Mail Archiver X 1.6 Manual

1 Introduction

Mail Archiver X: archive, clean, browse mail

1.1 What is Mail Archiver X?

For many people email has effectively replaced snail mail. More and more emails land daily in your inbox. However, the basic handling and storage of emails has stayed the same since the day email was invented. Mail Archiver X sets out to help you with the storage of emails.

With Mail Archiver X you can archive your mail, clean it during archival (or later) and browse/search the mail at high speed. You can use it for the following:

- Keep your mails at one place and private.
- Exchange your mail archive with others or use archives as a backup.
- Read your mail, after you have changed your mail application.
- Filter out garbage like:
  o html mails, where you can see the formatting tags instead of formatted text.
  o Multipart mails, where you can see for instance the same text without styles and then as html.
  o Encoded names like "=?ISO-8859-1?Q?Hans_D=FCsterloh?=", which actually is "Hans Österloh". Mails coming from Windows to the Macintosh are different and may show up with strange characters. Text like "für" can become "f¸r".

Therefore, Mail Archiver X is the perfect companion to your mail application.

1.2 What is new in Version 1.6?

Features:
- Folders of mailboxes with their subfolders can now be archived.
- When a Filemaker archive is already open, it's now possible to use this database.
- Support for Outlook Express.
- Export attachments by double clicking or dragging them to the desktop.
- Key combos for changing between layouts.
- Options for the error log.
- When Archives of older Versions of Mail Archiver X are opened, the Progress window is shown.
- Mail can now be archived in a range of two dates.
- It's now possible to extend the Trial period from within the application.
- The visibility of an expired trial period has been enhanced.
- A Recent Menu.
- There is now a build number in the About window.

- Temp files are now used for Entourage and Powermail, which are deleted automatically.

Bug fixes:
- Mails, which were lying about being multipart but in fact weren't, are now saved correctly.
- Some improvements for the html cleaning.
- Completly changed moving mails to trash. Mails are now moved to trash individually, which takes longer.
- Dates starting the the year (like jjmmtt) are now archived correctly.
- Mails from the Outbox of Eudora were not archived, because they don't have a sent date.
- After cancelling an archival it's now possible to add mails to the archive again.
- When navigating after the last mail in list view, now the selected line is moved into the view completely.
- A new date parsing routine has been added.
- When archiving by date the comparison date has the time set to 00:00:00.
- Moving mails to the trash for the Inbox and Sent Messages Mailbox of AppleMail now works again.

1.3 System Requirements

Software requirements:
Operating System: Mac OS X (10.1 or higher, including 10.4)
Browsing of archives: none, if internal browser is used (a Valentina license is not required). Filemaker 7 or higher, when using the Filemaker browser. Any other database will be able to import XML or text files.
Mails to archive in the following formats: Entourage, Eudora, Mail, Mozilla, Netscape, Outlook Express, Powermail, Thunderbird, standard mbox format.

Entourage: 10.1 or higher
Eudora: 6.0 or higher
Mail: any version
Mozilla: 1.2 or higher
Netscape: 6 or higher
Outlook Express: 5.0.6
Powermail: 5.1 or higher
Thunderbird: 0.7 or higher

Hardware minimal requirements:
Apple Computer with G3 PowerPC processor.
Min. 128 MB of physical memory.
A monitor with a screen resolution of 1024 x 768.
15 MB free space on disk for application.
Free space on disk for archival is dependent on size of archive.

1.4 Installation

Drag the Mail Archiver X folder to your applications folder. For the purchase Mail Archiver X installs the file "/Library/Application Support/Mindvision/Esellerate Engine (carbon)" for the current user.

1.5 How do I use Mail Archiver X?

- Start the application.
- Choose your archival options.
- Archive data from your mail application or mailbox files.
- Clean existing archives.
- Browse the data.
- Quit the application.

Toolbar Functionality:

Archive:
Archive mailboxes or files, either the previously selected ones or select new ones.

Open:
Browse either a mail database from disk or browse the last open one.

Clean:
Clean in the current archive.

Options:
E-Mail Client: Choose your mail application to archive from.
Mailboxes: Choose options to automate the selection of mailboxes and to restrict the archival of mails by date.
Cleaning: Choose the cleaning options.
Mail Export: Choose one of the export formats (Filemaker, Text, Valentina, xml).

Search:
Search for Mails.

Delete:
Delete Mails.

Navigation:
Navigate to Mails with buttons for the first, previous, next and last record.

View:
Change the view between the List and Record layouts.

1.6 Known Issues

Mail Archiver X archives only mails of middle European languages correctly. Support of other languages is planned.

1.7 Limitations of the Demo Version

When the application is not registered you will occasionally see a nag dialog and after 20 days it is only possible to view archives, but adding to them is not available. An extension of the trial time can be done by sending a mail to the support (see 1.9).

1.8 Registration

Mail Archiver X costs 34.95$. If applicable, taxes have to be added. For instance in Germany the Mehrwertsteuer of 16% has to be added (34.95 $ x 1.16 MwSt x 0.8 exchange rate = 32.43 €).

You can register directly from within the application by choosing "Purchase" from the application menu. Choosing "Purchase online" leads you to the ESellerate URL

http://store.eSellerate.net/s.asp?s=STR1902583705

where you can also buy Mail Archiver X. After a successful purchase an email will be sent to you with the serial number. This you have to enter after choosing "Register" from the application menu. The name in the registration dialog needs to be the same as on the purchase receipt.

If you live within the European Union you can pay into my bank account. Please see More Information on how to contact me for my international account number.

1.9 More Information

For more information please go to the website of Mail Archiver X at:

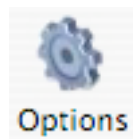http://www.mothsoftware.com/ma_1.html

or contact me at

mail@beatrixwillius.de

2   User Reference

Most of the functionality of Mail Archiver X can be controlled with the Toolbar, which sits at the top of the main window.
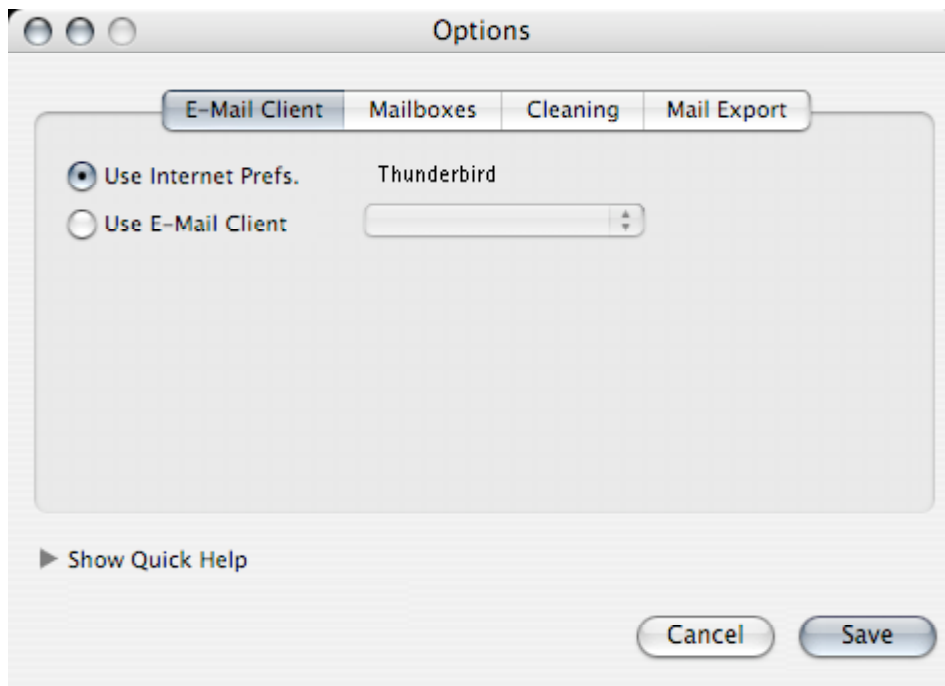

2.1   Options

With the options you tell Mail Archiver X, what to archive and into which format. The options consist of four tab sheets.

