

LIS566

Lecture 2

Mailing list software

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Structure

1. An introduction to lists

2. List software

3. A closer look at LISTSERV by LSoft

Reading

LISTSERV manual at <http://www.soft.com>

Important List software

- listproc
 - developed as "Unix Listserv" by Anastasios Kotsikonas
 - bought by GRFN now at <http://www.listproc.net>
- majordomo
 - perl script, free but not freely distributable
 - written initially by Brent Chapman
 - has a separate "majorcool" web interface
 - lives at <http://www.greatcircle.com/majordomo>
- mailman
 - python script, completely free
 - written and maintained by a broad team
 - has excellent web interface, lots of features
 - lives at <http://www.list.org>
- LISTSERV (the original stuff)

LISTSERV

Written in 1986 by Eric Thomas on the VM/XA architecture of IBM (yukki)

Running on yukk machines is probably part of the reason why it became popular.

Mailing lists should not be called listservs, because LISTSERV is a registered trademark licensed exclusively to L-Soft International, Inc., as the name of its mailing list processor

LISTSERV List Header

```
* Discounts, Deals and Bargains for Consumers by E-Mail
*
* Owner= John@company.com
* Owner= quiet:
* Owner= JCKARP@isp.com
* Subscription= Open
* Review= Owners
* Notebook= Yes,E:\FTP\BIG-E-DEALS,Monthly,Private
* Digest= No
* Editor= John@company.com,JCKARP@isp.com
* Send= Private Reply-To= Sender Confidential= No
* Errors-To= Owners Validate= Yes
* The definitive mailing list for bargain hunters
```

LISTSERV commands

```
subscribe listname firstname lastname
signoff listname
review listname
query listname
index listname
get file
search term1 term2 ... in listname
getpost listname numbers
set listname many things
```

do you want to try this out?

LISTSERV settings

Mail/NOMail

Digest/NODigest

Index/NOINDEX

ACK/NOACK

CONCEAL/NOCONCEAL

REFRO/NOREPRO

getting off a list

Never send the signoff command to the list address.

If you can not write anymore from the address that you subscribed to, you are at the mercy of the list owner to take you off.

More modern systems (e.g. Mailman) have a password scheme. That is much better.