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## Problems with the Maintenance of Large Mailing Lists

### Status of this Memo

This RFC discusses problems with maintaining large mailing lists, especially the processing of error reports. This memo provides information for the Internet community. It does not specify an Internet standard. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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### 1. Introduction

Maintaining large mailing lists, especially the processing of error reports, poses many problems. Most of the examples come from the experience of managing the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) mailing list. Many examples are presented in this memo. Most of the specific problems shown have already been corrected.

### 2. Discussion

At USC - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) we maintain mailing lists for the Internet Research Groups, the IETF, and other Internet groups; about 25 lists altogether. We receive about 400 messages a month requesting additions or deletions to these lists. There are

about 20 messages a day requesting changes to the lists.

We also receive about 300 error messages a month due to mail delivery problems. Many of these are duplicates, but the net result is that about 10 cases per day need to be investigated.

Many of the error reports are for "soft errors", primarily delayed delivery notices, such as "not delivered for 2 days, will try for 3 more days". These just waste the list maintainer's time and are otherwise ignored. This is especially wasteful when such messages are repeated every day. However, if the same host is a cause of such messages for many days in a row, the list maintainer may investigate.

Please note that ignoring the soft errors is not always easy, since error messages often contain error reports on several mailboxes, requiring the error message to be read carefully to pick out the hard errors.

The error reports that indicate hard errors, such as "no such user" require the list maintainer to take action. In many cases the appropriate action is to simply delete the user mailbox from the list. However, if the mailbox in question is someone known to be active as a working group chair, or such, further investigation is necessary. The more general case of "no such host" may be a temporary condition, but if it continues for several days it must be investigated.

Since the error conditions do not have standardized names (for example, "no such user" vs. "user unknown") it is sometimes difficult to understand whether a soft or hard error is being reported, and what one should do about it. For example, what does "Can't Find Mail Center!" mean, or what should one do about "mailll:%MAIL-E-OPENOUT, error opening SYS\$USER2:[STGEORGE.LONGMAIL]MAIL\$00040093BE236612.MAI; as outputI)"?

The first step in investigating a problem with a user mailbox is to see if it is on the list. If so, the next step is to see if there really is a problem with it. This is done by using the SMTP VRFY and EXPN features, Finger, or Whois. This often develops information suggesting that the user has recently changed his address. This has to be confirmed through an exchange of messages (with the postmaster) and then the mailing list must be updated.

If the user is not on the list, then it is likely the mail is sent via an exploder or sublist. So the investigation focuses on finding which exploder may be involved, usually this is found by looking at the path (from the received lines) of the error report. The exploder that is the source of the error can sometimes be checked using the

SMTP EXPN feature. Then the postmaster is notified.

If the error report is about a host being unknown, the programs "whathost", "dig", "ping", and "traceroute" may be used to find the problem. However, getting the problem fixed may require communication with host and domain administrators.

What to do if problems can't be resolved: Delete the offending entry from the list that may eventually cause the following response: "I used to be on the ietf list, how come I am not getting the messages any more?" (See Appendix A.)

### 3. Typical Problems

In this section we discuss typical and frequent problems that occur with large mailing lists.

#### 3.1 Misdirected Error Reports

The most frequent problem is that error reports are sent to the author of the message rather than the list owner. One way this can happen is when there is trouble with the author's host not connecting to another host along the route before it reaches ISI where the mailing list is.

At ISI the SMTP "from" information is added when the message is distributed to the list so that hosts following the SMTP protocol will send their error reports to the list owner. However, not all hosts do this properly.

Another problem is that some machines do not pay attention to the SMTP information about where to send error reports.

#### 3.2 Sublists

What is a sublist? It is a mailbox with an alias-name that expands to a mailing-list or group of recipients. There are many sublists on our mailing lists.

When a user requests that a mailbox be added to a list that looks like an exploder, the following message is sent:

We ask that all list maintainers of exploder mailboxes (an alias-name that expands to a mailing-list or group of recipients) set up some sort of ownership at their site, for their list. What this means is, if any mailbox on your list is invalid, the error message will go to you (the list owner), and you can delete that mailbox from your list.

An example of an entry in your aliases file would be:

```
owner-ietf-local:  stev@vax.ftp.com,
```

```
(or your list maintainer/postmaster)
```

It appears that few people understand the concept of list ownership, or they do not set it up correctly. There is ample evidence of problems in this area.

When investigating "user unknown" messages it is often the case that the user is not individually listed on our list. The next step is to check received lines and hunt for an exploder list with a host similar to the one that the error came from or points to. At that point we attempt to use SMTP EXPN or VRFY to check that the user is on a sublist. Since many hosts do not implement EXPN or VRFY, the result of our check is inconclusive. We then contact the list maintainer and ask him to delete the invalid mailbox if it is on his sublist.

Another problem occurs when someone on a sublist wants to change the name of his mailbox. We look through the main list to make the correction and if that mailbox is not on the list we check the received lines and look for clues to determine which host this user may be on. More than likely it is a sublist. (See Appendix B.)

When the mailbox is in another protocol world (like UUCP or BITNET) there are often problems with the handling and direction of error reports. (See Appendix C.)

Sometimes we are unable to find the addresses reported in the error message on the mailing list in question. In such a case we check the mailing list for a host name also named in the received lines of a message in error. If we find a match then we look for an exploder on that host and expand the sublist there to see if the mailbox in question is on that sublist. (See Appendix D.)

At the time a sublist is entered into our list we record the name of the requestor and consider him the sublist owner. As people change roles or companies this contact sometimes fails, in that case we fall back to contacting the postmaster. However, not every site has a "postmaster" mailbox. (See Appendix E.)

Most users send their requests and changes to the IETF-Request mailbox, when they are on, in fact, a sublist, usually at their own company. This creates a problem for us trying to determine which exploder they're on.

In this case, the request message is forwarded to the sublist owner so he can make changes to his list. However, sometimes hosts may be somewhat similar in name (from the same organization, but in a different department, in a different building, off campus, etc.) and it's hard to know if this person should really be on that particular sublist, or listed individually. Occasionally, we examine the main file to see if there are individual addresses that could be incorporated in a sublist.

### 3.3 Misdirected Requests

Some users don't know that mailing lists usually have a "request" mailbox, so they mistakenly send their requests to the main list. When this happens, several people will resend the request to the list maintainer and then want to know if the request was completed.

### 3.4 Misdirected Messages

There are also messages that go to the request mailbox when they are intended for the main list. These messages get forwarded to the main list and a message is sent to the user notifying him of the correction and the proper way to address his message.

## 4. Summary

Running a mailing list should be easy, and with small lists it is. The number of changes and errors are small and infrequent. But when lists get large and traffic gets heavy, the number of changes and errors grow to many a day. The level of effort to manage a mailing list of substantial size and use becomes significant.

An additional problem is the creativity shown by mail program developers in inventing numerous different error reports. We present a large sample of such messages in Appendix F. We hope that these examples will be of help to other mailing list maintainers.

Our experience with maintaining large lists suggests the following:

Users: Please be considerate and try to work problems out locally.

Sublist owners: Please do everything you can to get the error messages related to your sublist to go to you. Please try to get users on your system to talk to you about additions and deletions.

## APPENDIX A

## A.1. Inquiry Message From User Regarding His Mailbox

Date: Tue, 6 Nov 90 03:02:09 PST  
From: "Stewart Bryant, RE02-G/H2, DTN: 830 4682"  
<bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Subject: dist list

Please will you check that I have not been deleted from this  
distribution list.

My email address is : bryant@janus.enet.dec.com

Thanks

Stewart

## A.2. Message To User - His Mailbox Was Re-added

To: "Stewart Bryant, RE02-G/H2,  
DTN: 830 4682" <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
cc: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Subject: Re: dist list  
In-reply-to: Your message of Tue, 06 Nov 90 03:02:09 -0800.  
<9011061056.AA11777@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
Date: Tue, 06 Nov 90 13:54:23 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Stewart,

> Please will you check that I have not been deleted from this  
> distribution. list.  
>  
> My email address is: bryant@janus.enet.dec.com

I readed you to the list.

--Ann

## A.3. User Name Readded and It Bounced

Date: Tue, 06 Nov 90 17:25:15 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
maill1: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "janus",  
during mail delivery to <JANUS::BRYANT>.  
Remote error code is 0x7e81d2, message is:  
%MAIL-E-ERRACTRNS, error activating transport NM  
(can't decypher error code)  
550 <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>... User unknown

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<bryant@janus.enet.dec.com> (bounced)

----- Unsent message follows -----  
Received: by decpa.pa.dec.com; id AA21747; Tue, 6 Nov 90 13:54:38  
Received: from LOCALHOST by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA24660>; Tue, 6 Nov 90 13:54:25 -0800  
To: "Stewart Bryant, RE02-G/H2,  
DTN: 830 4682" <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
Cc: ietf-request@venera.isi.edu  
Reply-To: westine@venera.isi.edu  
Subject: Re: dist list  
In-Reply-To: Your message of Tue, 06 Nov 90 03:02:09 -0800.  
<9011061056.AA11777@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
Date: Tue, 06 Nov 90 13:54:23 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Stewart,

> Please will you check that I have not been deleted from this  
> distribution list.  
>  
> My email address is  
>  
> bryant@janus.enet.dec.com

I readded you to the list.

--Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

## APPENDIX B

In this example, the old mailbox "kent@ssbell.IMD.Sterling.COM" was to be deleted and the new mailbox "kent@sparky.IMD.Sterling.COM" was to be added. However, when checking the mailing list the old address was not found. Further checking for anything that resembled the hostname still did not turn up anything. Then checking the full header information of the sender's message showed that the message came through UUNET.UU.NET. There is a sublist on UUNET called "post-ietf@UUNET.UU.NET". By using the SMTP feature EXPN on the sublist the mailbox was found in the form "ssbell!kent". Finally, a message was sent to the postmaster at UUNET and asked him to delete the mailbox.

## B.1. Error Report

Date: Mon, 22 Oct 90 14:05:38 -0500  
From: kent@ssbell.IMD.Sterling.COM (Kent Landfield)  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Subject: E-mail address change

Hello,

I am currently receiving ietf related email at kent@ssbell.IMD.Sterling.COM. I am moving to sparky.IMD.Sterling.COM as the ssbell system is going away. Could you please change my address to kent@sparky.IMD.Sterling.COM so that I can stay on the list ? Thanks.

## B.2. Message Sent to Postmaster

To: postmaster@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: Address - <ssbell!kent>  
Date: Thu, 25 Oct 90 13:44:24 PDT  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

Please delete the mailbox ssbell!kent from the "post-ietf" list. I will add his new address "kent@sparky.IMD.Sterling.COM" directly to the ietf list. Thanks. Ann

\*\*\*\*\*



## APPENDIX C

Another problem comes up when a sublist happens to be located in another protocol world such as BITNET or UUCP and that mail is forwarded through a mail relay. Experience shows that proper implementation of the list ownership concept is even less likely.

SIGNET is a host in the UUCP world receiving mail forwarded through the mail relay THINK.COM.

~~~~~

## C.1. Error Report

To: owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu  
Date: Fri, 05 Oct 90 23:45:26 -0400  
From: uucp@Think.COM  
Subject: Warning From uucp

We have been unable to contact machine 'signet' since you queued your job.

mail signet!ietf-interest (Date 10/04)

Attempts will continue for a few more days.

Sincerely,  
early-bird!uucp

~~~~~

## C.2. Message Sent to Postmaster

To: postmaster@think.com  
Subject: unable to contact machine 'signet'  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Date: Mon, 08 Oct 90 09:42:54 PDT  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

We have a mailbox on the ietf list that gets relayed through your host THINK.COM. We will have to delete this mailbox if a connection cannot be corrected. Thanks, Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

## APPENDIX D

Sometimes, the addresses reported in error can't be found on the IETF list. In this example, "GATORCORP" is not on the IETF list. In checking the received lines there is a host called VITALINK.COM. We have an exploder on our list at VITALINK called "ietf-interest@vitalink.com". The program DIG shows that VITALINK.COM MXs to UUNET.UU.NET. Since VITALINK is not directly on the Internet the EXPN and VRFY features of SMTP don't apply, the sublist on VITALINK can't be checked. However, there are enough clues to make an educated guess that the mailboxes on the host GATORCORP are on the exploder sublist at VITALINK. In this situation a message was sent to the Postmaster of VITALINK.COM to ask him to delete the invalid addresses from his sublist.

## D.1. Error Report

```
Return-Path: vitam6!MAILER-DAEMON@uunet.UU.NET
Received-Date: Wed, 7 Nov 90 14:34:51 PST
Received: from venera.isi.edu by zephyr.isi.edu (4.1/4.0.3-4)
      id <AA16502>; Wed, 7 Nov 90 14:34:51 PST
Posted-Date: Wed, 7 Nov 90 13:54:08 -0800
Received: from UUNET.UU.NET by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)
      id <AA27149>; Wed, 7 Nov 90 14:34:34 -0800
Received: from vitam6.UUCP by uunet.uu.net (5.61/1.14) with UUCP
      id AA12926; Wed, 7 Nov 90 17:34:28 -0500
Received: by vitam6.ENG.Vitalink.COM (5.61/1.35)
      id AC03235; Wed, 7 Nov 90 13:54:08 -0800
Date: Wed, 7 Nov 90 13:54:08 -0800
From: vitam6!MAILER-DAEMON@uunet.UU.NET (Mail Delivery Subsystem)
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown
To: uunet!venera.isi.edu!owner-ietf@uunet.UU.NET
To: uunet!venera.isi.edu!owner-ietf@uunet.UU.NET
```

----- Transcript of session follows -----

```
550 andrew_greenfield.safari@gatorcorp,
    melinda_le_baron.safari@gatorcorp...Host unknown
```

## D.2. Message Sent to Postmaster

To: postmaster@vitalink.com  
Cc: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: andrew\_greenfield.safari@gatorcorp,  
          melinda\_le\_baron.safari@gatorcorp... Host unknown  
Reply-To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Date: Thu, 08 Nov 90 15:30:24 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>

Hi,

We have an exploder mailbox on the IETF list called  
"ietf-interest@vitalink.com". I'm not sure, but I think the  
following addresses may be on that list. Please look into this  
"host unknown" problem. If these addresses need to be deleted,  
please do so.

Thanks,  
Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

## APPENDIX E

Every host on the Internet that processes mail is required to have a "postmaster" mailbox to receive error reports and trouble inquiries. In this case, the "postmaster" mailbox was not recognized.

## E.1. Message Sent to IETF-Request

To: (ietf-request@venera.isi.edu)  
From: Caralyn Brown (CBROWN@ENR)  
Date: 10 Jan 91 8:24 AM  
Subject: please remove me from this list

Please remove me from this list. I'm changing companies and I'd like to keep the mailbox from getting out of hand. If it's not too much trouble, could you just send me a confirmation that I was deleted?  
Thanks.

caralyn

## E.2. Message Sent to Postmaster

To: postmaster@list.prime.com  
Cc: CBROWN@enr.prime.com, ietf-request@venera.isi.edu  
Subject: Please delete from "ietf@list.prime.com" - Carolyn Brown  
Reply-To: westine@venera.isi.edu  
Date: Thu, 10 Jan 91 09:50:15 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

Please delete Carolyn from your sublist. We do not have her address listed individually on the main IETF list.

Thanks, Ann

## E.3. Error Report

From: postmaster-request@List.Prime.COM (List Service version  
1.0.x463)  
Subject: returned mail  
Message-Type: Return  
To: <westine@ISI.EDU>

Your mail addressed to "postmaster" could not be processed: There is  
no mailing list named "postmaster" at this site.

For help, send to help@List.Prime.COM; to receive an index of  
available lists, send to index@List.Prime.COM; to reach a List  
Administrator, send to admin@List.Prime.COM.

\*\*\*\*\*

## APPENDIX F - Examples of Error Messages

## F.1. Delayed Delivery Notices

From: MAILER-DAEMON@ISI.EDU (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with uiucdcsn-uiuc-dcs-net.cs.uiuc.edu  
Posted-Date: Fri, 4 Jan 91 12:46:51 -0800  
Received: by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA08435>; Fri, 4 Jan 91 12:46:51 -0800  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
>>> RCPT To:<laird@BBN.COM>  
<<< 550 (USER) Unknown user name in "laird@BBN.COM"  
550 laird@BBN.COM... User unknown  
451 avri@CLEARPOINT.COM... reply: read error  
avri@CLEARPOINT.COM... reply: read error  
421 dockmaster.ncsc.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during  
user open with DOCKMASTER.NCSC.MIL  
421 va.nkw.ac.uk.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during  
user open with nsfnet-relay.ac.uk  
421 nsl.dec.com.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with jove.pa.dec.com  
451 drawson@HOBBES.TYMNET.COM... timeout waiting for input  
drawson@HOBBES.TYMNET.COM... timeout waiting for input  
451 drawson@HOBBES.TYMNET.COM... reply: read error  
drawson@HOBBES.TYMNET.COM... reply: read error  
421 sccgate.scc.com.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during  
user open with sccgate.scc.com  
421 a.isi.edu.tcp... Deferred: Connection refused by a.ISI.EDU  
421 cs.ucl.ac.uk.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with nsfnet-relay.ac.uk  
421 oasys.dt.navy.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during  
user open with oasys.dt.navy.mil  
421 peocul.navy.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with PEOCU1.NAVY.MIL  
421 enh.nist.gov.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with enh.nist.gov  
421 mickey.imsd.contel.com.tcp... Deferred: Connection refused by  
MICKEY.IMSD.CONTEL.COM  
421 uv4.eglin.af.mil.tcp...Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with uv6.eglin.af.mil  
421 ima.isc.com.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with ima.ima.isc.com  
421 huachuca-emh8.army.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection refused by  
HUACHUCA-EMH8.ARMY.MIL  
421 vaxa.nerc-keyworth.ac.uk.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out

```

    during user open with nsfnet-relay.ac.uk
421 gdr.bath.ac.uk.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with nsfnet-relay.ac.uk
421 ccintl.rsre.mod.uk.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during
    user open with ccintl.rsre.mod.uk
550 m_ellison@TOOK.LKG.DEC.COM... Host unknown
421 hqafsc-vax.af.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during
    user open with HQAFSC-VAX.AF.MIL
421 nic.nordu.net.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with nic.nordu.net
421 aedc-vax.af.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with AEDC-VAX.AF.MIL
421 letterkenn-emh1.army.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out
    during user open with LETTERKENN-EMH1.ARMY.MIL
421 dumle.kommmhuset.se.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during
    user open with sunic.sunet.se
421 cis.uab.edu.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with cisa.CIS.UAB.EDU
421 server.af.mil.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with server.af.mil
421 issun3.stc.nl.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with issun3.stc.nl
421 cs.uiuc.edu.tcp... Deferred: Connection timed out during user
    open with uiucdcsn-uiuc-dcs-net.cs.uiuc.edu