With the first tab sheet "E-mail Client" you choose your mail application from which to archive.

The options to select are:
Use Internet Preferences: (10.2) In the Internet panel of the System preferences or (10.3 or higher) in the preferences of Apple Mail you can select your preferred mail application. Mail Archiver X can read this information.
Use E-Mail Client: If you want to archive from a different application, you can select it with this option from a list.

With the second option you can only select applications, which are supported by Mail Archiver X. Currently, supported are the following applications:

Microsoft Entourage
Eudora Pro
Apple Mail
Mozilla
Netscape
Outlook Express
Powermail
Thunderbird
(Support for more applications is planned.)

The mail applications all handle mails differently. There are two categorizations possible.
The way of storage: The mbox format stores mail from one mailbox in one file. The organization of the mailboxes is reflected in the organization of the files. The other way is to store mails in a proprietary database. Entourage for instance does this. Both ways to store mail have benefits and drawbacks. The benefits of the mbox format are that the format is simple and quite well known. However, storing large amounts of data in a text file is not state of the art any more. Also every mail applications use/create the format slightly different.
The other categorization is scriptability: A mail application may be controllable by another application (for instance Mail Archiver X) or not. If a mail application cannot be controlled then it cannot be asked to perform certain actions like moving a number of mails to its trash or create a new mail with a specific text. As a result of this missing scriptability some functionality of Mail Archiver X may not be 100% identical over the supported mail applications.

If you select Internet Preferences and your mail application is not yet supported by Mail Archiver X, you will get an error message.

The second tab sheet "Mailboxes" gives you options to automate the selection of Mailboxes, restrict the archival of mails by date and move archived mails to the trash.
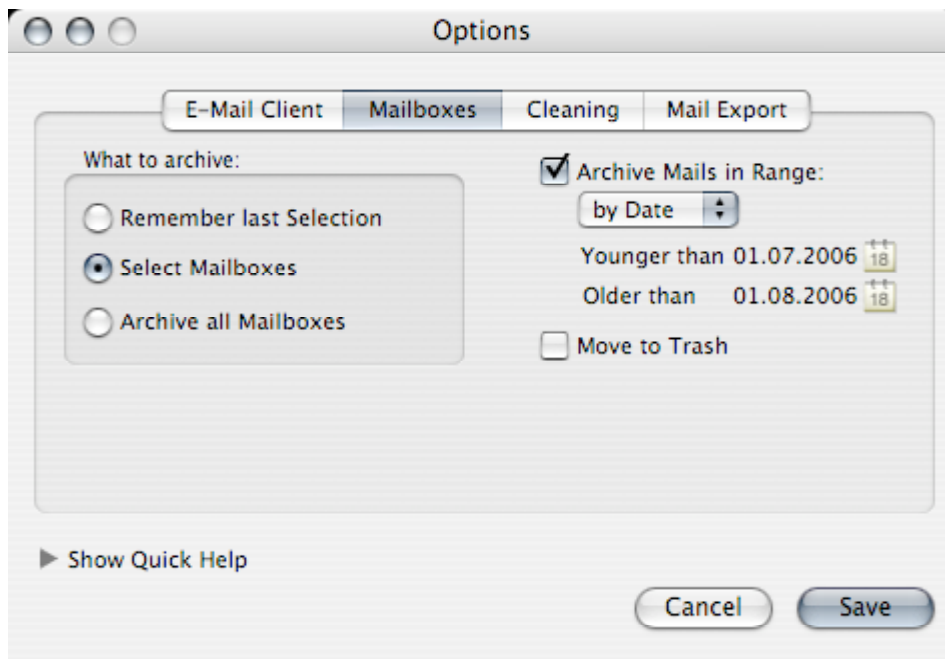
Options for "What to archive" are:
If you always archive specific mailboxes but not others, select "Remember last Selection". Mail Archiver X then remembers the last selection of "Select Mailboxes". With "Select Mailboxes" you will be shown a dialog with all your mailboxes, from which you can choose during archival. "Archive all Mailboxes" archives all mailboxes, except the trash, Spam and draft mailboxes.

With "Archive Mails in Range" the archival of mails can be restricted to a range of dates or ages. In the above screenshot you will archive every mail between 01-Jul-2006 and 01-Aug-2006. One of the dates or ages can be omitted.

For date selection a calendar is used:
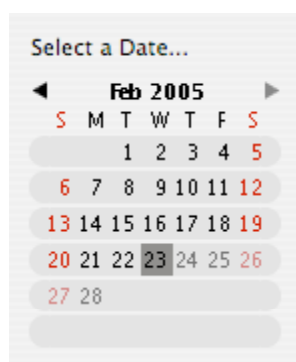
Click the triangles to go forward or backward one month. Move over the month/year combination to see additional triangles to change the year. It is only possible to select dates prior to the current date. Double click on a date to select it and close the window.

With the third tab sheet "Cleaning" you can select your cleaning options.
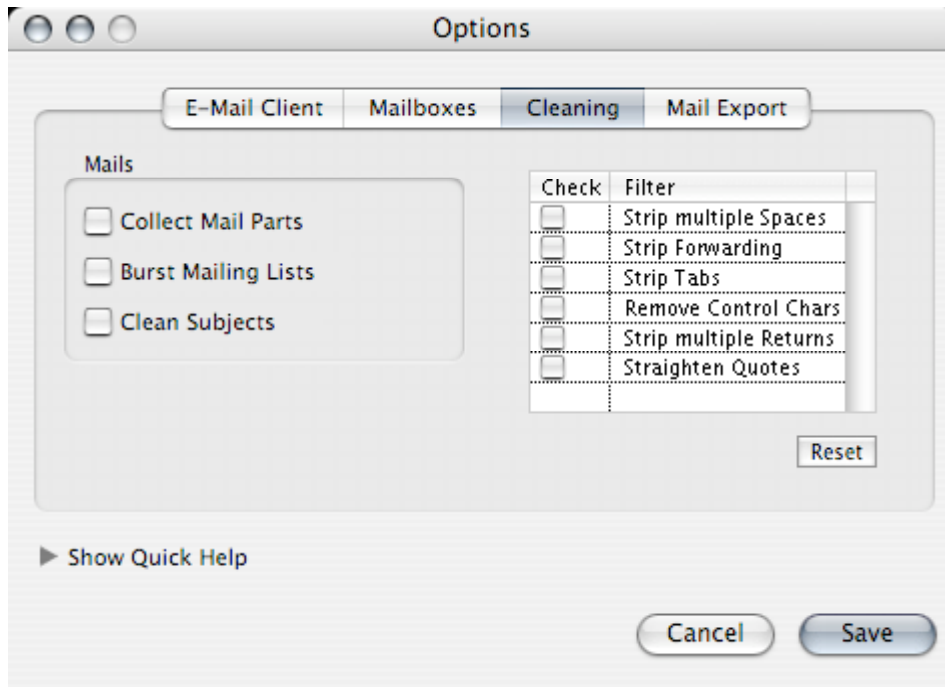
The cleaners on the left side of the screen have to be done in a specific order. Therefore, they can be checked or unchecked. The cleaners on the right side can be checked, unchecked and moved by drag and drop. The cleaners are applied from top to bottom. The reset button unchecks the checkboxes and restores the default order.

