

NAME

vacation – reply to mail automatically

SYNOPSIS

vacation start

vacation stop

vacation

-I

vacation

[-t interval] [-m Msgfile] [-d] [-a alias] [user]

DESCRIPTION

vacation automatically replies to incoming mail. The canned reply is contained in the file *.vacation.msg*, that you should create in your home directory (or the file *Msgfile* specified by in the **-m** option).

This file should include a header with at least a “Subject:” line (it should not include a “To:” line -- if you want, you may include a From: line, especially if you use the **-m** option). For example:

```
Subject: I am on vacation
```

```
I am on vacation until July 22.
If you have something urgent, please contact
Joe Jones (joe@blah.utoronto.ca).
--john
```

No message is sent if the “user” specified in the *vacation* command (if nothing is specified, it uses your username) does not appear explicitly in the To: or Cc: lines of the message, which prevents messages from being sent back to mailing lists and causing loops.

USAGE

To start *vacation*, run the command

```
vacation start
```

It will create a *.vacation.msg* file (if you don’t already have one) in your home directory containing the message you want to send people who send you mail, and a

```
.forward
```

file in your home directory containing a line of the form:

```
" \name", "|/opt/mail/bin/vacation name"
```

Where *name* is your login name.

Make sure these files and your home directory are readable by everyone. Also make sure that no one else can write to them, and that no one can write to your home directory.

```
chmod og-w $HOME $HOME/.forward
```

To stop *vacation(1zm)*, run the command:

```
vacation stop
```

It will move the *.forward* file to *.vacforward*, and the automatic replies will stop.

OPTIONS

-a alias

Handle messages for *alias* in the same manner as those received for the user’s login name.

-I, -i initialize the *.vacation.pag* and *.vacation.dir* files and start *vacation*.

If the **-I**(or **-i**) flag is not specified, *vacation* tries to reply to the sender.

-t*interval*

-r*interval*

Change the interval between repeat replies to the same sender.

A trailing **s**, **m**, **h**, **d**, or **w** scales *interval* to seconds, minutes, hours, days, or weeks respectively. Default multiplier is 'days'.

Default interval is 1.00 days, unless ZENV data sets something else.

Minimum supported interval is 30 seconds!

-m*Msgfile*

specifies the file in which the message to be sent is kept. The default is \$HOME/.vacation.msg.

-d disables the list of senders kept in the *.vacation.pag* and *.vacation.dir* files.

FILES

A list of senders is kept in the files *.vacation.pag* and *.vacation.dir* in your home directory. These are *dbm* database files. (Note: not all database systems have two files, either may be missing.) The vacation message is in *.vacation.msg* and the automatic reply is activated by the *.forward* (and saved in *.vacforward*) The default vacation message is stored in */opt/mail/vacation.msg*

ZMAILER NOTES

On machines running **ZMailer**, the *name* argument to vacation is optional, and the **USER** environment variable is used to determine where to look for the message and the list of previous recipients.

The **SENDER** variable is checked first to determine the reply destination. It is normally set to the SMTP "MAIL FROM" address or equivalent. This is an additional safeguard against sending replies to mailing lists, the PostMaster or the mailer daemon, since standards and common sense dictate that it never points back to an address that could cause a loop. The **From** _ line is used only as a last resort.

SEE ALSO

sendmail(8zm), *zmailer.conf(5zm)*, *Zmailer Manual* (<http://zmailer.org/>)

AUTHOR

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