```

-----  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## F.2. Failed Mail

```

Date:      Tue, 30 Oct 90 5:00:40 EST
From: BBN Mail System (MMDf) <mmdf@BBN.COM>
Sender: mmdf@BBN.COM
Subject:   Failed mail (msg.aa09055)
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

```

After 12 days (276 hours), your message could not be fully delivered.

It failed to be received by the following address(es):

```

    mfidelma@cc5.bbn.com (host: cc5.bbn.com) (queue: smtp)

```

Problems usually are due to service interruptions at the receiving machine. Less often, they are caused by the communication system.

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.3. Waiting Mail

To: RELAY Mail System (MMDf) <mmdf@RELAY.CS.NET>  
 Cc: owner-ietf <@RELAY.CS.NET:owner-ietf@VENERA.ISI.EDU>  
 Reply-To: westine@ISI.EDU  
 Subject: Re: Waiting mail (msg.aa00720)  
 In-Reply-To: Your message of Tue, 02 Oct 90 07:45:14 -0400.  
                   <9010021201.AA06288@venera.isi.edu>  
 Date: Mon, 08 Oct 90 10:11:03 PDT  
 From: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>

> After 5 days (105 hours), your message has not yet been  
 > fully delivered. Attempts to deliver the message will continue  
 > for 2 more days. No further action is required by you.  
 >  
 > Delivery attempts are still pending for the following address(es):  
 >  
 >       @zix.gmd.dbp.de:weidenhammer@vax.hmi.dbp.de  
 >       (host: zix.gmd.dbp.de)(queue: dfn)  
 >  
 > Problems usually are due to service interruptions at the receiving  
 > machine. Less often, they are caused by the communication system.

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.4. What Started Out as a Sublist with No Active Users

## a. Error Report

Date: Tue, 4 Sep 90 22:13:12 +0200  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@inria.inria.fr (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
 To: owner-ietf

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 While talking to mailhost.Gipsi.FR:  
 >>> RCPT To:<ietf@GIPSI.FR>  
 <<< 550 <ietf@GIPSI.FR>... User unknown  
 550 <ietf@GIPSI.FR>... User unknown

-----

~~~~~



## b. Message Sent to Postmaster

TO: Postmaster@gisi.gipsi.fr  
Subject: 550 <ietf@GIPSI.FR>... User unknown  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Date: Tue, 11 Sep 90 09:56:20 PDT  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

I have received numerous error messages like this for over a week.  
There appears to be a mailbox on your exploder that is invalid,  
please delete it.

Thanks, --Ann

~~~~~  
c. Reply From Postmaster

From: edmonde@ubu.gipsi.fr (Edmonde Duteurtre)  
To: westine  
In-Reply-To: Ann Westine's message of Tue,  
11 Sep 90 09:56:20 PDT  
<9009111656.AA19730@venera.isi.edu>  
Subject: 550 <ietf@GIPSI.FR>... User unknown

Hello

On our site, the bind@gipsi.fr, snmp@gipsi.fr, ietf@gipsi.fr and the  
nameddroppers@gipsi.fr mailed only one person: prindevi@gipsi.fr but  
this person has leaved our company, and you should cancel this  
addresses.

I think we get enough informations through the news. I think you  
should cancel us (ietf@Gipsi.FR) on the mailing list ietf.

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.5. Sublists without local ownership

In this error message there was not much to go on except the words IETF and the name of the host from where the mailer-daemon sent the error. Using that clue the mailing list was searched for that host name (SATURN). It was a sublist. It appears that there is something internally wrong with the sublist and this error should have gone to the postmaster or owner of the IETF@SATURN.ACC.COM list instead of the IETF owner. A message was sent to the postmaster. No reply was received, but the condition was fixed.

## a. Error Report

Date: Wed, 3 Oct 90 14:42:57 EDT  
From: MAILER-DAEMON%saturn.ACC.COM@salt.acc.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: unknown mailer error 13  
To: <owner-ietf@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
/p/news/ietf/21770: Permission denied  
554 "| /usr/local/news -s ietf"... unknown mailer error 13

## b. Message Sent to Postmaster

To: Postmaster@saturn.acc.com  
cc: ietf-request  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Subject: 554 "| /usr/local/news -s ietf"  
... unknown mailer error 13  
In-reply-to: Your message of Wed, 03 Oct 90 14:42:57 -0400.  
<9010031842.AA01601@saturn.acc.com>  
Date: Mon, 08 Oct 90 10:53:02 PDT  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

Please fix the problem with the following mailbox  
"ietf@SATURN.ACC.COM".

Thanks, Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.6. Repetitive Error Every Couple of Months from Same Host

## a. Message Dated August 90

Date: Tue, 21 Aug 90 09:21:26 -0700  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
To: <@decpa.pa.dec.com:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
maill1: connect: Connect failed, Unrecognized object  
(permanent failure)

554 <netrix::gillin>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative  
answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<erlang::chiu> (sent)  
<netrix::gillin> (bounced)  
<erlang::rama> (sent)

~~~~~

## b. Message Dated October 90

Date: Mon, 29 Oct 90 05:02:53 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
To: <@decpa.pa.dec.com:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
maill1: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
during mail delivery to <ERLANG::CHIU>.  
Remote error code is 0x7e803a, message is:  
%MAIL-E-LOGLINK, error creating network link to node CHIU  
-SYSTEM-F-NOSUCHNODE, remote node is unknown  
554 <erlang::chiu>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative  
answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<erlang::chiu> (bounced)  
<netrix::gillin> (sent)  
<erlang::rama> (sent)

~~~~~

## c. Message Dated December 90

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 90 21:40:47 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
maill1: connect: Connect failed, Unrecognized object  
(permanent failure)

554 <bansal@NETRIX.ENET.DEC.COM>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative  
answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----

<bansal@NETRIX.ENET.DEC.COM> (bounced)

~~~~~

## d. Message Dated December 90

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 90 23:01:21 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
maill1: connect: Connect failed, Unrecognized object  
(permanent failure)

554 <gilllin%netrix.DEC@DECWRL.DEC.COM>... 550 Host unknown  
(Authoritative answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----

<mogul@DECWRL.DEC.COM> (sent)  
mogul@acetes (sent)  
<gilllin%netrix.DEC@DECWRL.DEC.COM> (bounced)  
<chiu%erlang.dec@DECWRL.DEC.COM> (sent)

~~~~~

## e. Message Dated January 91

Date: Sun, 6 Jan 91 17:05:53 -0800  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
 To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "bigfut",  
 during mail delivery to <BIGFUT::CALLON>.  
 Remote error code is 0x7e81fa, message is:(can't decypher error  
 code)  
 550 <Callon@BIGFUT.ENET.DEC.COM>... User unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.7. Host Unknown or Sublist

The address "lucb-ml@OPUS" is not an Internet style domain name. The exploder ietf@CS.McGILL.CA has this address on its sublist, and CSA.McGILL.CA does not recognize this host. (This error should have gone to the sublist owner at CS.McGILL.CA).

Date: Tue, 9 Oct 90 19:45:14 -0400  
 From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@oliver.cs.mcgill.ca>  
 Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
 To: <owner-ietf@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 550 "Luc Boulianne" <lucb-ml@opus>... Host unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.8. "HOST UNKNOWN" and the Host Really Is Known

Usually a "host unknown" report is not acted on unless it is repeated over a period of several days. In many cases the hosts really do exist, but they're just down for a couple of days, or there are network problems reaching it (or it's name server).

Date: Fri, 2 Nov 90 08:45:56 -0800  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@ISI.EDU (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
 To: owner-los-nettos@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 550 nrc.com.tcp... 550 Host unknown  
 550 IHM@NRC.COM... Host unknown

~~~~~  
WHATHOST CHECK

```
westine 28% whathost nrc.com
Host: nrc.com ==> 129.216.200.51

westine 82% whathost 129.216.200.51
Host: aztec.NRC.COM ==> 129.216.200.51
```

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.9. Host Unknown and MXed to Another Host.

DNS says AMES will forward mail for ADAPT, but mailer at AMES says ADAPT is unknown. Should ask postmaster at AMES to fix either mailer or DNS data.