Left side cleaners:
Collect Mail Parts: When a mail is too large, it gets split into several parts. With this option you can collect them into one mail.
Burst Mailing lists: Splits a mailing digest into single mails.
Clean Subjects: Removes all prefixes from the subject, which end with a ":" or have brackets around them.

Note: The cleaners "Export Inline Attachments" and "Remove MIME" have been removed from the options of Mail Archiver X 1.5 and are now done always.

Right side cleaners:
Strip multiple Spaces: Cleans from "   " to " ".
Strip Forwarding: Cleans from ">>>>" to ">".
Strip Tabs: Replaces tabs with spaces.
Remove Control Chars: Removes all invisible characters.
Strip multiple Returns: Cleans from multiple returns to one return.
Straighten Quotes: Cleans from " or « to ".

Each additional cleaner increases the archival time.

As the very last part of archival two things will be done: The attachments are saved to a folder called "Attachments" near the archive. The name of the attachment is added to the mail. Attachments with the same name are given a version number. Secondly, the encodings are set and only the text parts of a mail are kept.

With the fourth tab sheet "Mail export" you can select your export format: Filemaker, Text, Valentina (a fast database by Paradigma Software) and XML.

Select Valentina, if you want to use the integrated browser. Select Filemaker, if you want to use the Filemaker browser. Select text or XML, if you want to create your own archives. Filemaker, Text and Valentina have their own options to set, only XML has none.
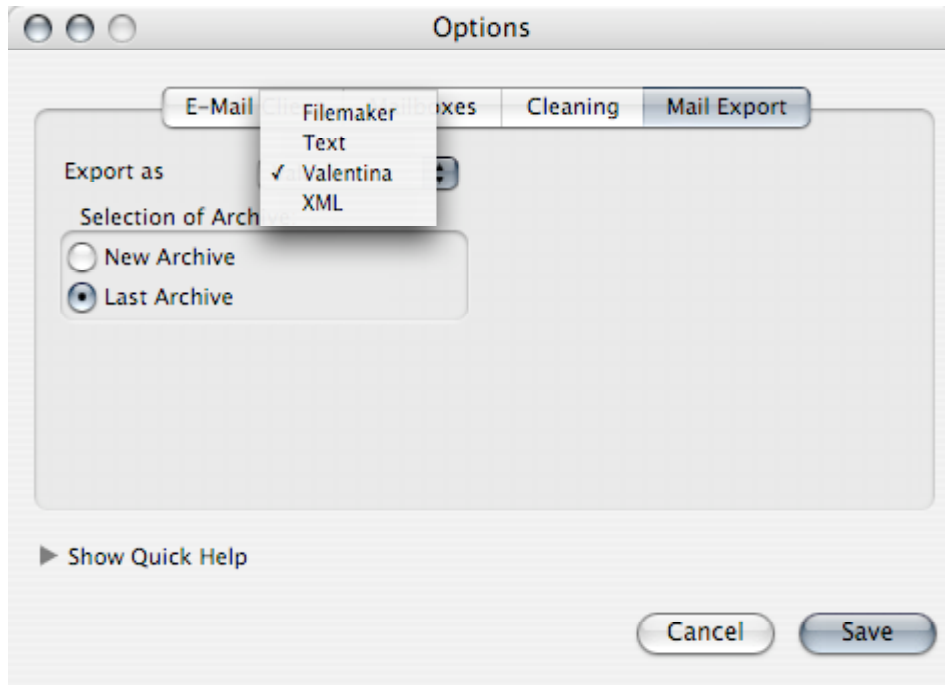
Options for Filemaker:

Filemaker is an end user or server database from the Apple daughter company Filemaker Inc. It is currently at version 8. You have to own a license of Filemaker, if you want to use the Filemaker browser. The benefit of using Filemaker is that you can use the tools and possibilities of Filemaker. The drawback is that the extensibility of Filemaker is limited. Filemaker is supported for versions 7 and higher.
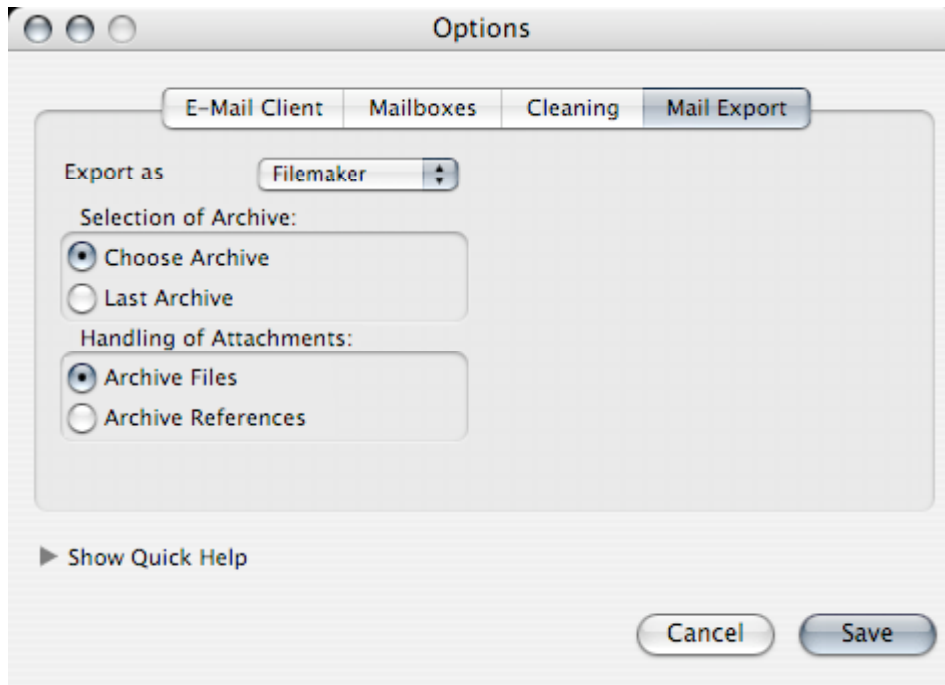
For the Filemaker export you can set, if you want to be asked for a database during the archiving session. Otherwise you can use the last open archive. It's either possible to archive the attachment files in the Filemaker database or to save the attachment into a folder near the database and a reference is saved in Filemaker.

