django-mailbox Documentation

Release 3.3

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build passing

How many times have you had to consume some sort of POP3, IMAP, or local mailbox for incoming content, or had to otherwise construct an application driven by e-mail? One too many times, I'm sure.

This small Django application will allow you to specify mailboxes that you would like consumed for incoming content; the e-mail will be stored, and you can process it at will (or, if you're in a hurry, by subscribing to a signal).

The Django-mailbox retrieves the e-mail messages by eg. IMAP, POP and then erases them to not download again the next time. Django-mailbox is not a typical mail program, and is a development library that makes it easy to process email messages in Django. A mailbox in that case plays the role of a message queue that needs to be processed. Messages processed from the queue are removed from the queue.

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CHAPTER 1

Installation

1. You can either install from pip:

```
pip install django-mailbox
```

or checkout and install the source from the github repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/coddingtonbear/django-mailbox.git
cd django-mailbox
python setup.py install
```

- 2. After you have installed the package, add django_mailbox to the INSTALLED_APPS setting in your project's settings.py file.
- 3. From your project folder, run python manage.py migrate django_mailbox to create the required database tables.
- 4. Head to your project's Django Admin and create a mailbox to consume.

Note: Once you have entered a mailbox to consume, you can easily verify that you have properly configured your mailbox by either:

- From the Django Admin, using the 'Get New Mail' action from the action dropdown on the Mailbox changelist (http://yourproject.com/admin/django_mailbox/mailbox/).
- Or from a shell opened to your project's directory, using the getmail management command by running:

```
python manage.py getmail
```

CHAPTER 2

Supported Mailbox Types

Django Mailbox supports polling both common internet mailboxes like POP3 and IMAP as well as local file-based mailboxes.

Warning: Unless you are using IMAP's 'Archive' feature, this will delete any messages it can find in the inbox you specify; do not use an e-mail inbox that you would like to share between applications.

2.1 POP3 and IMAP Mailboxes

Mailbox URIs are in the normal URI format:

protocol://username:password@domain

Basic IMAP Example: imap://username:password@server Basic POP3 Example: pop3://username:password@server

Most mailboxes these days are SSL-enabled; if yours use plain SSL add +ssl to the protocol section of your URI, but for STARTTLS add +tls. Also, if your username or password include any non-ascii characters, they should be URL-encoded (for example, if your username includes an @, it should be changed to %40 in your URI).

For a verbose example, if you have an account named youremailaddress@gmail.com with a password of 1234 on GMail, which uses a IMAP server of imap.gmail.com (requiring SSL) and you would like to fetch new emails from folder named *Myfolder* and archive them after processing into a folder named Archived, you would enter the following as your URI:

 $\label{local-com} imap+ssl://your email address \$40 gmail.com: 1234 @imap.gmail.com? archive=Archived \& + folder=My folder$

2.1.1 Additional IMAP Mailbox Features

If you are using an IMAP Mailbox, you have two additional configuration options that you can set by appending parameters to the end of your mailbox URI.

Specifying the source folder

Although by default, Django Mailbox will consume messages from your 'INBOX' folder, you can specify the folder from which you'd like messages consumed by specifying the folder URI query parameter; for example, to instead consume from the folder named 'MyFolder', you could add ?folder=MyFolder to the end of your URI:

imap+ssl://youremailaddress%40gmail.com:1234@imap.gmail.com?folder=MyFolder

Specifying an archive folder

Django Mailbox will delete messages immediately after processing them, but you can specify an IMAP folder to which the messages should be copied before the original message is deleted.

To archive email messages, add the archive folder name as a query parameter to the URI. For example, if your mailbox has a folder named myarchivefolder that you would like to copy messages to after processing, add ?archive=myarchivefolder to the end of the URI:

imap+ssl://youremailaddress%40gmail.com:1234@imap.gmail.com?archive=myarchivefolder

If you want to specifying both folder use &:

 $imap+ssl://your email address \$40 gmail.com: 1234 @imap.gmail.com? archive=myarchive folder \& $$ \phifolder=MyFolder $$$

2.2 Gmail IMAP with Oauth2 authentication

For added security, Gmail supports using OAuth2 for authentication. To handle the handshake and storing the credentials, use python-social-auth.

The Gmail Mailbox is also a regular IMAP mailbox, but the password you specify will be ignored if OAuth2 authentication succeeds. It will fall back to use your specified password as needed.

Build your URI accordingly:

gmail+ssl://youremailaddress%40gmail.com:oauth2@imap.gmail.com?archive=Archived

2.3 Office 365 API

Office 365 allows through the API to read a mailbox with Oauth. The O365 library is used.

For the configuration you need to register an application and get a client_id, client_secret and tenant_id.

This implementation uses the client credentials grant flow and the password you specify will be ignored.

Build your URI accordingly:

office365://youremailaddress%40yourdomain.com:oauth2@outlook.office365.com?client_ →id=client_id&client_secret=client_secret&tenant_id=tenant_id&archive=Archived

2.4 Local File-based Mailboxes

If you happen to want to consume a file-based mailbox like an Maildir, Mbox, Babyl, MH, or MMDF mailbox, you can use this too by entering the appropriate 'protocol' in the URI. If you had a maildir, for example, at /var/mail/, you would enter a URI like:

maildir:///var/mail

Note that there is an additional / in the above URI after the protocol; this is important.

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Getting incoming mail

3.1 In your code

Mailbox instances have a method named get_new_mail; this method will gather new messages from the server.

3.2 Using the Django Admin

From the 'Mailboxes' page in the Django Admin, check the box next to each of the mailboxes you'd like to fetch e-mail from, select 'Get new mail' from the action selector at the top of the list of mailboxes, then click 'Go'.

3.3 Using a cron job

You can easily consume incoming mail by running the management command named getmail (optionally with an argument of the name of the mailbox you'd like to get the mail for).:

python manage.py getmail

3.4 Receiving mail directly from Exim4 or Postfix via a pipe

Django Mailbox's processincomingmessage management command accepts, via stdin, incoming messages. You can configure Postfix or Exim4 to pipe incoming mail to this management command to import messages directly without polling.

You need not configure mailbox settings when piping-in messages, mailbox entries will be automatically created matching the e-mail address to which incoming messages are sent, but if you would like to specify the mailbox name, you may provide a single argument to the processincmingmessage command specifying the name of the mailbox you would like it to use (and, if necessary, create).

3.4.1 Receiving Mail from Exim4

To configure Exim4 to receive incoming mail, start by adding a new router configuration to your Exim4 configuration like:

```
django_mailbox:
   debug_print = 'R: django_mailbox for $localpart@$domain'
   driver = accept
   transport = send_to_django_mailbox
   domains = mydomain.com
   local_parts = emailusernameone : emailusernametwo
```

Make sure that the e-mail addresses you would like handled by Django Mailbox are not handled by another router; you may need to disable some existing routers.

Change the contents of local_parts to match a colon-delimited list of usernames for which you would like to receive mail. For example, if one of the e-mail addresses targeted at this machine is jane@example.com, the contents of local_parts would be, simply jane.

Note: If you would like messages addressed to *any* account @*mydomain.com* to be delivered to django_mailbox, simply omit the above local_parts setting. In the same vein, if you would like messages addressed to any domain or any local domains, you can omit the domains setting or set it to +local_domains respectively.

Next, a new transport configuration to your Exim4 configuration:

```
send_to_django_mailbox:
    driver = pipe
    command = /path/to/your/environments/python /path/to/your/projects/manage.py_
    processincomingmessage
    user = www-data
    group = www-data
    return_path_add
    delivery_date_add
```

Like your router configuration, transport configuration should be altered to match your environment. First, modify the command setting such that it points at the proper python executable (if you're using a virtual environment, you'll want to direct that at the python executable in your virtual environment) and project manage.py script. Additionally, you'll need to set user and group such that they match a reasonable user and group (on Ubuntu, www-data suffices for both).

3.4.2 Receiving mail from Postfix

Although I have not personally tried using Postfix for this, Postfix is capable of delivering new mail to a script using pipe. Please consult the Postfix documentation for pipe here. You may want to consult the above Exim4 configuration for tips.

CHAPTER 4

Subscribing to the incoming mail signal

To subscribe to the incoming mail signal, following this lead:

```
from django_mailbox.signals import message_received
from django.dispatch import receiver

@receiver(message_received)
def dance_jig(sender, message, **args):
    print "I just recieved a message titled %s from a mailbox named %s" % (message.
    →subject, message.mailbox.name, )
```

Warning: As with all django signals, this should be loaded either in an app's models.py or somewhere else loaded early on. If you do not load it early enough, the signal may be fired before your signal handler's registration is processed!



Development

Here we describe the development process overview. It's in F.A.Q. format to make it simple.

5.1 How to file a ticket?

Just go to https://github.com/coddingtonbear/django-mailbox and create new one.

5.2 How do I get involved?

It's simple! If you want to fix a bug, extend documentation or whatever you think is appropriate for the project and involves changes, just fork the project on github (https://github.com/coddingtonbear/django-mailbox), create a separate branch, hack on it, publish changes at your fork and create a pull request.

5.3 Why my issue/pull request was closed?

We usually put an explonation while we close issue or PR. It might be for various reasons, i.e. there were no reply for over a month after our last comment, there were no tests for the changes etc.

5.4 How to do a new release?

To enroll a new release you should perform the following task:

- Ensure the file CHANGELOG.rst reflects all important changes.
- Ensure the file CHANGELOG.rst includes a new version identifier and current release date.
- $\bullet \ \ Execute \ bump{\tt version} \ \ patch \ (or \ accordingly \ \ see \ Semantic \ Versioning \ 2.0) \ to \ reflect \ changes \ in \ codebase.$

- Commit changes to the codebase, e.g. git commit -m "Release 1.4.8" -a.
- Tag a new release, e.g. git tag "1.4.8".
- Push new tag to repo git push origin -- tags.
- Push a new release to PyPI python setup.py sdist bdist_wheel upload.

5.5 How to add support for a new Django version?

Changes are only necessary for new minor or major Django versions.

To add support for a new version perform the following task:

- Ensure that tox.ini file reflects support for new Django release.
- Verify in tox that the code is executed correctly on all versions of the Python interpreter.
- Ensure that .travis.yml file reflects support for new Django release. Note the excluded versions of the Python interpreter.
- Verify by pushing changes on a separate branch to see if the changes in TravisCI are correct.
- Proceed to the standard procedure for a new package release (see *How to do a new release?*).

A spreadsheet with generator is available that can assist this process.

CHAPTER 6

Appendix

6.1 Class Documentation

6.1.1 Mailbox

class django_mailbox.models.Mailbox(id, name, uri, from_email, active, last_polling)

Parameters

- id (AutoField) Id
- name (CharField) Name
- uri (CharField) Example: imap+ssl://myusername:mypassword@someserver Internet transports include 'imap' and 'pop3'; common local file transports include 'maildir', 'mbox', and less commonly 'babyl', 'mh', and 'mmdf'. Be sure to urlencode your username and password should they contain illegal characters (like @, :, etc).
- **from_email** (CharField) Example: MailBot <mailbot@yourdomain.com>'From' header to set for outgoing email.If you do not use this e-mail inbox for outgoing mail, this setting is unnecessary.If you send e-mail without setting this, your 'From' header will'be set to match the setting DE-FAULT_FROM_EMAIL.
- active (BooleanField) Check this e-mail inbox for new e-mail messages during polling cycles. This checkbox does not have an effect upon whether mail is collected here when this mailbox receives mail from a pipe, and does not affect whether e-mail messages can be dispatched from this mailbox.
- last_polling (DateTimeField) The time of last successful polling for messages. It is blank for new mailboxes and is not set for mailboxes that only receive messages via a pipe.

exception DoesNotExist

exception MultipleObjectsReturned

active

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

active_mailboxes = <django_mailbox.models.ActiveMailboxManager object>

archive

Returns (if specified) the folder to archive messages to.

client id

Returns (if specified) the client id for Office365.

client_secret

Returns (if specified) the client secret for Office 365.

folder

Returns (if specified) the folder to fetch mail from.

from_email

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

get_connection()

Returns the transport instance for this mailbox.

These will always be instances of django_mailbox.transports.base.EmailTransport.

get new mail(condition=None)

Connect to this transport and fetch new messages.