```
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 90 09:39:35 PST
From: unet!Mailer-Daemon@ames.arc.nasa.gov
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU
```

```
----- Transcript of session follows -----
bad system name: ADAPT
uux failed ( 68 )
550 george@ADAPT.NET.COM... Host unknown
```

```
~~~~~
westine 86% dig adapt.net.com any

; <<>> DiG <<>> adapt.net.com any
;; ->>HEADER<- opcode: QUERY , status: NOERROR, id: 6
;; flags: qr aa rd ra Ques: 1, Ans: 2, Auth: 0, Addit: 2

;; QUESTIONS:
;;      adapt.net.com, type = ANY, class = IN

;; ANSWERS:
adapt.net.com      IN  MX  10 ames.arc.nasa.gov      ; 84029
adapt.net.com      IN  MX  20 tymix.tymnet.com       ; 84029

;; ADDITIONAL RECORDS:
ames.arc.nasa.gov  IN  A   128.102.18.3      ; 158777
tymix.tymnet.com   IN  A   131.146.2.1       ; 86400
```

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.10. User Unknown

Most "User Unknown" error messages listed individually on the main list get deleted. Those on a sublist, require a message to the postmaster or list maintainer. They are asked to delete the invalid user mailbox from their local list.

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.10.1. Add User but Address Fails

This is a case where the recipient was checking to see if his mailbox was already on the list and if not to readd him. He was readded to the list. A "user unknown" error message was received on the confirming message that was sent notifying recipient that he had been added.

~~~~~

## a. Message Sent to User And Postmaster

To: postmaster@janus.enet.dec1.com, postmaster@decwrl.dec.com  
 Cc: westine, bryant@janus.enet.dec.com  
 Subject: RE: <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
 Date: Wed, 07 Nov 90 10:15:40 PST  
 From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Stewart and Postmaster,

I readded your name to the IETF list but there seems to be problems with connections to DECnet hosts right now. I have seen lots of errors like this lately. Postmaster, please check into this. JANUS is not the only host with an error, there are other hosts like this in trouble.

For example.

From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
 To: <@decpa.pa.dec.com:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
       during mail delivery to <ERLANG::CHIU>.  
       Remote error code is 0x7e803a, message is:  
 %MAIL-E-LOGLINK, error creating network link to node CHIU  
 -SYSTEM-F-NOSUCHNODE, remote node is unknown  
 554 <erlang::chiu>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative answer

from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
 <erlang::chiu> (bounced)  
 <netrix::gillin> (sent)  
 <erlang::rama> (sent)  
 -----

Thank you, Ann

To: "Stewart Bryant, RE02-G/H2,  
 DTN: 830 4682" <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
 Cc: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
 Subject: Re: dist list  
 In-Reply-To: Your message of Tue, 06 Nov 90 03:02:09 0800.  
 <9011061056.AA11777@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
 Date: Tue, 06 Nov 90 13:54:23 PST  
 From: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>

Hi Stewart,

> Please will you check that I have not been deleted  
 > from this distribution list.  
 >  
 > My email address is > bryant@janus.enet.dec.com

I readded you to the list. Thanks, Ann

----- Forwarded Message

Date: Tue, 06 Nov 90 17:25:15 -0800  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com  
 To: westine@ISI.EDU  
 Subject: Returned mail: User unknown

----- Transcript of session follows -----

mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "janus",  
 during mail delivery to <JANUS::BRYANT>.  
 Remote error code is 0x7e81d2, message is:  
 %MAIL-E-ERRACTRNS, error activating transport NM  
 (can't decypher error code)  
 550 <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>... User unknown

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
 <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com> (bounced)



## b. Message From Postmaster

Return-path: vixie@wrl.dec.com  
 Date: Wed, 07 Nov 90 16:24:37 PST  
 To: westine@ISI.EDU  
 cc: postmaster@janus.enet.dec.com, postmaster@wrl.dec.com,  
 bryant@janus.enet.dec.com  
 Subject: Re: <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
 From: Paul A Vixie <vixie@wrl.dec.com>

Anne,

This was a transient. Please let me know if any other .enet.dec.com nodes are still unreachable.

Paul

~~~~~

## c. Another Message to Postmaster

To: Paul A Vixie <vixie@wrl.dec.com>  
 cc: postmaster@janus.enet.dec.com, postmaster@wrl.dec.com,  
 bryant@janus.enet.dec.com  
 Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
 Subject: Re: <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
 In-reply-to: Your message of Wed, 07 Nov 90 16:24:37 -0800.  
 <9011080024.AA28353@volition.pa.dec.com>  
 Date: Thu, 08 Nov 90 11:23:39 PST  
 From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Paul,

There are a few other error message that I received last week and they seem to reoccur every couple of months. Here is an example. What does this error mean?

Date: Mon, 29 Oct 90 05:02:53 -0800  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
 To: <@decpa.pa.dec.com:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
 during mail delivery to <ERLANG::CHIU>.  
 Remote error code is 0x7e803a, message is:  
 %MAIL-E-LOGLINK, error creating network link to node CHIU  
 -SYSTEM-F-NOSUCHNODE, remote node is unknown

554 <erlang::chiu>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative  
answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<erlang::chiu> (bounced)  
<netrix::gilllin> (sent)  
<erlang::rama> (sent)  
<netrix::gilllin> (sent)  
<erlang::rama> (sent)

-----

~~~~~

d. Message From Postmaster

Date: Thu, 08 Nov 90 17:10:02 PST  
To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Re: <bryant@janus.enet.dec.com>  
From: Paul A Vixie <vixie@wrl.dec.com>

Anne,

This error:

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
during mail delivery to <ERLANG::CHIU>.  
Remote error code is 0x7e803a, message is:  
%MAIL-E-LOGLINK, error creating network link to node CHIU  
-SYSTEM-F-NOSUCHNODE, remote node is unknown  
554 <erlang::chiu>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative  
answer from name server)

...means that the person on ERLANG:: has forwarded their mail to a  
system that ERLANG does not know about. Decnet mail is not store-and-  
forward, so decwrl (as smtp-to-decnet gateway) sees the end-system  
error. Trying to be helpful, it sends it back to you.

My advice is to delete any addresses you have trouble with, if they are  
in the .enet.dec.com subdomain.

paul

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.10.2. No Such User

Date: Wed, 10 Oct 90 18:05 CDT  
From: PMDF Mail Server <Postmaster@crcvms.unl.edu>  
Subject: Undeliverable mail  
To: westine@ISI.EDU

The message could not be delivered to:

Addressee: gale

Reason:

%MAIL-E-NOSUCHUSR, no such user GALE at node CRCVMS

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.11. No Transcript

Date: Wed, 8 Aug 90 13:21:03 -0700  
From: MAILER-DAEMON (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Deferred: Host Name Lookup Failure  
To: owner-ietf  
To: owner-ietf  
To: westine

<text deleted>

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.12. Looping - Too Many Hops

Date: Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:59 PDT  
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@jessica.stanford.edu>  
Subject: Returned mail: Unable to deliver mail  
To:<@jessica.stanford.edu,@jessica.stanford.edu,@jessica.stanford.edu,  
@jessica.stanford.edu,@jessica.stanford.edu,@jessica.stanford.edu,  
@jessica.stanford.edu:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
554 sendall: too many hops (17 max)

Received: from Jessica.Stanford.EDU by Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU  
(5.59/inc-1.0) id AA09128; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:36 PDT  
Received: from Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU by jessica.stanford.edu  
(5.59/25-eef) id AA17687; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:31 PDT  
Received: from Jessica.Stanford.EDU by Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU  
(5.59/inc-1.0)id AA09124; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:28 PDT  
Received: from Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU by jessica.stanford.edu

(5.59/25-eef) id AA17674; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:22 PDT  
Received: from Jessica.Stanford.EDU by Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU  
(5.59/inc-1.0) id AA09120; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:19 PDT  
Received: from Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU by jessica.stanford.edu  
(5.59/25-eef) id AA17658; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:13 PDT

Received: from Jessica.Stanford.EDU by Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU  
(5.59/inc-1.0) id AA09116; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:11 PDT  
Received: from Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU by jessica.stanford.edu  
(5.59/25-eef) id AA17645; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:05 PDT  
Received: from Jessica.Stanford.EDU by Ahwahnee.Stanford.EDU  
(5.59/inc-1.0) id AA09112; Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:08:03 PDT  
Received: from VENERA.ISI.EDU by jessica.stanford.edu  
(5.59/25-eef) id AA17625;

Wed, 7 Nov 90 18:07:50 PDT  
Received: by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA29996>; Wed, 7 Nov 90 15:45:49 -0800  
Received-Date: Wed, 7 Nov 90 15:45:45 -0800  
Received: from NRI.RESTON.VA.US by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA29992>; Wed, 7 Nov 90 15:45:45 -0800  
Received: from nri by NRI.NRI.Reston.VA.US id aal3139; 7 Nov 90 18:26  
To: Frank Kastenholz <kasten%europa.interlan.com@relay.cs.net>  
Cc: ietf@venera.isi.edu  
Subject: Re: IETF mailing list  
Date: Wed, 07 Nov 90 18:26:53 -0500  
From: vcerf@NRI.Reston.VA.US

\*\*\*\*\*

#### F.13. No Postmaster

##### a. Error Message

Date: Mon, 5 Nov 90 18:40:58 EST  
From: Mailer-Daemon@osi.ncsl.nist.gov  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----

421 osi3: Host osi3 is down  
550 Postmaster... User unknown