Please note: Filemaker 5/6 are not supported anymore. Due to a limitation in Filemaker 7 the full attachment handling is not supported. Filemaker 7 is only able to save the names, but neither files or references. There is no error message!

Supplied with Mail Archiver is a database, which can be used together with Mail Archiver X. This database is called "Mail Browser". This database comes as is. Due to the differences in the application environment the Filemaker browser and the internal browser cannot be 100% identical. They will, however, stay similar.

The Filemaker database is not locked and can be changed freely. You only need to take care, not to add fields or to change field names. The field names are checked by Mail Archiver X before trying to export data to Filemaker. There will be an error message, should the field names not match.

Note: Migrating the Filemaker browser to Filemaker 7

For the version 7 of Filemaker Apple changed a lot. The result is that migration to Filemaker 7 may require a bit of work. Before migration it is better to create a compressed copy of the database (File/Save Copy...). Under type select Compressed Copy (we have the German version of Filemaker installed. Therefore the wording may differ slightly.) Doing this seems to prevent an error message in Filemaker 7 that the to be imported file is corrupt and cannot be read. Now import to Filemaker 7. There may be two error messages "-10006" coming from an AppleScript command that was replaced by a FMScript command. You can either replace those yourself or you can import your converted data into the database from this distribution.

Remove the error message "-10006"/restore the splash screen:

Go to the script editor of Filemaker.
Open the script "Open Database" (it's the first one).
Insert a script command "Change Window Position/Size" after the first row of "Do AppleScript".
Enter the value 336, 465, 160, 250.
The values 336 and 465 are for the size of the splash window. The values 160 and 250 are for a screen resolution of 1154x870. If your screen resolution is higher or lower, change the values to fit.
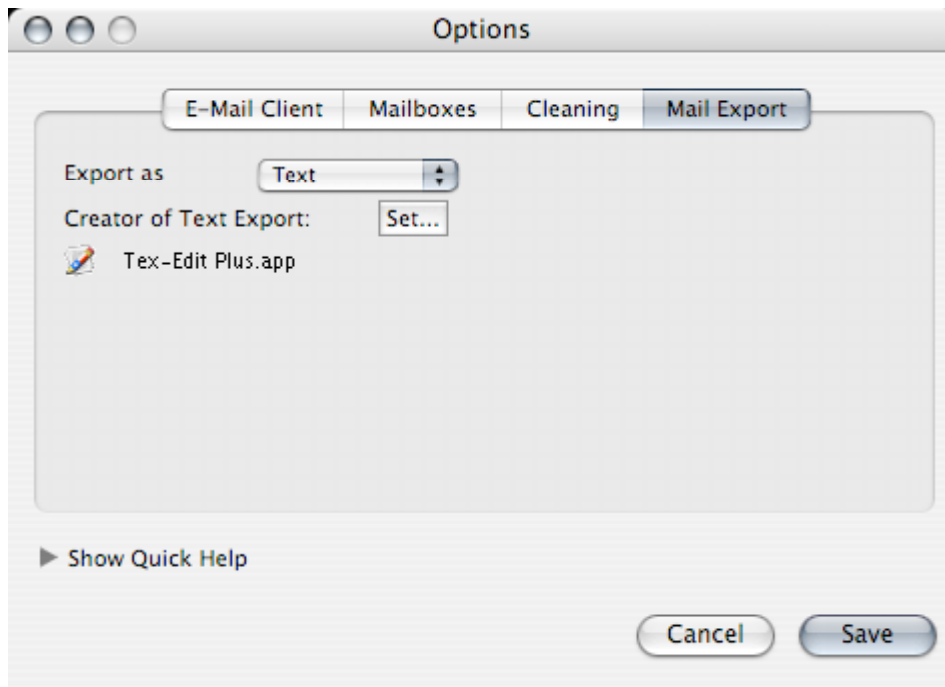Remove the command "Do AppleScript".
Insert a script command "Fit Window" after the second row of "Do AppleScript".
Select "Show all" from the options.
Remove the "Do AppleScript" command.

Options for Text:

Use this option, if you prefer your own archiving database.

The output for Text export is tab delimited text. This is text, where one record is one row of data. Each field is separated from other fields with a tab. The row ends with a return. In the exported text every tab is replaced with the text "\tab" and a return with the text "\return". Select an example file or application for a creator code for the text file by clicking on the "Set..." button.

Options for Valentina:

Use this option, if you want to use the integrated solution of Mail Archiver X (a license for Valentina is not required). This database is very fast and stable.
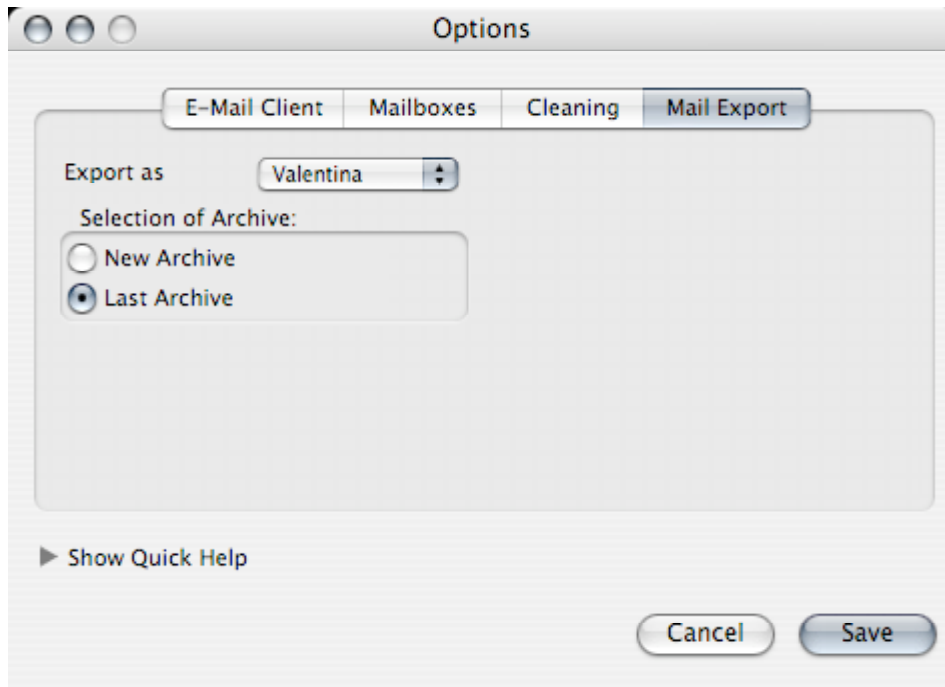
You can either create a new archive each time you start an archiving session with the option "New Archive". Otherwise you can use the last open archive to add mails to.