```
static get_new_mail_all_mailboxes (args=None)
```

id

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

last_polling

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

location

Returns the location (domain and path) of messages.

messages

Accessor to the related objects manager on the reverse side of a many-to-one relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
   parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

 ${\tt Parent.children}\ is\ a\ {\tt ReverseManyToOneDescriptor}\ instance.$

Most of the implementation is delegated to a dynamically defined manager class built by create_forward_many_to_many_manager() defined below.

name

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

objects = <django_mailbox.models.MailboxManager object>

password

Returns the password to use for fetching messages.

port

Returns the port to use for fetching messages.

process_incoming_message(message)

Process a message incoming to this mailbox.

record_outgoing_message (message)

Record an outgoing message associated with this mailbox.

tenant id

Returns (if specified) the tenant id for Office365.

type

Returns the 'transport' name for this mailbox.

uri

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

use_ssl

Returns whether or not this mailbox's connection uses SSL.

use tls

Returns whether or not this mailbox's connection uses STARTTLS.

username

Returns the username to use for fetching messages.

6.1.2 Message

Parameters

- id (AutoField) Id
- mailbox_id (ForeignKey to Mailbox) Mailbox
- subject (CharField) Subject
- message_id (CharField) Message id
- in_reply_to_id (ForeignKey to Message) In reply to
- from_header (CharField) From header
- to_header (TextField) To header
- outgoing (BooleanField) Outgoing
- body (TextField) Body
- encoded (BooleanField) True if the e-mail body is Base64 encoded
- processed (DateTimeField) Processed
- read (DateTimeField) Read
- **eml** (FileField) Original full content of message

exception DoesNotExist

exception MultipleObjectsReturned

address

Property allowing one to get the relevant address(es).

In earlier versions of this library, the model had an *address* field storing the e-mail address from which a message was received. During later refactorings, it became clear that perhaps storing sent messages would also be useful, so the address field was replaced with two separate fields.

attachments

Accessor to the related objects manager on the reverse side of a many-to-one relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
   parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

Parent.children is a ReverseManyToOneDescriptor instance.

Most of the implementation is delegated to a dynamically defined manager class built by create_forward_many_to_many_manager() defined below.

body

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

```
delete(*args, **kwargs)
```

Delete this message and all stored attachments.

eml

The descriptor for the file attribute on the model instance. Return a FieldFile when accessed so you can write code like:

```
>>> from myapp.models import MyModel
>>> instance = MyModel.objects.get(pk=1)
>>> instance.file.size
```

Assign a file object on assignment so you can do:

```
>>> with open('/path/to/hello.world') as f:
... instance.file = File(f)
```

encoded

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

from address

Returns the address (as a list) from which this message was received

Note: This was once (and probably should be) a string rather than a list, but in a pull request received long, long ago it was changed; presumably to make the interface identical to that of *to_addresses*.

from_header

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

get_body()

Returns the *body* field of this record.

This will automatically base64-decode the message contents if they are encoded as such.

get_email_object()

Returns an *email.message.EmailMessage* instance representing the contents of this message and all attachments.

See [email.message.EmailMessage] for more information as to what methods and properties are available on *email.message.EmailMessage* instances.

Note: Depending upon the storage methods in use (specifically – whether DJANGO_MAILBOX_STORE_ORIGINAL_MESSAGE is set to True, this may either create a "rehydrated" message using stored attachments, or read the message contents stored on-disk.

html

Returns the message body matching content type 'text/html'.

id

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

in_reply_to

Accessor to the related object on the forward side of a many-to-one or one-to-one (via ForwardOne-ToOneDescriptor subclass) relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
    parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

Child.parent is a ForwardManyToOneDescriptor instance.

in_reply_to_id

incoming_messages = <django_mailbox.models.IncomingMessageManager object> mailbox

Accessor to the related object on the forward side of a many-to-one or one-to-one (via ForwardOne-ToOneDescriptor subclass) relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
    parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

Child.parent is a ForwardManyToOneDescriptor instance.

mailbox id

message_id

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

```
objects = <django.db.models.manager.Manager object>
```

outgoing

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

outgoing_messages = <django_mailbox.models.OutgoingMessageManager object>

processed

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

read

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

replies

Accessor to the related objects manager on the reverse side of a many-to-one relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
   parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

Parent.children is a ReverseManyToOneDescriptor instance.

Most of the implementation is delegated to a dynamically defined manager class built by create_forward_many_to_many_manager() defined below.

reply (message)

Sends a message as a reply to this message instance.

Although Django's e-mail processing will set both Message-ID and Date upon generating the e-mail message, we will not be able to retrieve that information through normal channels, so we must pre-set it.

$set_body(body)$

Set the *body* field of this record.

This will automatically base64-encode the message contents to circumvent a limitation in earlier versions of Django in which no fields existed for storing arbitrary bytes.

subject

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

text

Returns the message body matching content type 'text/plain'.

to_addresses

Returns a list of addresses to which this message was sent.

to_header

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

unread_messages = <django_mailbox.models.UnreadMessageManager object>

6.1.3 Message Attachment

class django_mailbox.models.MessageAttachment(id, message, headers, document)

Parameters

- id (AutoField) Id
- message_id (ForeignKey to Message) Message
- headers (TextField) Headers

• document (FileField) - Document

exception DoesNotExist

exception MultipleObjectsReturned

```
delete(*args, **kwargs)
```

Deletes the attachment.

document

The descriptor for the file attribute on the model instance. Return a FieldFile when accessed so you can write code like:

```
>>> from myapp.models import MyModel
>>> instance = MyModel.objects.get(pk=1)
>>> instance.file.size
```

Assign a file object on assignment so you can do:

```
>>> with open('/path/to/hello.world') as f:
... instance.file = File(f)
```

get_filename()

Returns the original filename of this attachment.

headers

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

id

A wrapper for a deferred-loading field. When the value is read from this object the first time, the query is executed.

```
items()
```

message

Accessor to the related object on the forward side of a many-to-one or one-to-one (via ForwardOne-ToOneDescriptor subclass) relation.

In the example:

```
class Child(Model):
   parent = ForeignKey(Parent, related_name='children')
```

Child.parent is a ForwardManyToOneDescriptor instance.

message_id

