

# Mail:Installing Web Alpine

From Systems

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## Obtaining the software

The Alpine distribution, which includes the Web Alpine webmail package, can be downloaded from the primary site: <http://www.washington.edu/alpine/>

Unpack the distribution kit and change to its root directory:

```
tar xvf alpine.tar.gz
cd alpine-1.10
```

## Use the correct tclsh interpreter

If the tclsh interpreter is not /usr/bin/tclsh make the following changes...

Alter the symbolic link web/bin/tclsh to point to the tclsh interpreter:

```
cd web/bin
rm tclsh
ln -sn /usr/local/bin/tclsh tclsh
cd ../../
```

Edit the first line of the file web/lib/pkgcreate to point to the interpreter.

## Compile the software

Review the options available to configure and their default values:

```
./configure --help
```

For example the following commands will configure and build the software using Sun's SUNWSpro C compiler, using OpenSSL and OpenLDAP libraries installed from Blastwave in the `/opt/csw` directory tree, and without Native Language Support, Kerberos or LDAP. The `--prefix=` option specifies the root below which executables will be placed (in `bin`) and manual pages (in `share/man`).

```
CC=cc ; export CC
CPPFLAGS="-I/opt/csw/include" ; export CPPFLAGS
LDFLAGS="-L/opt/csw/lib -R/opt/csw/lib" ; export LDFLAGS
MAKE=gmake ; export MAKE

./configure \
  --prefix=/usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york \
  --disable-nls \
  --without-krb5 \
  --with-ldap \
  --with-ssl-dir=/opt/csw \
  --with-ssl-certs-dir=/opt/csw/ssl/certs \
  --with-ssl-include-dir=/opt/csw/include \
  --with-ssl-lib-dir=/opt/csw/lib

gmake
```

Note: Building without LDAP support causes an error to be shown when someone selects the *Address Books* tab in the *Configuration* screen.

## Install the software

If desired, install the main Alpine binaries and manual pages:

```
gmake install
```

Install the relevant files from the alpine distribution into its web directory tree, ready to be copied to the web server:

```
cd web/src
gmake
gmake install
cd ../../
```

Copy the web directory tree to a convenient place for the web server to access. Make sure the files and directories are owned and protected appropriately so the web server can access their contents. For example, to use `/usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york/web`:

```
gtar cvzf /tmp/alpine-web.tar.gz web
cd /usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york
gtar xvf /tmp/alpine-web.tar.gz

chown -hR bin:bin web
find web -type f -exec chmod go+r {} \;
find web -type d -exec chmod go+rx {} \;
```

Create a symbolic link named `current` to point at the distribution just installed. The web server will be configured to refer to this link, so that versions can be switched in the future simply by altering the symbolic link, rather than having to edit the web server configuration files.

```
cd /usr/local/alpine
ln -sn alpine-1.10-york current
```

## Configure web server to serve up Web Alpine

Edit the web server's configuration files to serve up the Web Alpine application via the `current` symbolic link. For Apache serving up Web Alpine with a `/alpine` URL prefix the configuration might look something like this:

```
# Alpine configuration

Alias /alpine /usr/local/alpine/current/web/cgi

<Directory /usr/local/alpine/current/web/cgi>
    Options FollowSymLinks ExecCGI -Indexes
    AllowOverride all
    DirectoryIndex index.php
    Order allow,deny
    Allow from all
</Directory>
```

For security, consider also setting up a secure (HTTPS) service on the web server and redirecting all non-secure requests to it.

## Configure Web Alpine

Web Alpine has a few configuration files that need to be created/edited. These are located below the root directory containing the server-accessible installation just created:

```
cd /usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york/web/config
```

### Configure `alpine.tcl`

Review and edit the settings in the `alpine.tcl` file. At the time of writing the settings used here are as follows:

```
set _wp(admin)          infodesk@york.ac.uk
set _wp(helpdesk)       infodesk@york.ac.uk
set _wp(comments)       infodesk@york.ac.uk
set _wp(urlprefix)      alpine
set _wp(fileroot)       /usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york/web
set _wp(servername)     testwebmail.york.ac.uk
set _wp(plainservpath) {}
set _wp(ispell)         /opt/csw/bin/aspell
set _wp(flexserver)     0
cgi_mail_relay smtp.york.ac.uk
```

Next locate the block which reads:

```
set _wp(hosts) {
    {
        Deskmail
        $User.deskmail.washington.edu/ssl
        $_wp(confdir)/conf.deskmail
    }
}
```

```
}
```

and alter it to refer to the local IMAP service. The first line should be the name of the service and will appear in a pop-up menu on the login page; the second line is the specification to contact the IMAP server in order to read the user's preferences from their `remote_piner.c` folder; the third is the name of a configuration file to supply default settings:

```
set _wp(hosts) {  
  {  
    YorkMail  
    $User.imap.york.ac.uk/tls  
    $_wp(confdir)/conf.yorkmail  
  }  
}
```

## Configure `conf.yorkmail`

Prepare default user settings by copying the `pine.conf` template to the file named in the block above:

```
cp -p pine.conf conf.yorkmail
```

At the time of writing the changes made locally are as follows:

```
smtp-server=smtp.york.ac.uk  
user-domain=york.ac.uk  
folder-collections="Folders" {${IMAP_SERVER}}[]  
default-fcc="Sent"  
postponed-folder="Drafts"  
feature-list=...  
  auto-unselect-after-apply,  
  enable-sigdashes,  
  quell-user-lookup-in-passwd-file
```

Note: The *default-fcc* and *postponed-folder* names are locally altered to match the standard folder names used by Thunderbird, instead of the Pine/Alpine defaults of *sent-mail* and *postponed-msgs*.

## Create and link to `detach` directory

Web Alpine uses a directory named `detach` to provide transient storage, holding temporary copies of message attachments as they're downloaded to the browser. This is a symbolic link within the `web` directory, and by default points to `/tmp/webpine ...` which, unfortunately, doesn't exist!

Create a directory in a suitable area and point the symbolic link to it:

```
mkdir /var/spool/web-alpine /var/spool/web-alpine/detach  
chown nobody:nogroup /var/spool/web-alpine /var/spool/web-alpine/detach  
chmod 550 /var/spool/web-alpine  
chmod 750 /var/spool/web-alpine/detach  
  
cd /usr/local/alpine/alpine-1.10-york/web  
rm detach  
ln -sn /var/spool/web-alpine/detach detach  
cd ..
```

## Restart Apache and test

Restart Apache (or otherwise signal it to re-read its configuration files):

```
svcadm refresh cswapache2
```

Test Web Alpine in your favourite web browser:

```
http://testwebmail.york.ac.uk/alpine
```

## Addendum

For a production service it is be beneficial to have Web Alpine as the only service offered by the web server, and for it to be accessed as the root URL rather than using the `/alpine` URL prefix.

To instead use a URL prefix on the production service a few minor changes need to be made to the help files as they refer to embedded images without the chosen URL-prefix. There are two alternatives for workarounds...

The first is to configure the web server to serve up `/images` URLs from the `/usr/local/alpine/current/web/cgi/images` directory.

The second is to edit the `<img src=/images/>` tags in the following files within the `web/cgi/alpine/help` directory and change their URLs to instead start `../images`

```
addrbrowse.html
attach.html
compose.html
filtconf.html
folders.html
index.html
release.html
secure.html
view.html
```

Category: Mail

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