Unfreeze stucked "freezed" messages from Exim Mail server queue

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Messages are frozen when the mail server has determined it cannot do anything to deliver the message. (they can also be manually frozen).

Exim has option to set how long frozen messages are kept on the system.

On a Debian/Ubuntu based install the **/etc/exim4/conf.d/main/02_exim4-config_options** file has the option **timeout_frozen_after = 7d**. Which means messages frozen for 7 days will get expunged.

Frozen messages really shouldn't be a problem on most systems. They are often just spam messages that can't get properly delivered.

If you have to deal with freezed mails from the exim mail server, unlike postfix, where there is no "freeze" scheme but the messages just stuck in the queue and you might want to simply ask the mail server to resend failed to deliver messages once again through a simple:

postqueue -f

With exim to ask the server to resend the freeze-d states messages there is another aproach:

It is for this reason that I am writing this post to share h**ow you can ask the exim to resend the "frozen" messages,** as on exim there is no so much straight forward way.

To find out what letters are stored in the exim queue run

exim -bp

To unfreeze the messages a simple while loop can be written, which lists all frozen state messages and unfreezes these letters one by one in a cycle:

exim -bp | grep -i frozen | awk '{print $3}' | while read LINE; do exim -Mt $LINE; done

Another approach to unfreeze the frozen multitude of messages which should be a bit quicker if you have to do it for a very large amount of frozen states mails is to use xargs command:

mailq | grep frozen | awk '{print $3}' | xargs exim -v -M

Since we on exim topic in this article, for starters with Exim, here is few other useful exim queue commands, that might be beneficial if you have to deal with EXIM SMTP.

Attempting to send a mail with a specified ID

/usr/sbin/exim -M email-id

Forcefully run another queue to execute

```
# /usr/sbin/exim -qf
```

We see the logs related to letter

```
# /usr/sbin/exim -Mvl messageID
```

To see the body of the letter

```
# /usr/sbin/exim -Mvb messageID
```

To see the beginning (header) of the letter only

```
# /usr/sbin/exim -Mvh messageID
```

Deletes the mail without sending any error messages

```
# /usr/sbin/exim -Mrm messageID
```

Shows the number of letters in the queue

/usr/sbin/exim -bpr | grep "