University of Rochester LISTSERV

List Owner’s Guide:
Instructions for Self Service

Access via: https://lists.rochester.edu

Revised April 2019
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About this guide

This guide is intended for list owners with experience using LISTSERV in a subscriber capacity. The goal of this document is to assist with selecting the appropriate list type, requesting and setting up a list, and utilizing basic list management tools.

Support

For additional assistance using the University of Rochester LISTSERV or to provide suggestions for the University of Rochester LISTSERV or this guide, contact:

University IT
585-275-2000
UnivITHelp@rochester.edu
http://tech.rochester.edu
Introduction to LISTSERV

The University of Rochester LISTSERV is a tool used to create and manage email distribution lists. Distribution lists allow users to disseminate an email message simultaneously to a group of people in a fast and convenient manner.

Distribution list roles

- **List owner** – the person(s) formally in charge of the operation of a specific list. List owners:
  - Set and change the configuration of the list
  - Add, delete, and modify subscriptions to the list
  - Assist subscribers and potential subscribers

- **List moderator** – receives incoming messages sent to a moderated list and determines whether they should be distributed to the list. List moderators:
  - Approve messages to be posted to the list
  - Stop inappropriate messages from being sent to the list
  - May edit the content of messages before sending them to the list

- **List subscriber** – are members of a distribution list. Subscribers:
  - Can leave a list
  - Can set the way they receive list postings or change the name or email address associated with their subscription, within the configuration limits set by the list owner
  - May be permitted to search and view the archives
  - May be permitted to send messages to the list, depending on the type of list

- **Non-subscribers** – everyone not subscribed to a list. Non-subscribers:
  - Can make a request via LISTSERV to be subscribed to a particular list
  - Depending on the list configuration, they may or may not be allowed to send messages to a list or read its archives

Types of distribution lists

- **One-Way Announcement Lists** – The owners of the list are the only individuals who are permitted to send messages to the list. This type of list is primarily used for announcements, newsletters, or notifications.

- **Two-Way Discussion Lists** – All members of the list are permitted to send messages to the list. This type of list is primarily used for subject-related or common interest discussions groups.

- **Moderated Lists** – The owners and moderators of the list review the messages sent to the list. Owners and editors may choose to approve, edit, or deny the messages disseminated to subscribers.

- **Hosted** – List membership is managed automatically through Maestro – members meeting specific criteria are automatically added or removed from the list. Subscribers may not be able to remove themselves from this type of distribution list, depending on the configuration of the list.

- **LISTSERV List** – List membership is managed manually by the list owners, moderators, and possibly subscribers, depending on the configuration of the list.
Subscription guidelines

- Public or Open – These lists allow anyone to join or leave, ask questions, see who is on the list, and review the list archives.

- Private or Closed – Access to these lists is limited by the list owner(s). Individuals wishing to subscribe must be approved by the list owner prior to subscribing to the list. The list archives and membership are only available to approved subscribers (and in some cases, only a subset therein).

Getting Started

Access

As a list owner, you will access LISTSERV via a web interface, located at https://lists.rochester.edu. From the interface, you can set and change your list configurations, modify subscriptions to your lists, and perform other administrative functions associated with your lists.

Anyone is able to set up a LISTSERV account and gain subscriber access to the University of Rochester LISTSERV. Instructions for registering an account and managing subscriptions can be found in the Subscriber’s Guide: Instructions for Self Service, located at http://www.rochester.edu/it/email/assets/pdf/ListSubscriberGuide.pdf.

A list owner must be a member of the University of Rochester community with an active NetID and password. For assistance with NetID and password issues, contact the University IT Helpdesk (see p.1).

Selecting the appropriate environment

Many email environments and services contain built-in tools for creating and managing distribution lists. Selecting the whether to use your email environment’s built-in tool or using LISTSERV.

Some advantages of native email environment distribution lists include:
- Integrated with your existing email environment
- Minimal learning curve for current users

Some advantages of using a LISTSERV list include:
- Archive of list messages accessible to members of the list
- Bounced message handling
- Digest format delivery options
- Integration with the University of Rochester’s distribution list management tool, Maestro, for creating and maintaining lists using data source criteria
- List editor and moderator roles and capabilities
- Self-serve subscription management

Requesting a LISTSERV List

University IT utilizes a web form for requesting LISTSERV lists. Begin by starting your web browser and visiting https://service.rochester.edu/servicedesk/customer/portal/101/create/243 and selecting a Listserv list. This form includes some basic overview details about list configuration options.
Managing your lists

The University of Rochester LISTSERV contains a robust selection of configuration and management options available for your lists. This section will cover the basics of the List Management Dashboard, list settings, and subscriber management.

