

# Mutt sidebar (folder list)

## Introduction

[Mutt](#) is the mail client of choice for people who are wary of fancy graphical user interfaces. I do like [Mozilla Thunderbird](#), [Balsa](#), and even [Outlook Express](#). My biggest problem with all of these mail clients, however, is that I cannot use [Vim](#) to write my emails.

Unfortunately, though, mutt lacks an important feature that most email clients do have: a folder list that allows you to see all mail folders you have and how many (new) emails they each contain.

[Justin Hibbits](#) wrote a mutt patch that is an approximate fix to this problem. [Thomer M. Gil](#) helped him by adding some features and fixing some bugs. I temporarily borrowed most of the text from [Thomer's mutt sidebar page](#), at least until I can find the time to figure out what needs to change here.

## Features

- A sidebar with a list of folders on the left side of the mutt window.

- Hide/Unhide the sidebar with a single keystroke.

- Every line in the sidebar lists a folder with the total and new number of messages in it.

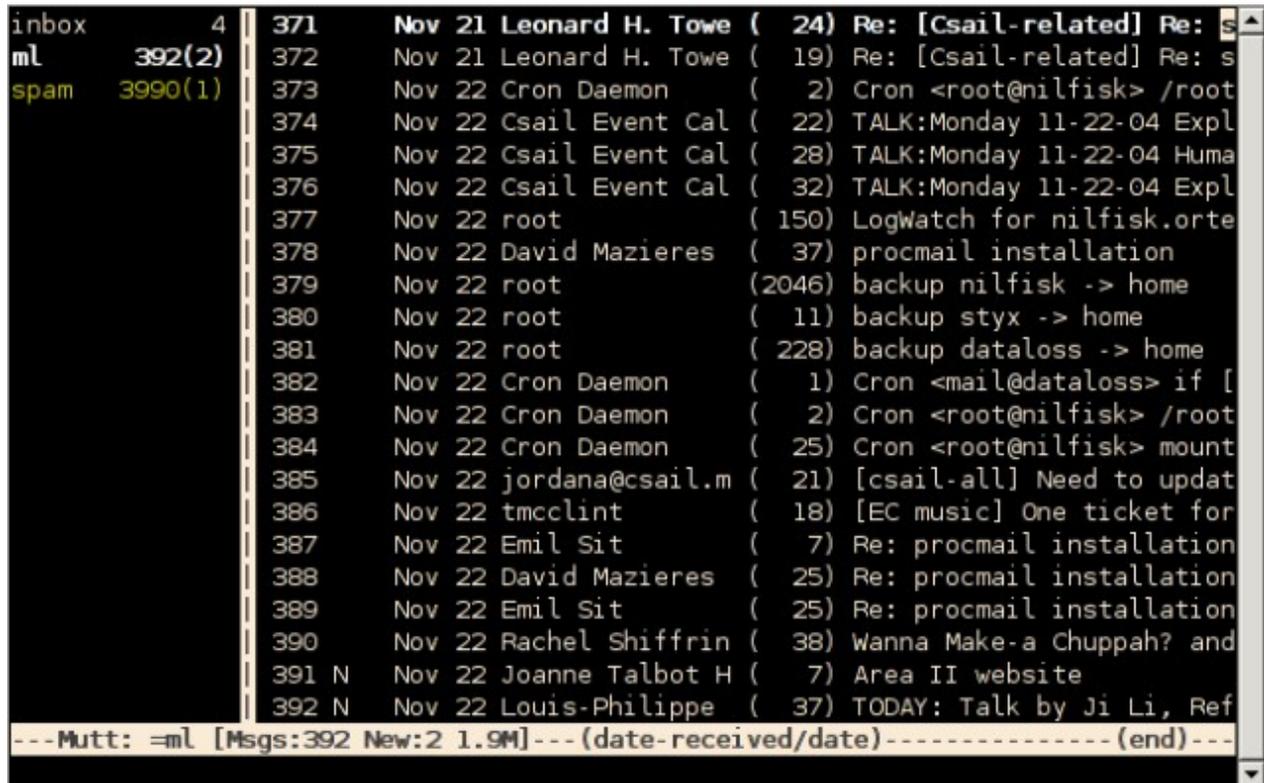
- Optionally highlight folders with new messages.