```
objects = <django.db.models.manager.Manager object>
```

6.2 Message Storage Details

First, it may be helpful to know a little bit about how e-mail messages are actually sent across the wire:

Messages are grouped into multiple message payload parts, and should binary attachments exist, they are encoded into text using, generally, base64 or quoted-printable encodings.

Earlier versions of this library would preserve the above text verbatim in the database, but neither of the above encodings are very efficient methods of storing binary data, and databases aren't really ideal for storing large chunks of binary data anyway.

Modern versions of this library (>=2.1) will walk through the original message, write models. MessageAttachment records for each non-text attachment, and alter the message body removing the original payload component, but writing a custom header providing the library enough information to re-build the message in the event that one needs a python email.message.Message object.

The above payload is what would continue to be stored in the database. Although in this constructed example, this reduces the message's size only marginally, in most instances, attached files are much larger than the attachment shown here.

Note: Email message bodies are base-64 encoded when stored in the database.

Although the attachment is no longer preserved in the message body above, and only the X-Django-Mailbox-Interpolate-Attachment: 1308 header remains in the place of the original attachment, the attachment was stored in a django_mailbox.MesageAttachment record:

Field	Value	Description
Pri-	1308	Uniquely generated for
mary		each attachment.
Key		
Head	Content-Type: image/png; name="heart.png"	Raw headers from the
ers	Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="heart.	actual message's pay-
	png" Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64	load part.
	X-Attachment-Id: f_hc6mair60	
File	(binary file object)	References a stored-on-
		disk binary file corre-
		sponding with this at-
		tachment.

And were one to run the django_mailbox.Message instance's get_email_object method, the following message will be returned:

Note: Note that although the above is functionally identical to the originally received message, there were changes in the order of headers in rehydrated message components, and whitespace changes are also possible (but not shown above).

6.3 Settings

- DJANGO_MAILBOX_ADMIN_ENABLED
 - Default: TrueType: boolean
 - Controls whether mailboxes appear in the Django Admin.
- DJANGO_MAILBOX_STRIP_UNALLOWED_MIMETYPES
 - Default: FalseType: boolean
 - Controls whether or not we remove mimetypes not specified in DJANGO_MAILBOX_PRESERVED_MIMETYPES from the message prior to storage.

- DJANGO MAILBOX ALLOWED MIMETYPES
 - Default ['text/html', 'text/plain']
 - Type: list
 - Should DJANGO_MAILBOX_STRIP_UNALLOWED_MIMETYPES be True, this is a list of mimetypes that will not be stripped from the message prior to processing attachments. Has no effect unless DJANGO_MAILBOX_STRIP_UNALLOWED_MIMETYPES is set to True.
- DJANGO MAILBOX TEXT STORED MIMETYPES
 - Default: ['text/html', 'text/plain']
 - Type: list
 - A list of mimetypes that will remain stored in the text body of the message in the database. See Message Storage Details.
- DJANGO_MAILBOX_ALTERED_MESSAGE_HEADER
 - Default: X-Django-Mailbox-Altered-Message
 - Type: string
 - Header to add to a message payload part in the event that the message cannot be reproduced accurately.
 Possible values include:
 - * Missing: The message could not be reconstructed because the message payload component (stored outside this database record) could not be found. This will be followed by a semicolon (;) and a short, more detailed description of which record was not found.
 - * Stripped The message could not be reconstructed because the message payload component was intentionally stripped from the message body prior to storage. This will be followed by a semicolon (;) and a short, more detailed description of why this payload component was stripped.
- DJANGO_MAILBOX_ATTACHMENT_INTERPOLATION_HEADER
 - Default: X-Django-Mailbox-Interpolate-Attachment
 - Type: string
 - Header to add to the temporary 'dehydrated' message body in lieu of a non-text message payload component. The value of this header will be used to 'rehydrate' the message into a proper e-mail object in the event of a message instance's get_email_object method being called. Value of this field is the primary key of the django_mailbox.MessageAttachment instance currently storing this payload component's contents.
- DJANGO_MAILBOX_ATTACHMENT_UPLOAD_TO
 - Default: mailbox attachments/%Y/%m/%d/
 - Type: string
 - Attachments will be saved to this location. Specifies the upload_to setting for the attachment FileField.
 For more on FileFields and upload_to, see the Django docs
- DJANGO MAILBOX MAX MESSAGE SIZE
 - Default: False
 - Type: integer
 - If this is set, it will be read as a number of bytes. Any messages above that size will not be downloaded. 2000000 is 2 Megabytes.
- DJANGO_MAILBOX_STORE_ORIGINAL_MESSAGE

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Default: FalseType: boolean

- Controls whether or not we store original messages in eml field

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