Question and Answer

Most of the questions were about Thunderbird, but a couple of other points cropped up.

How to save and use Templates in Thunderbird

In case you did not know, it is possible to create a template message and save it so that when a standard response or message is required, then this template can be pulled up and edited. By default the templates are saved in a folder called Templates associated with each account, but it can be changed by going to the account properties and the Copies & Folders tab, where the settings are for Templates and Drafts as well as what you have sent.

To create a template, open a compose window as though you are going to write a message, and fill in all the text that you will use as standard, and also put in a suitable Subject line. To save it use the File -> Save As -> Template menu item.

To use such a template, just open the Template folder, and double click on the subject line of the template you wish to use, and it will open it as though you are in the usual compose window for messages.

Repairing folders in Thunderbird

Occasionally, Thunderbird seems to lose some synchronisation, or consistency, in its files and folders. If you suspect this has happened, then one thing to try before taking more drastic action is to try to repair it by right clicking on the folder name and select Properties; under the General Information tab is a button to attempt to repair the folder.

Thunderbird filters

Sometimes you wish to ensure that messages from certain people, or about certain topics, etc. are placed in separate folders automatically. This will save you from always having to move them from the in tray to the relevant folder by hand each and every time they appear. Thunderbird provides Filters for this purpose from Tools -> Message Filters.

In that dialog you can select the intray to operate on from the drop down list at the top. Then there are fairly obvious buttons and dialogs to set up the appropriate filter. the New button enables you to give a name to the filter, define one or more conditions it will activate from, and an action to take when it triggers.

What happens to old e-mail addresses?

To be precise, this question was referring to old e-mail addresses associated with an ISP when you change ISP. Does the old one still work? The answer depends on the ISP and what their terms and conditions say. Typically, as you change ISPs you should log onto your ISPs webmail and set up re-directs to the new address, In that way any messages arriving at the old address will be forwarded until it is eventually deleted.

To see whether the old address is still active, then try logging onto it as webmail and check. I think, but do not know, that most ISPs will allow the e-mail account to remain for some months before removing it.

Change of desktop changed scrolling options

One of our members noticed that when she updated her system, the desktop changed its behaviour for scrolling of windows. In particular, the little button at the bottom of the scroll bar used to move the window down a line at a time when clicked. The new system did not have this button, but the same functionality can be obtained by using the wheel on the mouse, or the down arrow on the keyboard.

Linux update speed

When you receive updates from your Linux supplier, like Mint, they are delivered from repositories. There are several copies of these repositories around the world, and they do not all work at the same speed for your location. So how do you find the best available?

For Linux Mint, at Menu -> Administration -> Software Sources you will see two buttons at the top for the Main and Base repository. Clicking on one will show a list of all the mirrors, and if you wait bars will appear to show how fast the access to them. Selecting the fastest one on the list may improve your performance when taking updates. For example, when I just now checked, the fastest Mint repository was in Germany, not the US which is the default, nor the UK which one would expect to be closer.

You should wait sufficient time for all repositories to be checked. Be patient while it looks.

There is also button that will restore the defaults.

References

None this month.