~~~~~

## b. Checking Hostname and Address

westine 37% dig osi3.ncsl.nist.gov any

;; QUESTIONS:

;; osi3.ncsl.nist.gov, type = ANY, class = IN

;; ANSWERS:

|                    |    |   |              |         |
|--------------------|----|---|--------------|---------|
| osi3.ncsl.nist.gov | IN | A | 129.6.48.108 | ; 86400 |
| osi3.ncsl.nist.gov | IN | A | 129.6.51.1   | ; 86400 |

## c. Checking For Users

westine 49% mconnect OSI3.NCSL.NIST.GOV  
connecting to host OSI3.NCSL.NIST.GOV (0x6c300681), port 0x1900  
connection open  
220 osi3.ncsl.nist.gov sendmail 4.0/NIST(rbj/doug) ready at  
Thu, 8 Nov 90 13:58:49 EST  
expn ietf  
250-Dale Walters <walters>  
250-Richard Colella <colella@emu.ncsl.nist.gov>  
250 Doug Montgomery <doug@warthog.ncsl.nist.gov>

## d. Checking For Administrators

westine 44% whois osi3.ncsl.nist.gov

National Bureau of Standards (ICST-OSI3)

Hostname: OSI3.NCSL.NIST.GOV  
Nicknames: OSI3.ICST.NBS.GOV, ICST-OSI3.ARPA  
Address: 129.6.48.108  
System: SUN-3/160 running UNIX

Coordinator:

Montgomery, Douglas C. (DCM5) dougm@OSI.NCSL.NIST.GOV  
(301) 975-3630

Record last updated on 17-May-89.

## e. Message Sent to Coordinator

From westine@venera.isi.edu Thu Nov 8 13:58:40 1990  
Posted-Date: Thu, 08 Nov 90 10:59:30 PST  
To: dougm@osi.ncsl.nist.gov  
Cc: westine@venera.isi.edu  
Subject: RE: 421 osi3: Host osi3 is down  
550 Postmaster... User unknown  
Reply-To: westine@venera.isi.edu  
Date: Thu, 08 Nov 90 10:59:30 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Doug,

If the Postmaster is "unknown" please delete him from your exploder list "ietf@osi3.ncsl.nist.gov". I have been receiving error messages like this one for several days now. If I don't hear from you, I will have to delete the above mailbox.

Ann

> ----- Transcript of session follows -----  
> 421 osi3: Host osi3 is down  
> 550 Postmaster... User unknown

~~~~~  
f. Message From Coordinator

Date: Thu, 8 Nov 90 15:34:02 EST  
From: Doug Montgomery <dougm@warthog.ncsl.nist.gov>  
Organization: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
Sub-Organization: National Computer Systems Laboratory  
To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: RE: 421 osi3: Host osi3 is down  
550 Postmaster... User unknown  
Cc: staff@osi3.ncsl.nist.gov

I think I have found out what is wrong. For some reason (we can discuss this below) your exploder is sending IETF mail to our exploder (ietf@osi3.ncsl.nist.gov) through the machine osi.ncsl.nist.gov. Now due to a recent subnet reconfiguration and subsequent lack of update to our DNS servers, the DNS was returning an incorrect address for osi3. Thus IETF mail would be sent to OSI, which would try to forward it to OSI3 (using the wrong address). OSI would think that OSI3 was down and dump the message, trying to send a notice to Postmaster. OSI doesn't have an alias for Postmaster and thus the second error message that you saw.

These two problems have been fixed on OSI. Now the question is what address you have in your distribution list that would cause this mail to go through OSI in the first place. I guess you might have something like "ietf%osi3@osi.ncsl.nist.gov." The other interesting point about your list is that we receive IETF mail to our exploder directly from venera.

Thus I suspect that there are two entries for OSI3 on your distribution list. One that gets relayed through OSI and one that points directly to OSI3. If this is the case please delete everything except the "ietf@osi3.ncsl.nist.gov." address.

If this is not the case or if there are other problems let me know.

~~~~~

g. My Reply Back

Here are all the addresses I have on the IETF list under NIST.GOV.

ietf@OSI3.NCSL.NIST.GOV,  
mills@OSI.NCSL.NIST.GOV

I'll delete "mills@osi.ncsl.nist.gov".

Here are two others at NIST

hunt@ENH.NIST.GOV,  
sting@CAM.NIST.GOV

By the way, on the following message, it looks like the Mailer-Daemon message went from OSI.ncsl.nist.gov to enh.nist.gov to venera.isi.edu.

--Ann

Return-Path: Mailer-Daemon@osi.ncsl.nist.gov  
 Received-Date: Thu, 8 Nov 90 12:44:11 PST  
 Received: from venera.isi.edu by zephyr.isi.edu (4.1/4.0.3-4)  
     id <AA19131>; Thu, 8 Nov 90 12:44:11 PST  
 Posted-Date: Thu, 8 Nov 90 15:39:54 EST  
 Received: from enh.nist.gov by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
     id <AA03448>; Thu, 8 Nov 90 12:44:01 -0800  
 Received: from OSI.NCSL.NIST.GOV by ENH.NIST.GOV;  
     Thu, 8 Nov 90 15:43 EDT  
 Received: by osi.ncsl.nist.gov (4.1/SMI-4.1) id AB14654;  
     Thu, 8 Nov 90 15:39:54 EST  
 Date: Thu, 8 Nov 90 15:39:54 EST  
 From: Mailer-Daemon@osi.ncsl.nist.gov  
 Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
 To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU  
 Message-Id: <9011082039.AB14654@osi.ncsl.nist.gov>  
 X-Envelope-To: owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 421 osi3: Host osi3 is down  
 550 Postmaster... User unknown

----- Unsent message follows -----

~~~~~  
 h. Another Problem .Forward

From: Doug Montgomery <doug@warthog.ncsl.nist.gov>  
 Organization: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
 To: westine@ISI.EDU  
 Subject: Re: 421 osi3:Host osi3 is down 550 Postmaster.. User unknown

Deleting the mills@osi.ncsl.nist.gov entry should fix your problems.  
 Mills has a .forward to osi3, thus explaining why IETF mail was going  
 ---> OSI ---> OSI3.

I checked OSI's sendmail.cf and it is relaying through enh. This,  
 though has nothing to do with the previous problem.

I flushed the queue of IETF mail on OSI waiting to go to OSI3. I  
 don't think you should see anymore bounced messages.

Sorry that our local problems were causing you grief .... let me know  
 if it happens again.

\*\*\*\*\*



## F.14. File Over Allocation

Date: Tue, 4 Sep 90 10:35:49 -0700  
From: MAILER-DAEMON (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Deferred: Connection timed out during user  
open with ames.arc.nasa.gov  
Posted-Date: Tue, 4 Sep 90 10:35:49 -0700  
To: owner-ietf

----- Transcript of session follows -----

>>> QUIT  
<<< 421 sage.acc.com SMTP Service not available:  
insufficient disk space.  
451 bboard.ietf@SAGE.ACC.COM... reply: read error  
bboard.ietf@SAGE.ACC.COM... reply: read error

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.15. File Deleted

Date: Fri, 10 Aug 90 14:21:57 EDT  
From: Daemon <daemon@ccj.bbn.com>  
Subject: Undeliverable mail  
To: westine

Mail could not be delivered to the following address(es):

/usr/databases/bugs/vaxmail@ccj.bbn.com: No such file  
or directory

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.16. Strange Postmaster

## a. Message Forwarded to IETF-Request

Forwarded: Thu, 21 Feb 91 14:31:09 PST  
Forwarded: westine  
Forwarded: postmaster@mbunix.mitre.org  
Forwarded: galvin@TIS.COM  
Return-Path: galvin@TIS.COM  
Received-Date: Sun, 17 Feb 91 17:48:07 PST  
Received: from venera.isi.edu by zephyr.isi.edu (4.1/4.0.3-4)  
id <AA03679>; Sun, 17 Feb 91 17:48:07 PST  
Posted-Date: Sun, 17 Feb 91 20:48:12 -0500  
Received: from TIS.COM by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA26292>; Sun, 17 Feb 91 17:48:01 -0800  
Received: from TIS.COM by TIS.COM (4.1/SUN-5.64DB)

id AA04098; Sun, 17 Feb 91 20:48:13 EST  
Reply-To: James M Galvin <galvin@TIS.COM>  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Failed Mail to IETF  
Date: Sun, 17 Feb 91 20:48:12 -0500  
From: James M Galvin <galvin@TIS.COM>

----- Forwarded Message  
Message-ID: <9102160528.AA27189@mbunix.mitre.org>  
From: galvin@tis.com <galvin@TIS.COM>  
To: Bill\_Anderson.G113\_MAIL@qmgate.mitre.org  
Date: 15 Feb 91 21:28:28  
Subject: Can't Find MailCenter!

<text deleted>

~~~~~  
b. Problem Reported to MITRE

To: postmaster@mbunix.mitre.org  
Cc: westine, galvin@TIS.COM  
Subject: RE: Can't Find MailCenter!  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 91 14:31:01 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi,

We're getting this problem again. Please fix.