- Scroll up and down the list of folders and open the selected folder.

- Configurable sidebar width and colors.

- Configurable key bindings.

## Screenshot



```
inbox 4
ml 392(2)
spam 3990(1)
371 Nov 21 Leonard H. Towe ( 24) Re: [Csail-related] Re: s
372 Nov 21 Leonard H. Towe ( 19) Re: [Csail-related] Re: s
373 Nov 22 Cron Daemon ( 2) Cron <root@nilfisk> /root
374 Nov 22 Csail Event Cal ( 22) TALK:Monday 11-22-04 Expl
375 Nov 22 Csail Event Cal ( 28) TALK:Monday 11-22-04 Huma
376 Nov 22 Csail Event Cal ( 32) TALK:Monday 11-22-04 Expl
377 Nov 22 root ( 150) LogWatch for nilfisk.orte
378 Nov 22 David Mazieres ( 37) procmail installation
379 Nov 22 root (2046) backup nilfisk -> home
380 Nov 22 root ( 11) backup styx -> home
381 Nov 22 root ( 228) backup dataloss -> home
382 Nov 22 Cron Daemon ( 1) Cron <mail@dataloss> if [
383 Nov 22 Cron Daemon ( 2) Cron <root@nilfisk> /root
384 Nov 22 Cron Daemon ( 25) Cron <root@nilfisk> mount
385 Nov 22 jordana@csail.m ( 21) [csail-all] Need to updat
386 Nov 22 tmcc Clint ( 18) [EC music] One ticket for
387 Nov 22 Emil Sit ( 7) Re: procmail installation
388 Nov 22 David Mazieres ( 25) Re: procmail installation
389 Nov 22 Emil Sit ( 25) Re: procmail installation
390 Nov 22 Rachel Shiffrin ( 38) Wanna Make-a Chuppah? and
391 N Nov 22 Joanne Talbot H ( 7) Area II website
392 N Nov 22 Louis-Philippe ( 37) TODAY: Talk by Ji Li, Ref
---Mutt: =ml [Msgs:392 New:2 1.9M]--- (date-received/date)----- (end)---
```

```

# set up the sidebar, default not visible
set sidebar_width=12
set sidebar_visible=no
set sidebar_delim='|'

# which mailboxes to list in the sidebar
mailboxes =inbox =ml

# color of folders with new mail
color sidebar_new yellow default

# ctrl-n, ctrl-p to select next, prev folder
# ctrl-o to open selected folder
bind index \CP sidebar-prev
bind index \CN sidebar-next
bind index \CO sidebar-open
bind pager \CP sidebar-prev
bind pager \CN sidebar-next
bind pager \CO sidebar-open

# I don't need these. just for documentation purposes.
# sidebar-scroll-up
# sidebar-scroll-down

# b toggles sidebar visibility
macro index b '<enter-command>toggle sidebar_visible<ent
macro pager b '<enter-command>toggle sidebar_visible<ent

# Remap bounce-message function to "B"
bind index B bounce-message

#
# Mario Holbe suggests:
# macro index b '<enter-command>toggle sidebar_visible<e
# macro pager b '<enter-command>toggle sidebar_visible<e
#

```

#### **sidebar\_width (number)**

Width of the sidebar.

#### **sidebar\_visible (boolean)**

Whether or not the sidebar is visible.

#### **sidebar\_delim (string)**

Specifies the delimiter between the sidebar and other screens

#### **color sidebar\_new [fg] [bg]**

The foreground (fg) and background (bg) color of folders that contain new mail.

**Ctrl +p**

#### **sidebar-prev**

Mutt's name for the operation that selects the previous folder.

**Ctrl +n**

#### **sidebar-next**

Mutt's name for the operation that selects the next folder.

**Ctrl +o**

#### **sidebar-open**

Mutt's name for the operation that opens the currently selected folder.

#### **sidebar-scroll-up**

Only useful if you have more folders than lines in your terminal: scrolls one page up through the list of folders.

#### **sidebar-scroll-down**

Only useful if you have more folders than lines in your terminal: scrolls one page down through the list of folders.