Detailed list of features

Sympa is a mailing list management software, and as such it provides a couple of standard features which most mailing list software programs provide. In addition to this basic set of features, you may customize the software given the specifications you have for your mailing service. Below is a detailed list of features that Sympa provides. It has been organized to help you find out if Sympa meets your needs.

You can refer to the manual for more details on each feature.

Email commands

feature	details	related documentation
subscribe/unsubscribe		
review list members	a list configuration parameter defines who can review list members	
available mailing lists	the WHICH command lists available mailing lists, but lists may be configured as hidden	
send message	list can be configured to request a challenge email	
contact list owners	the list-request address automatically refers to list owners	
digest	user can select the digest reception mode	
digest modes	Sympa provides different kind of digests (MIME, textplain, notice, summary)	
conceal	list members can hide from the members review page	
get archive	user can request list archive (index and messages)	

Web interface

feature	details	related documentation
a single web interface	a single web interface provides user and admin interfaces	
flexible user authentication	user can authenticate with Sympa's own mechanism or via an enterprise mechanism	
internationalization	the web interface is translated into 20 different languages	translations
RSS feed	RSS feeds show the latest lists and the latest messages for each list	
XHTML compliance	the web interface is compliant with the W3C	
accessibility	sympa GUI is WAI compliant	
shared documents	Sympa provides a web documents sharing function with access control definition	documentation
web archive	mailing list archives can be browsed/searched through the web	
members review	list members / owners can review the list members	
member pictures	list members can upload their pictures on to the list	

feature	details	related documentation
message topics	users can subscribe to message topics defined for a list	[documentation](#)
mail composer	subscribers can post messages from the web interface	
HTML mail composer	turning an external HTML page into a clean multipart MIME message	

Web archive

feature	details	related documentation
MIME compliance	web archiving uses MhOnArc tool that can easily handle complex MIME messages	
thread and chronological organization	messages are sorted and linked in both modes	
spam protection	email addresses are protected via different mechanisms	
crawler protection	web archive can be protected from crawlers	
search engine	user can search web archives; it includes an advanced search mode	
private archive	access control is enforced for non-public list archives	
message reply	user can reply to messages through the web interface	
message removal	a message can be removed by the list owner or by its authenticated author	
resend message	user can ask to receive the message again	
export archive	list owners can download a ZIP of the list archive	
quota	listmaster can determine list archive quotas	
RSS feed	latest messages are published via RSS	
customizeable archive	archive organization can be customized via the MhOnArc resource file	

MIME support

feature	details	related documentation
RFC 2369 support	sympa sets SMTP header fields defined in RFC 2369	
X-No-Archive header field	Sympa checks the X-No-Archive header field	
anonymize header fields	Sympa can anonymize SMTP header fields	[documentation](#)
MIME digest	sympa provides both plaintext and MIME digests	
multipart/alternative support	multipart/alternative messages are handled for mail commands and text/html reception modes	
S/MIME support	sympa handles S/MIME signed and encrypted messages	[documentation](#)
bounces format	Sympa handles RFC1891 bouncing messages + other common formats	

feature	details	related documentation
headers and footers	list owner can define MIME or plaintext headers and footers	
urlize	message attachments can be detached on the server, with URL sent to list members	

Bounces management

feature	details	related documentation
bounce analysis	bounces are analyzed ; most bounce formats are recognized	
automatic bounce management	sympa has a sophisticated algorithm to trigger bouncing user notification/removal	documentation
advanced VERP	sympa does VERP for part of the list members during each mail processing	documentation
distribution optimization	messages are first distributed to non-bouncing users to optimize the delivery time	
web view of bouncers	list owners can view the currently bouncing users with advanced information available	

List owner features

feature	details	related documentation
moderate messages	list moderators can moderate messages via the mail or web interfaces	
moderate subscriptions	list owners can moderate subscription requests	
edit mail service messages	owners can edit service messages (templates)	
edit list config	owners can edit list configuration, according to their profile	
view logs	list owners can view logs related to their mailing list	

Listmaster features

feature	details	related documentation
search user	listmaster can search all the mailing lists of which a user is a member/admin	
list moderation	listmaster can validate/reject pending mailing lists via the web	
list removal	listmaster can close a list via the web	
list active user sessions	view all active user sessions with IP adresses	
change identity	listmaster can take someone else's identity for test purposes	
customize templates	listmaster can customize mail/web templates from the web	

Performances and Scalability

feature	details	related documentation
bulk mailer	mail distribution is very fast thanks to a built-in bulk mailer	parameters
database	user information is stored in a RDBMS to gain a faster response time	documentation
dedicated processes	sympa comes with 6 specialized processes (web, mail, archives, bounces, task manager, soap)	
fast web interface	sympa uses the fastCGI technology to have a persistant web server	documentation
big lists	up to 700.000 subscribers	
many lists	up to 20.000 mailing lists	
full virtual hosting	a single sympa server can provide true virtual hosting (handles the same list names within different vhosts)	documentation
list families	list creation can be automated	documentation

Integration with third party software

feature	details	related documentation
dynamic mailing lists	list members can be extracted from an external database (SQL, LDAP)	documentation
user authentication	authentication can use an LDAP database or Single Sign-On servers (CAS, Shibboleth,...)	documentation
SOAP interface	most Sympa features are accessible through a SOAP interface	documentation
supported RDBMS	Sympa can use different RDBMS (mysql, posgresql, sqlight, oracle or sybase)	documentation
supported MTA	Sympa can be coupled with most MTAs (sendmail, postfix, qmail, exim)	

Security

feature	details	related documentation
loop prevention	sympa detects messages that could create loops	documentation
user session management	web sessions are handled in the database in a secure way	
S/MIME	both S/MIME signature and encryption are handled	documentation
DKIM	Use of incoming DKIM signature and optionaly signature of outgoing mail	documentation
authorization	access control is enforced via Sympa's authorization scenarios	documentation
spam protection	anti-spam header fields can trigger custom actions	documentation
virus protection	Sympa can be plugged with multiple anti-virus software (McAfee/uvscan, Fsecure/fsav, Sophos, AVP, Trend Micro/VirusWall and Clam Antivirus)	documentation
quotas	listmaster can define quotas for message size, web archives, shared documents	

feature	details	related documentation
XSS CSRF protection	Web interface is protected agains XSS by filtering all HTML	

Customization

feature	details	related documentation
mail personnalization	custom variables to adapt content to each list member	documentation
CSS	the Sympa CSS can easily be customized	
web templates	each web page is defined via a TT2 template that can be customized	
mail services templates	mail command output is defined via TT2 templates that can be customized	
authorization scenarios	authorization scenarios can be customized to apply to site-specific access control rules	
SOAP interface	sites can configure their own software to call on Sympa services via SOAP	documentation
custom user attributes	list owner can defined custom user attributes, provisioning is done at the moment of subscription	
custom list parameters	list owner can define custom list parameters, which are later used on the web interface	
list privileges	site admin can define what list configurations can be edited by list owner	

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