Thank you.  
Ann

----- Forwarded Message

Date: Sun, 17 Feb 91 20:48:12 -0500  
From: James M Galvin <galvin@TIS.COM>  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Failed Mail to IETF

----- Forwarded Message

Message-ID: <9102160528.AA27189@mbunix.mitre.org>  
From: galvin@tis.com <galvin@TIS.COM>  
To: Bill\_Anderson.G113\_MAIL@qmgate.mitre.org  
Date: 15 Feb 91 21:28:28  
Subject: Can't Find MailCenter!

GatorMail-Q Re: 1st PRELIMINARY AGENDA/  
Received: by qmgate; 15 Feb 91 21:28:25  
Received: by mbunix.mitre.org (5.57/4.7)  
id AA25128; Fri, 15 Feb 91 21:26:46 EST  
Received: by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA17839>; Fri, 15 Feb 91 08:45:12 -0800  
Posted-Date: Fri, 15 Feb 91 11:45:16 -0500  
Received-Date: Fri, 15 Feb 91 08:45:09 -0800  
Received: from TIS.COM by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA17833>; Fri, 15 Feb 91 08:45:09 -0800  
Message-Id: <9102151645.AA26445@TIS.COM>  
Reply-To: James M Galvin <galvin@tis.com>  
To: Megan Davies <mdavies@nri.reston.va.us>  
Cc: ietf@venera.isi.edu  
Subject: Re: 1st PRELIMINARY AGENDA/ST. LOUIS  
In-Reply-To: Your message of Thu, 14 Feb 91 17:44:13 EST.  
<9102141744.aal5663@NRI.NRI.Reston.VA.US>  
Date: Fri, 15 Feb 91 11:45:16 -0500  
From: James M Galvin <galvin@tis.com>

<text deleted>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### F.17. Message Too Large

Date: Wed, 10 Oct 90 17:50:10 MDT  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@ncar.UCAR.EDU (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Service unavailable  
To: <westine@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows ----- 554  
olear@niwot.scd.ucar.edu... Message is too large; 50000 bytes max 554  
olear@niwot.scd.ucar.edu... Service unavailable

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.18. Vacation Messages

## a. Case 1

Date: Mon, 8 Oct 90 15:28:30 PDT  
From: David Wasley <dlw@violet.berkeley.edu>  
Subject: I am away from e-mail  
This\_Message\_Brought\_To\_You\_By: the vacation program  
Apparently-To: owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu

I am away from e-mail until October 13. If your message requires immediate attention, please contact one of the people below:

Network problems: Austin Shelton <austins@violet.Berkeley.EDU>

Network information: Bill Wells <netinfo@violet.Berkeley.EDU>  
Network installation: Jim Allison <jca@violet.Berkeley.EDU> If  
you're really desperate, leave me voice-mail at (415) 642-3478.  
Thanks for your patience! David Wasley, U C Berkeley

~~~~~

## b. Case 2

Date: Fri, 2 Nov 90 18:17:12 EST  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@dsl.cis.upenn.edu (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: unknown mailer error 1  
To: <mmm-people-request@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows -----

sh: vacation: not found  
554 "|vacation farber"... unknown mailer error 1

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.19. Local Configuration Errors

Date: Tue, 14 Aug 90 00:36:51 -0400  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@nyu.edu  
Subject: Returned mail: Local configuration error  
To: <owner-ietf>

----- Transcript of session follows -----

554 <russell@NYU.EDU>,<ittai@NYU.EDU>...  
Local configuration error

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.20. Service Unavailable

Date: Wed, 8 Aug 90 13:00:39 EDT  
From: Mailer-Daemon@omni.eng.clemson.edu  
Subject: Returned mail: Service unavailable  
To: <owner-ietf>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
Connected to eng.clemson.edu:

>>> HELO omni  
<<< 553 omni host name configuration error  
554 <gkrishn@ENG.CLEMSON.EDU>... Service unavailable

----- Unsent message follows -----

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.21. "Bad File Number"

To: <owner-ietf>  
From: The UTCS Post Office <postmaster@gpu.utcs.utoronto.ca>  
Subject: Delivery problems with your mail

Your message has been received by the University of Toronto Computing Services Postal System. A copy of it has been returned to you because of difficulties encountered while attempting to deliver your mail.

The following errors occurred while attempting delivery:

<smtp madhaus.utcs.utoronto.ca oattes@madhaus.utcs.utoronto.ca 1609>:  
128.100.102.10: 550 <nsr@madhaus.utcs.utoronto.ca>... User unknown:  
Bad file number

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.22. Cannot Append

Date: Sat, 11 Aug 90 14:51:57 PDT  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@uunet.uu.net (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Service unavailable  
To: uunet!venera.isi.edu!owner-ietf@uunet.UU.NET

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
mail: /var/spool/mail/cslater: cannot append  
Mail saved in dead.letter  
554 cslater... Service unavailable

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.23. Error Creating Network Link

"erlang::chang... Host unknown"

Date: Thu, 1 Nov 90 12:34:20 -0800  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: Deferred  
 To: <@decpa.pa.dec.com:owner-ietf@venera.isi.edu>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
         during mail delivery to <ERLANG::CHIU>.  
         Remote error code is 0x7e803a, message is:  
 %MAIL-E-LOGLINK, error creating network link to node CHIU  
 -SYSTEM-F-NOSUCHNODE, remote node is unknown  
 554 <erlang::chiu>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative answer from  
         name server)  
 mail11: connect: Connect failed, Node unreachable  
 (temporary failure)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
 <erlang::chiu> (bounced)  
 <netrix::gillin> (queued, will retry)  
 <erlang::rama> (sent)

----- Unsent message follows -----

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.24. Not a Typewriter

Date: Wed, 8 Aug 90 19:36:47 -0700  
 From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
 Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
 To: owner-ietf

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 get\_status: Not a typewriter  
 (mail11 operating system error)

451 <gray@netrix.enet.dec.com>... Operating system error  
 mail11: connect: Connect failed, Unrecognized object  
 (permanent failure)

554 <bansal@NETRIX.ENET.DEC.COM>... 550 Host unknown  
 (Authoritative answer from name server)

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<gray@netrix.enet.dec.com> (bounced)  
<bansal@NETRIX.ENET.DEC.COM> (bounced)

----- Unsent message follows -----

\*\*\*\*\*

F.25. "MTA Congestion"

Date: Tue, 7 Aug 90 22:37:48 -0700  
To: ietf-request  
From: DFN Gateway <postmaster%zix.gmd.dbp.de@RELAY.CS.NET>  
Subject: DFN Mail Network -- failed mail

Mail Failure Diagnostics:

Message Recipients:  
weidenhammer@vax.hmi.dbp.de: MTA congestion

\*\*\*\*\*

F.26. Local Forwarding Not Working

To: postmaster@ALLSPICE.LCS.MIT.EDU  
Subject: dukach@PTT.LCS.MIT.EDU... User unknown  
Date: Thu, 01 Nov 90 13:20:53 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>

Hi,

Would you mind checking into this error message before I delete this person from our list. I think it may be an internal forwarding problem at MIT. If not let me know if there is a new address or if I should delete this one.

--Ann

----- Forwarded Message

Date: Thu, 01 Nov 90 12:34:01 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@ISI.EDU (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
To: owner-dartnet@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown

```

----- Transcript of session follows -----
>>> RCPT To:<dukach@ALLSPICE.LCS.MIT.EDU>
<<< 550 /u/dukach/.forward:
      line 0: tabasco.lcs.mit.edu... User unknown
550 dukach@PTT.LCS.MIT.EDU... User unknown

```

```

----- Unsent message follows -----

```

```

To: westine@ISI.EDU
Cc: postmaster@ALLSPICE.LCS.MIT.EDU
Subject: Re: dukach@PTT.LCS.MIT.EDU... User unknown
In-Reply-To: Your message of Thu, 01 Nov 90 13:20:53 -0800.
              <9011012120.AA19211@venera.isi.edu>
Date: Thu, 01 Nov 90 17:16:44 -0500
From: jrd@ALLSPICE.LCS.MIT.EDU

```

Ann,

Please don't delete Semyon. I'll get him to fix his configuration.

Thanks,  
Chuck

\*\*\*\*\*

#### F.27. No Such File or Directory