When an archive is created, also a file with the ending ".ind" is created. It contains the index of the archive, which is like the index of a book helping to speed up searching. Keep it always near the archive it belongs to. If you move the archive around or delete the index, then a new index will be created after opening the archive again. This may take some seconds.
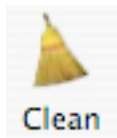
2.2 Archive
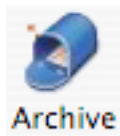
Archives mails from mailboxes of the selected mail application (Cmd-R). If you have selected "Select Mailboxes" from the Mailboxes preferences, then you will see the following dialog. With the preference options "Remember Selection" and "Archive all Mailboxes" the archival starts automatically without showing this dialog. To archive Files use the menu item "Archive Files" or Cmd-Shift-R. Then a file selection dialog is shown.
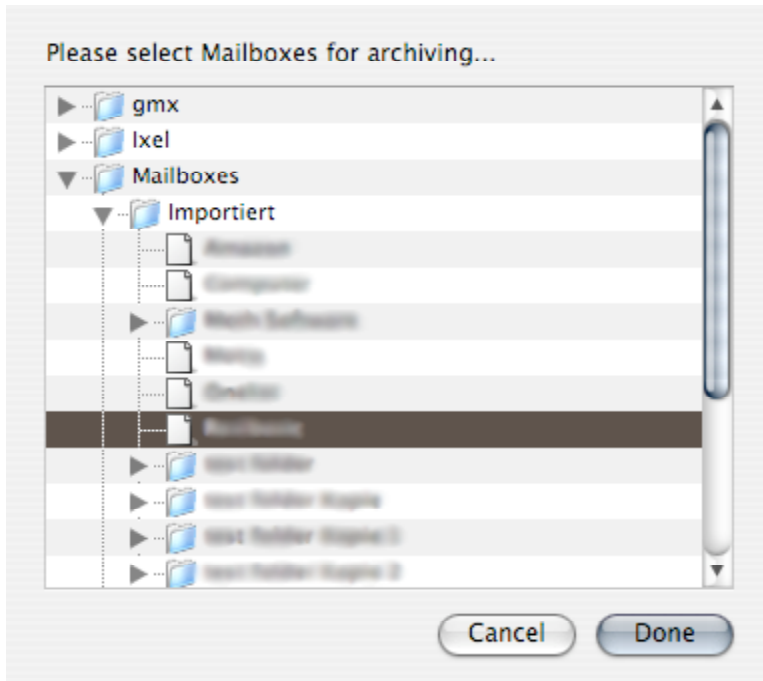
If a folder is selected all subfolders will be archived, too.

After selecting the mailboxes for archival and you have selected to create a new archive database in Valentina format, your are asked where you want to save your archive. For Filemaker the data is added to the last archive or you can select an archive now. Text and xml archives are saved to the desktop.

2.3 Clean

If you archived mails, but did not do any cleaning, you can do this later by clicking on this button. Cleaning is applied to the current selection of mails in the archive. For the options please see the Cleaning tab of the preferences.

2.4 Open
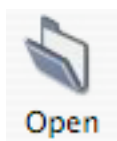
Open previously created archives. You have two possibilities. "Open Archive…" shows you a file dialog, where you can open archives. "Open recent" remembers the last 5 open archives. Only one archive can be open at the same time.
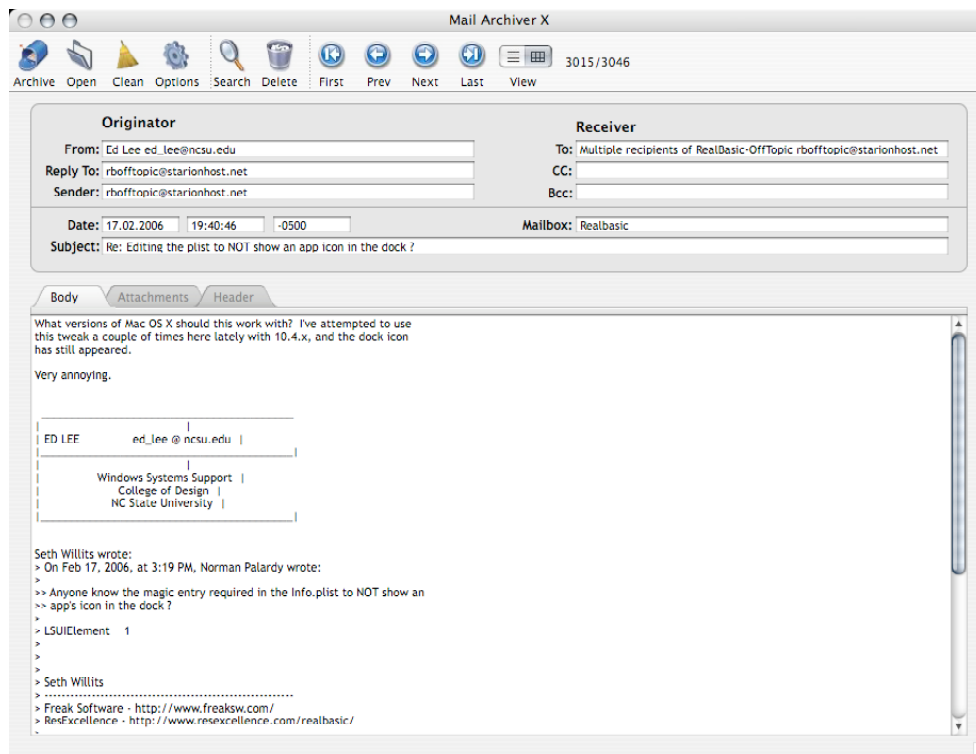
The internal viewer and the Filemaker database have a similar interface. There are two main layouts. The "Record" layout and the "List" one. The "Record" layout shows one record or mail. The upper part of the layout shows the main information of a mail like the Originator, the Receiver, Date, Mailbox and Subject. The "Body" tab contains the message body of a mail. The "Attachment" tab shows the attachments, if available. The "Header" tab contains the more esoteric parts of the header and is included for completeness. Click on the tab sheet with the darker color to make it active. The last layout viewed before closing, the position and the size of the window will be saved to the preferences.

Change between main layouts by clicking on the View icon.

At the bottom of the "Attachment" tab, there is a button with a menu to export the attachments of the current mail.
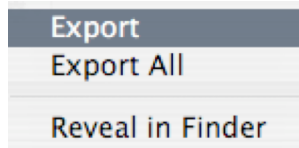
"Export" saves the currently selected attachment. "Export all" doesn't need a selection to save all attachments. If "Reveal in Finder" has a checkmark, the attachment is shown in the Finder.

