Email with Telnet

Colorado School of Mines Linux Users Group
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Let’s Send an Email
How to Send an Email

1. Telnet into the mail server on port 25.
   $ telnet mailserver 25
2. Make your computer (the one you’re telnet’ing from) say hello.
   HELO yourhostname (on some servers it’s EHLO)
3. Write who it’s from.
   MAIL from:username@example.com
4. Write the recipient.
   RCPT to:friend@example.com
5. Send message (start with DATA and end with . on a new line.)
   DATA subject:this is the subject
   This is the message body.
   .
6. Quit.
   QUIT
1. Telnet into the smtp server on port 110.
   $ telnet smtpserver 110
2. Say you are entering a username.
   USER myusername@example.com
3. Say you are entering a password.
   PASS mypassword
How to Check Your Email continued

4. List your emails.

   LIST

5. Witness your inbox, which looks something like...

   1  897
   2  2389
   3  2783
   4  3459

6. Write the number of the email you want to retrieve (read).

   RETR  2

7. You can delete emails similarly using DELE.

   DELE  4

8. Quit.

   QUIT
1. Jack Rosenthal’s “Emails and Email Servers” LUG talk
   https://github.com/jackrosenthal/lug-email-presentation

2. Mediatemple: “Sending or Viewing Emails Using Telnet”
   https://mediatemple.net/community/products/dv/204404584/sending-or-viewing-emails-using-telnet

   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telnet
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