```

Date: Tue, 11 Dec 90 17:57:08 -0800
From: MAILER-DAEMON@quake.stanford.edu (Mail Delivery Subsystem)
Subject: Returned mail: unknown mailer error 2
To: <westine@ISI.EDU>

```

```

----- Transcript of session follows -----
<<< RCPT To:<phil@quake.stanford.edu>
<<< RCPT To:<rick@quake.stanford.edu>
<<< DATA
mail: Creating /usr/spool/mail/phil -: No such file or directory
mail: Creating /usr/spool/mail/rick -: No such file or directory
Mail saved in dead.letter
554 <phil@quake.stanford.edu>,<rick@quake.stanford.edu>... unknown
mailer error

```

\*\*\*\*\*



## F.28. User Account Terminated

Date: Wed, 10 Oct 90 18:21:23 EDT  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@theory.TN.CORNELL.EDU  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
To: <westine@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
Connected to DEVVAX.TN.CORNELL.EDU:  
>>> RCPT To:<alison@devvax.tn.cornell.edu>  
<<< 550 <alison@devvax.tn.cornell.edu>... User unknown  
550 alison@devvax.tn.cornell.edu... User unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.29. Machine Terminated

Date: Wed, 10 Oct 90 19:33:26 EDT  
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@edn-vax.dca.mil>  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown  
To: <westine@ISI.EDU>

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
550 edn-unix.dca.mil.tcp... 550 Host unknown  
550 jsl@edn-unix.dca.mil... Host unknown

----- Unsent message follows -----

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.30. Couldn't Make Final Delivery.

## a. Case 1

Date: 29 Aug 90 13:17:34 EST  
From: "SMTP MAILER" <postmaster@ecf.ncsl.nist.gov>  
Subject: Mail Delivery Problem  
To: "owner-ietf" <owner-ietf>

-----Reason for mail failure follows-----  
Sending mail to recipient(s) Nakassis :  
Couldn't make final delivery.

%MAIL-E-OPENOUT, error opening USER2:[000000]NAKASSIS.DIR as output

~~~~~

## b. Case 2

Date: 8 Oct 90 20:24:32 EDT  
From: "SMTP MAILER" <postmaster@imo-uvax.dca.mil>  
Subject: Mail Delivery Problem  
To: "owner-ietf" <owner-ietf@ISI.EDU>

-----Reason for mail failure follows-----  
Sending mail to recipient(s) morrisd :  
Couldn't make final delivery.

%MRGATE-E-MRFROMVMS, Error transferring message to Message Router

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.31. Unknown ".ARPA" Hosts Without Updated Hostname

WHATHOST and DIG show nothing for DCA-EMS.ARPA. There is no referral to the new hostname. "WHOIS" DCA-EMS came up with the new hostname.

From: MAILER-DAEMON@ISI.EDU (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: Deferred: Host Name Lookup Failure  
Posted-Date: Tue, 13 Nov 90 15:59:34 -0800  
To: owner-internet-research-group@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
Coviello@DCA-EMS.ARPA,Elliott@DCA-EMS.ARPA,  
Hingorani@DCA-EMS.ARPA... Host unknown

westine 45% whathost dca-ems.arpa  
Unknown Host: dca-ems.arpa, errno 0, h\_errno 1 : Unknown host

~~~~~

westine 44% whois dca-ems  
Defense Communications Agency (DCA) (DCA-EMS)  
Office Automation Division  
Code H610  
Washington, DC 20305-2000

Hostname: DCA-EMS.DCA.MIL  
Address: 26.1.0.76  
System: BBN-C/70 running UNIX

Host Administrator:  
Wilkinson, Avis D. (ADW) AWilkins@DDN-CONUS.DDN.MIL  
(703) 848-4867

DCA-EMS.DCA.MIL users send E-Mail to AWilkins@DCA-EMS.DCA.MIL

Record last updated on 10-Sep-90.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### F.32. Messages From an Internet Relay to Commercial Mail Systems

##### a. Message Too Large

Date: 13 Feb 91 04:15:22 EST  
From: Electronic Postmaster <POSTMASTER@CompuServe.COM>  
To: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>  
Subject: Undeliverable message

Re: ? EMDITB - Mail Delivery Failure. Message too large.  
>EPX [74360,3202]

Internet Monthly Report

Your message could not be delivered as addressed.

--- Returned message ---

~~~~~

## b. Invalid Parameters

Date: 13 Feb 91 05:34 UT  
 From: "X.400 Gateway" <MAILER-DAEMON@sprint.com>  
 Subject: MHS NonDelivery Report  
 To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

Report from domain /PRMD=/ADMD=telemail/C=us/:

FAILED delivery to:

1 Recipient ORName:  
 /PN=tony.y.mazraani/DD.TS=SM55/O=SPRINTINTL/ADMD=TELEMAIL/C=US/  
 Translates to:  
 /PN=tony.y.mazraani/DD.TS=SM55/O=SPRINTINTL/ADMD=TELEMAIL/C=US  
 /@sprint.com  
 Reason: unable to transfer  
 Diagnostic: invalid parameters

## c. Looping

From: Allan.Cargille@pilot.cs.wisc.edu  
 To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU  
 Subject: Delivery Report (failure) for  
 Allan.Cargille@pilot.cs.wisc.edu  
 Message-Type: Delivery Report  
 Date: Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:34:41 +0000  
 Content-Idenfier: Why WAN multi...

This report relates to your message: Why WAN multi...  
 of Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:22:56 +0000

Your message was not delivered to  
 Allan.Cargille@pilot.cs.wisc.edu for the following reason:  
 Message looping detected (please contact local administrator)

\*\*\* The following information is directed towards the local  
 \*\*\* administrator and is not intended for the end user

\*  
 \* DR generated by mta pilot.cs.wisc.edu  
 \* in /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/  
 \* at Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:34:35 +0000  
 \*  
 \* Converted to RFC 822 at pilot.cs.wisc.edu  
 \* at Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:34:41 +0000  
 \*

```
* Delivery Report Contents:
*
* Subject-Submission-Identifier: [/PRMD=xnren/ADMD=
/C=us/;<9012121704.AA08993@decpa.pa.dec]
* Content-Identifier: Why WAN multi...
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:22:56 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:22:47 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:21:48 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 11:05:55 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 11:05:46 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 15:22:57 +0000 action Relayed
* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information: /PRMD=xnren/ADMD= /C=us/;
*      arrival Wed, 12 Dec 1990 11:04:50 +0000 action Relayed
* Recipient-Info: Allan.Cargille@pilot.cs.wisc.edu,
*      /G=Allan/S=Cargille/OU=cs/O=uw-madison/PRMD=xnren/ADMD=
*      /C=us/;
*      FAILURE reason Unable-To-Transfer (1);
*      diagnostic Loop-Detected (3);
*      last trace () Wed, 12 Dec 1990 11:04:50 +0000;
```

\*\*\*\*\* End of administration information

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.33. Incomplete DNS Data on Host

Date: Fri, 14 Dec 90 19:37:51 -0500  
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@shark.cs.fau.edu>  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown

----- Transcript of session follows -----

550 megasys.com (TCP)... 550 Host unknown  
550 <pax@MEGASYS.COM>... Host unknown (Valid name but no data  
[address])

westine 27% dig megasys.com any

```
; <<>> DiG <<>> megasys.com any
;; ->>HEADER<- opcode: QUERY , status: NOERROR, id: 6
;; flags: qr rd ra Ques: 1, Ans: 2, Auth: 2, Addit: 3

;; QUESTIONS:
;;      megasys.com, type = ANY, class = IN

;; ANSWERS:
megasys.com      IN      NS      UUNET.UU.NET      ; 172786
megasys.com      IN      NS      seismo.CSS.GOV    ; 172786

;; AUTHORITY RECORDS:
MEGASYS.COM      IN      NS      UUNET.UU.NET      ; 172786
MEGASYS.COM      IN      NS      seismo.CSS.GOV    ; 172786

;; ADDITIONAL RECORDS:
UUNET.UU.NET     IN      A       192.48.96.2       ; 447968
UUNET.UU.NET     IN      A       137.39.1.2        ; 170920
seismo.CSS.GOV  IN      A       192.12.141.25     ; 172786
```

\*\*\*\*\*

## F.34. Sublist Problem

From: fischer@math.ufl.edu  
Posted-Date: Mon, 17 Dec 90 12:28:23 EST  
Received: from gimme.math.ufl.edu by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA15131>; Mon, 17 Dec 90 09:28:24 -0800  
Received: by gimme.math.ufl.edu (4.1/4.03)  
id AA05948; Mon, 17 Dec 90 12:28:23 EST  
Date: Mon, 17 Dec 90 12:28:23 EST  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU, postmaster@ISI.EDU  
Subject: here we go again: please release me, let me go...