When an attachment is double clicked it is exported to the Desktop and opened with the associated application. Also an attachment can be dragged and dropped to the Desktop.
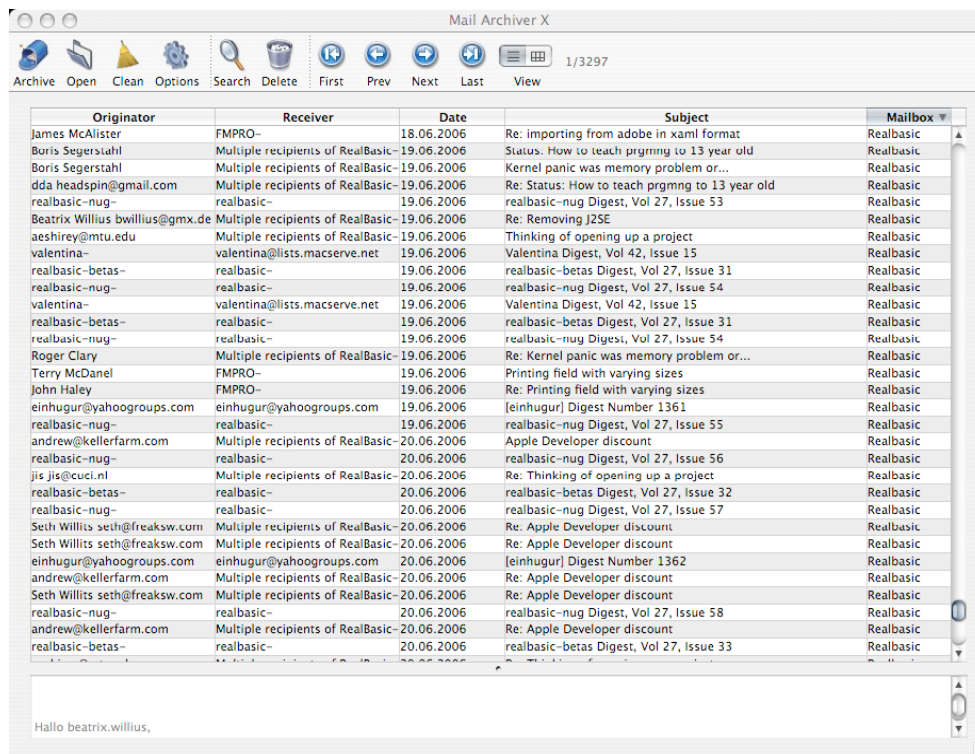
The "List" layout contains the following fields: Originator, Receiver, Date, Subject, Mailbox and Message Body. The width of the columns can be adjusted and will be saved to the preferences. The Message Body is shown at the bottom. The height can be adjusted and the Message Body can be completely hidden. The Filemaker browser has fixed field widths and does not show the Message Body.

Searching can be started by clicking on the "Search" button or from the menu. Now you can enter your search criteria. The search from the screenshot searches for mails with

Originator like "support" and Date > 1.1.2005

The search criteria are combined with a logical "and" (all search criteria have to be fulfilled at the same time). The search in text fields works as a "like" (searching for "support" finds all mails, where "support" is at the beginning, the middle or the end of the field). For dates you need to enter a comparison operator like >, < or = and a valid date.

Clicking on the "Search" button or the menu again executes the search. If no records are found, then all records are selected. It is not possible to change the layout while in search mode. Search in the "List" layout works similarly.

Ordering is done with the menu Browse/Order by, which has the following entries:
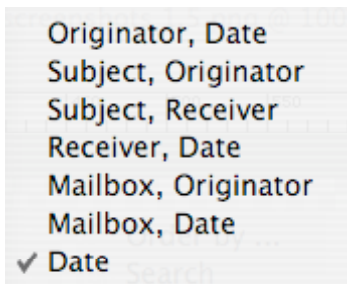
Select one menu entry and the current selection of mails is reordered. Any new search also has this order. You can also re-order in List view by clicking on one of the headers. The search order is saved to the preferences.

The Filemaker browser relies on the inbuilt searching capabilities of Filemaker.

You can reply to a selected mail in three variations. "Reply to" replies with the selected text of the message body to the author of the mail. "Reply to all" replies with the selected text of the message body to the author and the CCs. "Forward" creates a quoted mail without a recipicient. The mail is created in the currently selected mail application. Because the Mozilla and Netscape are not AppleScriptable, only a new mail with recipient and subject can be created. The message body of a mail cannot be set.

Note: This functionality is only partly available in the Filemaker browser and uses the Internet preferences to select the mail application.

The selected mail can be deleted with "Delete Record ...". When Ctrl is pressed, the mail is deleted without asking.
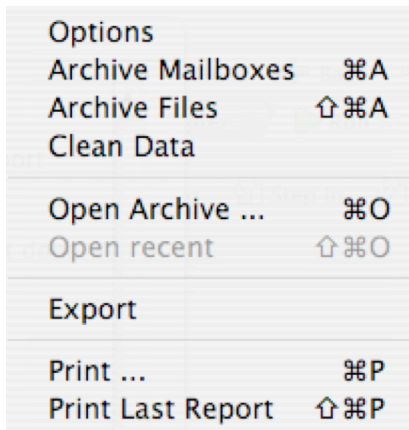"Delete found Records ..." deletes all currently found mails. Before deleting the user is asked, if this really is intended.

"Show All" selects all records in the archive. This undos any search and restores dropped mails.

"Drop Record" drops the current mail from the search result. The record is not deleted. The mail can be made visible again with a "Select all" or another search.

2.5 Printing

Printing is started via the menu or Cmd-P.

Options	
Archive Mailboxes	⌘A
Archive Files	⇧⌘A
Clean Data	
Open Archive ...	⌘O
Open recent	⇧⌘O
Export	
Print ...	⌘P
Print Last Report	⇧⌘P

A dialog is shown with the available print reports.
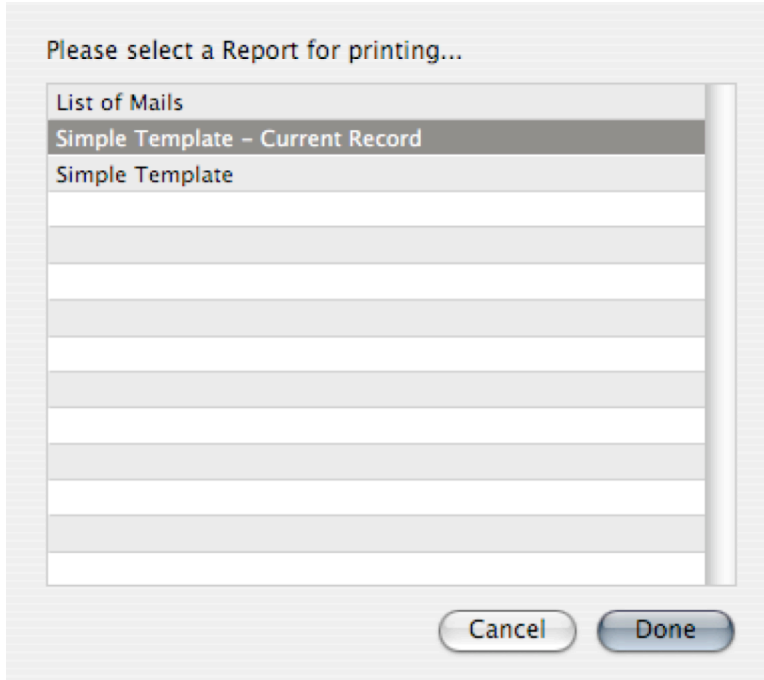
There are three different types of reports possible: simple lists like "List of Mails". "Simple Template" is a detail report. Both lists and detail reports print the current selection of mails, while reports with "Current Record" in the name only print one record.
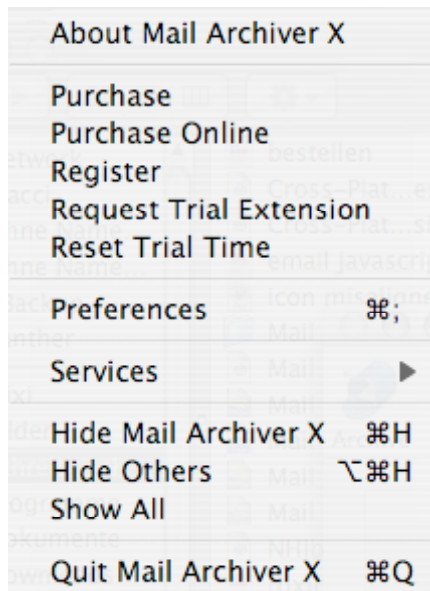
It's not possible to define your own print reports. It's, however, possible to request new ones.