To begin, start your web browser and go to https://lists.rochester.edu. This will take you to the LISTSERV home page. Log in using the email address and password you registered with LISTSERV.

List Management Dashboard

The List Management Dashboard view displays all of the lists you are an owner of as well as options to access configuration details and reports for your lists.
In addition to displaying all of the lists you own, The List Management Dashboard has a drop-down menu to navigate directly to the list home page for any of your lists, as well as a search feature for finding specific lists by keyword.

List Configuration

After finding the list you would like to configure on the List Management Dashboard, select [Configure] beneath the list name in the List Management Dashboard display.

There are several tabs of options available for configuration:

**Descriptions:** allows list owners to change the list title, review the list headers, and edit the list description in both HTML and plain text formats.

**Access Control:** allows list owners to set the types (if any) of attachments are allowed in messages sent to the list, edit which members of the LISTSERV environment are allowed to review the subscribers of a list, and edit the send-to permissions for the list.

**Distribution:** allows list owners to establish daily limits for users sending to the list, establish and configure a digest of list messages, specify reply-to settings, and configure RSS Abstract properties for the list.
Error Handling: allows list owners to set LISTSERV to automatically remove members from list in the event their email address becomes undeliverable and yields bounced messages. List owners can set the quantity of bounces or duration of days messages bounce until members are removed. Error Handling also allows list owners to specify where a report of bounced messages is delivered.

List Maintenance: allows list owners to establish list editors, moderators, and additional list owners. List owners can build a notebook of messages posted to the list for archival, review, and reporting. List Maintenance enables list owners to require list members to confirm their subscriptions to the list on a regular basis via confirmation email.

Security: allows list owners to establish a change log for the list, hide or show the list to LISTSERV users, and add password-protection to list commands.

Subscription: allows list owners to establish default settings for users subscribed to the list and define the subscription type for the list (open, closed, by owner).

Other: allow list owners to select the default language for the list and set translation options for the list.

When reviewing or adjusting configurations for your lists, click the [Save] button to review the options available for the setting you wish to adjust.

Note: Remember to click the [Save] button after making any configuration changes to commit them to your list.
Subscriber Management

The Subscriber Management view allows you to add or remove list members, view and edit the settings for individual list subscribers, and perform bulk subscription operations.

Access the Subscriber Management view by clicking the [List Management] selection from the LISTSERV home page menu, followed by clicking [Subscriber Management].

This selection will take you to the Single Subscriber view of Subscriber Management.

Use the [Select Lists] drop-down menu to select the list you would like to manage subscriptions for.

Examine subscription settings or delete individual subscribers from your list.

Subscribe individual email addresses to your distribution list.

Review a list of all current list subscribers in your browser or have LISTSERV send you an email with list membership.

The Bulk Operations tab allows you to remove all subscribers from a list, import a file of subscribers to be added, import a file of subscribers to be removed, or import a file of subscribers to be removed from all lists you own.
Quick Reference

List owner commands for LISTSERV

Once you have established your list with the University of Rochester LISTSERV, the following commands can be executed by sending an email message to listserv@lists.rochester.edu with the command in the body of the message:

- Review current list settings -
  Get <List Name> (HEADER)

- Review current list settings and subscribers -
  Get <List Name>

- Add a subscriber to a list -
  Add <List Name> <email address> <Subscriber Name>
  Example: Add UnivIT_Test test@rochester.edu Jane Doe

- Remove a subscriber from a list -
  Delete <List Name> <email address>
  Example: Delete UnivIT_Test test@rochester.edu

- Request a complete list of LISTSERV commands -
  Info Refcard

Note: Adding “Quiet” before any email command to LISTSERV will suppress any notification from being sent to affected list subscribers.

Additional Resources

For additional assistance using the University of Rochester LISTSERV, contact the University IT Help Desk:
  Phone: 585-275-2000
  Email: UnivITHelp@rochester.edu
  Web: http://tech.rochester.edu

University of Rochester LISTSERV Home Page: https://lists.rochester.edu

University IT Mailing Lists: https://tech.rochester.edu/services/mailing-lists/

List Owner user agreement: https://tech.rochester.edu/policies/mailing-list-policies/

LISTSERV vendor documentation: http://www.lsoft.com/resources/manuals.asp