup>3</sup> providing authentication (see the section Configuration File below).

<sup>3</sup> See `gs.auth.token` <<https://github.com/groupserver/gs.auth.token>>



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## Changelog

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### 5.1 2.1.3 (2015-12-11)

- Fixing the unit-tests so they work with `zc.recipe.testrunner`

### 5.2 2.1.2 (2015-11-10)

- Fixing the link to the `mailman2mbox` script, thanks to [Alexander Köplinger](#)

### 5.3 2.1.1 (2015-05-12)

- Fixing the `man` page documentation

### 5.4 2.1.0 (2015-03-24)

- Following the changes to the relay-address prefix in `gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs`
- Moving all the documentation to the `docs` folder, and rendering them on [Read The Docs](#)
- Naming all the `ReStructuredText` files as such
- Switching to [GitHub](#) as the primary code repository

### 5.5 2.0.0 (2014-05-05)

- Adding a *verbose* flag
- Using `gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs` as a module
- Adding a smoke-test with `Tox`

## 5.6 1.0.1 (2014-02-06)

- Switching to Unicode literals
- Updating the product metadata

## 5.7 1.0.0 (2013-03-28)

Initial version, cloned off [gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs](#). Prior to the creation of this product there was some mbox importing code in `Products.XWFMailingListManager`.



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## Indices and tables

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### Resources

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- Code repository: <https://github.com/groupserver/gsgroup.messages.add.mbox2gs>
- Documentation <http://groupserver.readthedocs.io/projects/gsgroupmessagesaddmbox2gs/>
- Questions and comments to <http://groupserver.org/groups/development>
- Report bugs at <https://redmine.iopen.net/projects/groupserver>



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- f <FILE>, -file <FILE>
  - mbox2gs command line option, 5
- h, -help
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- i <INSTANCE>, -instance <INSTANCE>
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- l <LISTID>, -list <LISTID>
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- v, -verbose
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