After clicking the "Done" button, the print dialog from Mac OS is shown.

The menu item "Print Last Report" prints the last selected report without showing the dialog to select a print report.

2.6 Menus

Application Menu:

About Mail Archiver: Shows the about screen.
Purchase: Starts the purchase from within the application.
Purchase online: Goes to the Esellerate website to start the purchase from there.
Register: Opens the register dialog.
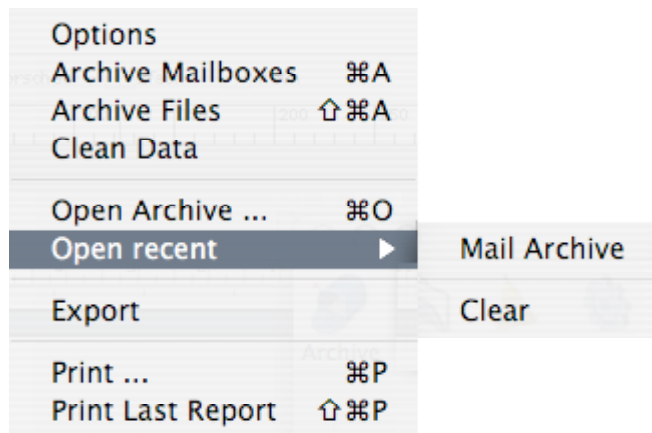Request Trial Extension: Sends a mail to Moth Software with User Name and Email Address, so that a Trial License can be created.
Reset Trial Time: Opens a file dialog for selection of the Trial License.
Preferences: Opens the preferences.
Quit Mail Archiver X: Quits the application.

File menu:

Options: Shows the Archival Options.
Archive Mailboxes: Starts the archival for mailboxes of the selected mail application.

Archive Files: Shows a dialog to select files for archiving and then archives the selected files.
Clean Data: Cleans existing archives.
Open Archive: Has a submenu with the 5 last opened archives.
Open recent: Opens the last open Archive.
Export: Exports with the current export options.
Print: Select a print report and print.
Print Last Report: Prints the report, which was printed last.

Browse Menu:

The Browse menu offers functionality for operating the Mail Browser.

Order by ...	▶
View	▶
Navigate to	▶
Search	⌘F
Reply to	⌘R
Reply to All	⇧⌘R
Forward	⇧⌘F
Delete Record ...	⌘E
Delete found Records ...	
Show All	⌘J
Drop Record	⌘T

For re-ordering you can select one of the pre-defined sort orders or you can click on the header fields in the List view.

Originator, Date
Subject, Originator
Subject, Receiver
Receiver, Date
Mailbox, Originator
Mailbox, Date
✓ Date

The current selection of mails is then reordered. The sort order stays the same (even after closing the browser or quitting) until you select another sort order.

You can navigate by clicking the arrow buttons in the browser toolbar, by selecting one of the menu entries or by clicking on the arrow buttons (with or without Cmd).

First ↖
Previous ↑
Next ↓
Last ↘
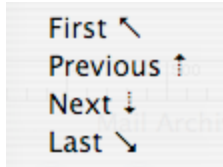
Replying to the selected mail is available in three variations:
Reply to: creates a new mail with the selected text of the message body. The recipicient of the new mail is the author of the original mail.
Reply to All: Similar to "Reply to". Additionally, the original CCs are CC'd.
Forward: Creates a new mail with the whole text of the message body. The recipicient of the new mail is empty.
Deletion of records:
Delete Record ...: Deletes the selected mail. When Ctrl is pressed, then the mail is deleted without asking.
Delete found Records ...: Deletes all currently found records.
Select All: selects all records in the archive.

Drop Record: drops the current mail from the search result. The record is not deleted.

3   Registration

3.1 Payment

When Mail Archiver is not registered, you will occasionally see the following nag dialog. **The unregistered version is limited to 20 days of archiving after the first start-up. Afterwards Mail Archiver X can view the archives, but archival is only possible after registration.**
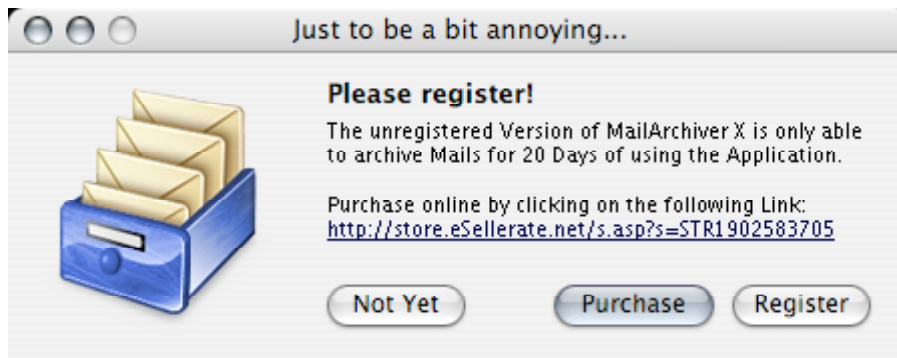
Click on "Not Yet" to dismiss the dialog without action.

