NAME

   mailwrapper - invoke appropriate MTA software based on configuration file

SYNOPSIS

   Special. See below.

DESCRIPTION

   Once upon time, the only Mail Transfer Agent (MTA) software easily available was "sendmail". This
   famous MTA was written by Eric Allman and first appeared in 4.1BSD. The legacy of this MTA
   affected most Mail User Agents (MUAs) such as mail(1); the path and calling conventions expected by
   "sendmail" were compiled in.

   But times changed. On a modern FreeBSD system, the administrator may wish to use one of several
   available MTAs.

   It would be difficult to modify all MUA software typically available on a system, so most of the authors
   of alternative MTAs have written their front end message submission programs that may appear in the
   place of */usr/sbin/sendmail*, but still follow the same calling conventions as "sendmail".

   The "sendmail" MTA also typically has aliases named mailq(1) and newaliases(1) linked to it. The
   program knows to behave differently when its *argv[0]* is "mailq" or "newaliases" and behaves
   appropriately. Typically, replacement MTAs provide similar functionality, either through a program
   that also switches behavior based on calling name, or through a set of programs that provide similar
   functionality.

   Although having replacement programs that plug replace "sendmail" helps in installing alternative
   MTAs, it essentially makes the configuration of the system depend on hand installing new programs in
   /usr. This leads to configuration problems for many administrators, since they may wish to install a new
   MTA without altering the system provided */usr*. (This may be, for example, to avoid having upgrade
   problems when a new version of the system is installed over the old.) They may also have a shared */usr*
   among several machines, and may wish to avoid placing implicit configuration information in a read-
   only */usr*.

   The **mailwrapper** program is designed to replace */usr/sbin/sendmail* and to invoke an appropriate MTA
   based on configuration information placed in *${LOCALBASE}/etc/mail/mailer.conf* falling back on
   /etc/mail/mailer.conf. This permits the administrator to configure which MTA is to be invoked on the
   system at run time.

   Other configuration files may need to be altered when replacing sendmail(8). For example, if the
   replacement MTA does not support the **-A** option with mailq(1), *daily_status_include_submit_mailq*

should be turned off in */etc/periodic.conf*.

FILES

Configuration for **mailwrapper** is kept in *${LOCALBASE}/etc/mail/mailer.conf* or */etc/mail/mailer.conf*. */usr/sbin/sendmail* is typically set up as a symbolic link to **mailwrapper** which is not usually invoked on its own.

EXIT STATUS

The **mailwrapper** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

DIAGNOSTICS

The **mailwrapper** will print a diagnostic if its configuration file is missing or malformed, or does not contain a mapping for the name under which it was invoked.

SEE ALSO

dma(8), mail(1), mailq(1), newaliases(1), mailer.conf(5), periodic.conf(5), sendmail(8)

HISTORY

The **mailwrapper** utility first appeared in NetBSD 1.4 and then FreeBSD 4.0.

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BUGS

The entire reason this program exists is a crock. Instead, a command for how to submit mail should be standardized, and all the "behave differently if invoked with a different name" behavior of things like mailq(1) should go away.