

CS2910 Exercise: IMAP with `imaplib`

Names: _____

IMAP message download via Python `imaplib`

Experiment with a basic implementation of IMAP file download:

1. Throughout this exercise, make notes and record any questions you have in the (you guessed it) Notes and Questions section of this exercise report.
2. Download the exercise Python source file (linked from course schedule page) and remove the ".txt" suffix to change it from ".py.txt" to ".py".
3. Modify the `IMAP_USER` variable to a valid mail user name (e.g., "student@msoe.edu").
4. If you are going to use an IMAP server other than MSOE email, modify the `IMAP_SERVER` variable as well. (The exercise code assumes the standard IMAPS port number: 587.)
5. Follow these steps:
 - a. Run the program and observe the output of the mailbox listing. If you do not get a listing of your mailboxes, ask the instructor for assistance.
 - b. Uncomment the "debug" line in the source code, and re-run the program.
 - c. Review the "debug" output produced by `imaplib`. Using the IMAP RFC as a reference, try to understand what it means, and record notes/questions. (You can disable/enable the "debug" output as you proceed through the exercise.)
 - d. Choose one of the mailboxes from the listing (INBOX?). Modify the `IMAP_MAILBOX` variable to the path/name of this mailbox.
 - e. Run the exercise code again. This time you should also receive a listing of some of the messages in that mailbox.
6. Next, modify the `IMAP_MESSAGE` variable to be the number of a message that you wish to download.
7. Run the exercise code again, and the message body should be stored in a file named `imaplib-mail.txt`.
8. Open the file with a text editor and inspect it, using the internet message standard (RFC 5322) as a reference.
9. Modify the `IMAP_MESSAGE_FETCH_SPEC` variable to select the display of some component of the message. Some possible choices are indicated by the commented-out assignments in the exercise code.
10. Review the message listing output and the corresponding "debug" information. Record your notes and questions.

(Acknowledgement: Original exercise by Dr. Sebern.)

Notes and Questions