There are two different ways to purchase the application.

a) From the website.
You can either click on the link in the nag dialog, you can select "Purchase online" from the application menu or you can enter the following URL into your favorite browser:

http://store.eSellerate.net/s.asp?s=STR1902583705

The credit card section of the order form is secure.

b) From within the application:
You can either click on "Purchase" in the nag dialog or you can select "Purchase" from the application menu. This will start the registration process with the following screen.
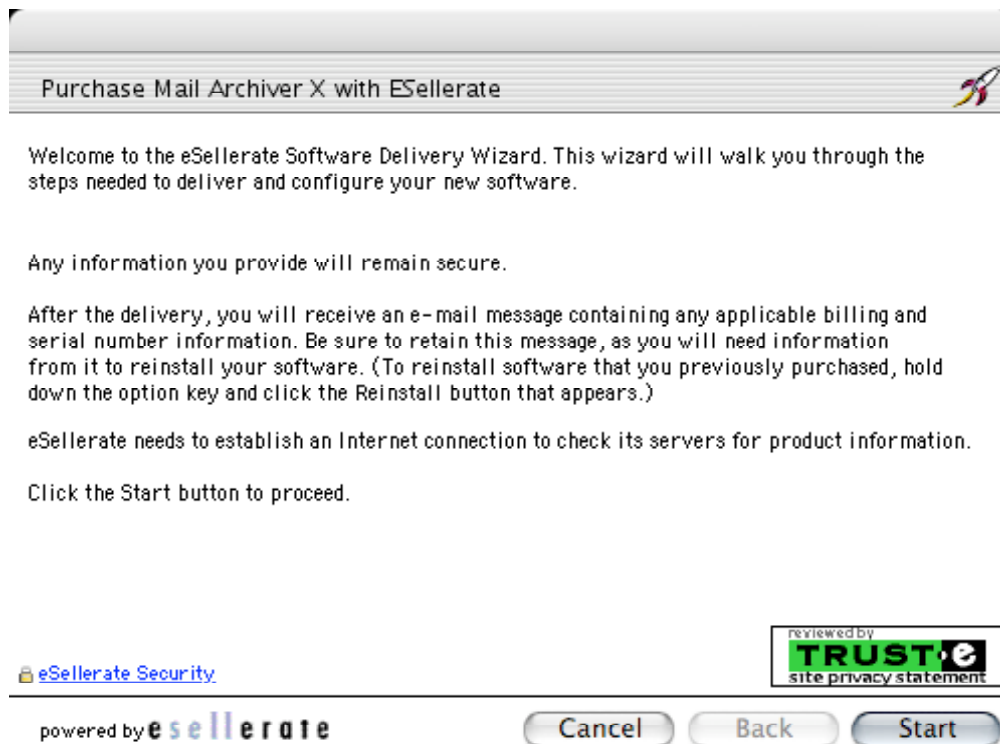
If you live within the European Union you can pay into our bank account. Please see below on how to contact us for my international account number.
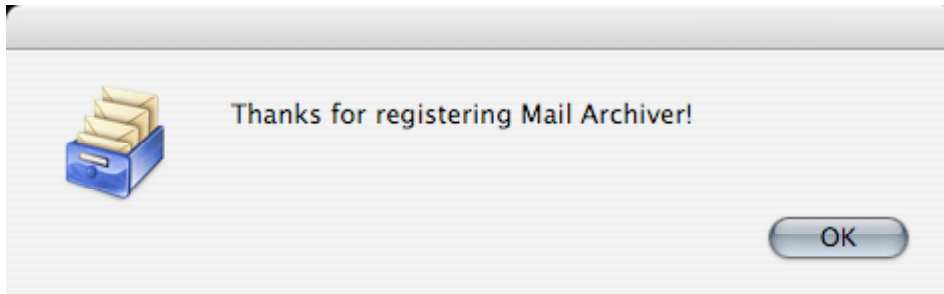
3.2 Registration

After a successful purchase an email will be sent to you with the serial number. Open the register dialog by clicking "Register" in the nag dialog or by selecting "Register" from the application menu. You will see the following dialog:
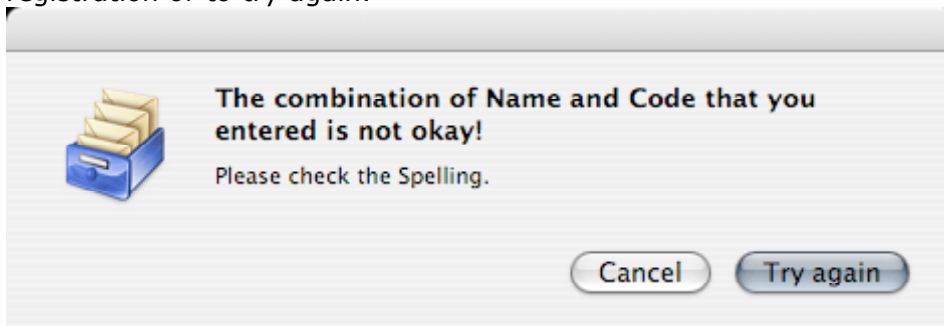

The name field will be automatically filled in with your name. If it does not match the name on your purchase receipt, you need to change the name.

If the information you have entered, was correct, you will see the following dialog.
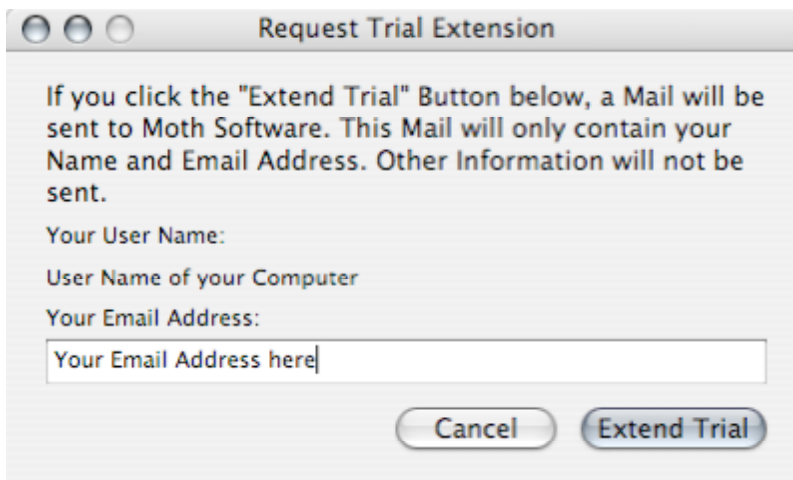
Otherwise you will see the following dialog, which gives you the options to cancel the registration or to try again.

3.3 Extension the Trial Time

If you missed the Trial Time and would like to extend it, then select the menu item "Request Trial Extension" from the Application menu. You will see the following dialog:

The user name of the computer is entered automatically and can't be changed. The Email Address is the address the Trial License is sent to. After clicking on the button "Extend Trial" the available information is sent to Moth Software.

Mail Archiver X support will send you a license file, which you should save somewhere. Select the menu item "Reset Trial Time". This will show a file open dialog. Select the license file and that's it. This can only be done once with a license file.

4   Conclusion

4.1   Feedback

We have worked very hard to make Mail Archiver X as useful and as user-friendly as possible. We appreciate our users' feedback and would love to hear your ideas on how to make this program better for your needs. If you have a suggestion, please send an email to:

mail@beatrixwillius.de

Updates
Updates are released several times a year. Please visit our website at

http://www.mothsoftware.com

to ensure you have the latest version.

4.2   Support

Support is available via email at

mail@beatrixwillius.de

When contacting us, please remember to include which application you're using, its serial number, your hardware configuration and which operating system you're using. If Mail Archiver generates an error, it saves a file called "MailArchiver's Error Log" to the location of the application. Please include this error log in your mail. We will respond using your inquiry's email address.

4.3   Distribution

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