Fifth time now(?) I try this every couple of months now,  
figuring you may be hoplessly backed up.

Can you remove me from the ietf list? I may be there as  
either:

fischer@math.ufl.edu  
or  
netadm@math.ufl.edu

I would appreciate a confirmation message: I'm ready to use  
crontab for these mailings.

Many Thanks,

Randy Fischer

~~~~~  
To: fischer@math.ufl.edu  
cc: ietf-request@ISI.EDU, postmaster@ISI.EDU  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Subject: Re: here we go again: please release me, let me go...  
In-reply-to: Your message of Mon, 17 Dec 90 12:28:23 -0500.  
<9012171728.AA05948@gimme.math.ufl.edu>  
Date: Mon, 17 Dec 90 10:15:36 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@venera.isi.edu>

Hi Randy,

I remember your request, and I also remember telling you that you are  
not on our list (at least individually). There is an exploder  
"netadm@MATH.UFL.EDU" maintained at UFL.EDU. You need to check with  
the postmaster to see if you are on their list. If this is not the  
case, here are the only other addresses I have from UFL.EDU

ceben@NERVM.NERDC.UFL.EDU,  
esj@UFL.EDU,  
FCLA@NERVM.NERDC.UFL.EDU,  
netadm@MATH.UFL.EDU,  
POKE@NERVM.NERDC.UFL.EDU,

There is another possibility, perhaps you have a pointer to a mailbox somewhere else?

Regards,  
Ann

~~~~~  
From: Operator <root@math.ufl.edu>  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU, westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: re: done at last: please release me, let me go...

Many, many thanks for the reply: I did not, somehow, see your previous reply -- perhaps you forwarded it to someone at UFL.EDU instead of MATH.UFL.EDU? Or I missed it in the flow of mail I am trying to abate.  
No matter.

At any rate "netadm@math.ufl.edu" is indeed a local exploder, aliased at the moment to myself and one of my assistants. It is local to the "math.ufl.edu" subdomain, and not to "ufl.edu" as your records indicate. I am the postmaster of the "math.ufl.edu", and you should be able to verify "math.ufl.edu" has an MX record pointing to "mathlab.math.ufl.edu". I am therefore mailing to you as root from that machine.

Please remove "netadm@math.ufl.edu" from your list. I have quite enjoyed the discussions, but the volume been overwhelming.

Thanks very much for your prompt reply,  
Appreciatively,

-Randy Fischer <root@math.ufl.edu> <fischer@math.ufl.edu>

\*\*\*\*\*



## F.35. File Protection Problem

From: "Raj Jain, LKG1-2/A19, DTN: 226-7642, 508-486-7642  
09-Feb-1991 0904"  
<jain@erlang.enet.dec.com>  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Request to add to IETF

I seem to have suddenly dropped off the IETF distribution list. I have not received any IETF mail since 9-Jan-91. Could you please ensure that I am still in the distribution list.

-Raj Jain

~~~~~  
To: "Raj Jain, LKG1-2/A19, DTN: 226-7642,  
508-486-7642 09-Feb-1991 0904" <jain@erlang.enet.dec.com>  
cc: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU, ietf-request  
Reply-To: westine@isi.edu  
Subject: Re: Request to add to IETF  
In-reply-to: Your message of Sat, 09 Feb 91 06:07:15 -0800.  
<9102091407.AA06473@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 91 11:17:41 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@rwa.isi.edu>

Hi Raj,

I will readd you to the IETF list. However, if I receive more error messages like this, then I must take your name off the list again. I've sent messages to the postmaster at DEC but the problem isn't corrected. Your address isn't the only one, there's CALLON and a few others.

Maybe you can check into this. Here's the header from one of the many error messages I received.

Regards, --Ann

Date: Wed, 9 Jan 91 17:04:41 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "erlang",  
during mail delivery to <ERLANG::JAIN>.  
Remote error code is 0x7e81fa, message is:  
%MAIL-E-OPENOUT, error opening !AS as output  
-RMS-E-PRV, insufficient privilege or file protection violation  
(can't decypher error code)  
550 <jain@ERLANG.DEC.COM>... User unknown

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<jain@ERLANG.DEC.COM> (bounced)

~~~~~  
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 91 17:54:20 EST  
From: "Raj Jain, LKG1-2/A19, DTN: 226-7642, 508-486-7642  
12-Feb-1991 1751"  
<jain@erlang.enet.dec.com>  
To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Re: Request to add to IETF

The error message that you sent is unfortunately my mistake and has nothing to do with DECWRL. One day I reset protection on all my files and directories and didn't realize that even the system did not have the privilege to write mail messages on my disk. I discovered it only after several people sent phone messages to me. Thanks for adding my name again. I will try to be careful. -Raj

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## F.36. User Unknown

## a. Request to be Readded to IETF List

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 91 10:03:54 PST  
From: "Paul Ciarfella DTN 227-3548 Outside 508 952-3548  
11-Feb-1991 1301"  
<ciarfella@levers.enet.dec.com>  
To: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Subject: add me to the ietf list (again)

Hi -

Could I be added to the ietf distribution list (again). I must have been dropped from the list somehow. This happened to me before the last ietf - I had to get my name reregistered then, too.

Thanks,

Paul Ciarfella ciarfella@levers.enet.dec.com

~~~~~  
b. Message to User Regarding Readd and Previous Problems

To: "Paul Ciarfella DTN 227-3548 Outside 508 952-3548 11-Feb-1991  
1301" <ciarfella@levers.enet.dec.com>  
Cc: ietf-request@ISI.EDU  
Reply-To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: Re: add me to the ietf list (again)  
In-Reply-To: Your message of Mon, 11 Feb 91 10:03:54 -0800.  
<9102111803.AA11116@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
Date: Wed, 13 Feb 91 11:05:46 PST  
From: Ann Westine <westine@ISI.EDU>

Hi Paul,

Every couple of months I have lots of error messages from several individual mailboxes on ENET.DEC.COM. Here is a typical one. Since I cannot reach you I am forced to delete your mailbox.

I have sent several messages to the postmaster at DEC but nothing has been corrected. Perhaps you can look into this.

--Ann

Return-Path: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com  
Received-Date: Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:53:19 PST  
Received: from venera.isi.edu by zephyr.isi.edu (4.1/4.0.3-4)  
id <AA11360>; Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:53:19 PST  
Posted-Date: Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:42:03 -0800  
Received: from decpa.pa.dec.com by venera.isi.edu  
(5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA08309>; Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:53:17 -0800  
Received: by decpa.pa.dec.com; id AA12106; Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:42:03  
Date: Tue, 11 Dec 90 19:42:03 -0800  
From: MAILER-DAEMON@decwrl.dec.com (Mail Delivery Subsystem)  
Subject: Returned mail: User unknown  
Message-Id: <9012120342.AA12106@decpa.pa.dec.com>  
To: owner-ietf@ISI.EDU

----- Transcript of session follows -----

mail11: input timeout reading remote object  
get\_status: Connection timed out  
(temporary failure)

mail11: Error from DECnet MAIL object on node "levers",  
during mail delivery to <LEVERS::CIARFELLA>.  
Remote error code is 0x7e81fa, message is:  
%MAIL-E-OPENOUT, error opening !AS as output  
-RMS-E-CRE, ACP file create failed  
-SYSTEM-W-DIRALLOC, allocation failure on directory file  
(can't decypher error code)  
550 <ciarfella@LEVERS.ENET.DEC.COM>... User unknown

----- Recipients of this delivery -----  
<hayden@LEVERS.ENET.DEC.COM> (queued, will retry)  
<ciarfella@LEVERS.ENET.DEC.COM> (bounced)  
<anil@LEVERS.ENET.DEC.COM> (sent)

~~~~~

## c. Response from User Regarding Problem

Return-Path: ciarfella@levers.enet.dec.com  
Received-Date: Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:25 PST  
Received: from venera.isi.edu by zephyr.isi.edu (4.1/4.0.3-4)  
id <AA26215>; Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:25 PST  
Posted-Date: Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:02 PST  
Received: from decpa.pa.dec.com by venera.isi.edu (5.61/5.61+local)  
id <AA04585>; Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:22 -0800  
Received: by decpa.pa.dec.com; id AA14420; Wed, 13  
Feb 91 13:51:00 -0800  
Received: from levers.enet; by decwrl.enet; Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:02 PST  
Date: Wed, 13 Feb 91 13:51:02 PST  
From: "I'll die for my country but I won't kill for Texaco  
13-Feb-1991 1641"  
<ciarfella@levers.enet.dec.com>  
To: westine@ISI.EDU  
Subject: re: add me to the ietf list (again)

Hi Ann,

Could we try another address for me? The old address has been  
plagued by disk problems which might explain why the mail is not  
getting delivered.

The new address to register is:

ciarfella@quiver.enet.dec.com

I will check into the problem on this end. Sorry about the tone of  
my first message but this has been a never-ending problem for over 8  
months.

Thank you,

Paul C

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## 5. Security Considerations

Security issues are not discussed in this memo.

6. Authors' Addresses

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