

Using XJournal Remote™

Your new XJournal weblog has been "remote enabled," meaning you will be able to create log entries, including entries with images, by simply sending email. This document will outline some of the basics required for doing this, and some of the options available. This document also assumes that you are already familiar with using XJournal through the web interface.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Your weblog will be assigned a unique email address for the purpose of receiving weblog posts. This not a "normal" email address, meaning you will not be able to interact with this account. You will not be able to login to this account, send mail from this account, or read any mail that arrives in this box. Any mail not related to XJournal will be purged on a monthly basis.

DO NOT give this email address to anyone who will not be posting to the weblog. This email address could enable someone to post messages to your weblog. Treat this address like a password.

Your email address will appear in a separate message.

SUBJECT KEY

The subject of your email, along with the address itself, comprise authentication for processing remote posts. Treat this key like a password.

In order for a weblog entry to get entered into the weblog the remote processor will only look at those messages arriving in your mail account that have this subject. This will filter out any junk that could happen to make its way into your weblog mailbox. You will receive the subject key when you receive your email account.

TEMPLATE

XJournal Remote looks for the body of the email message to be structured in a specific way. This enables the remote processor to identify the components of a weblog entry (date, title, author, etc.). There are two mail body templates that can accomplish this: the standard template and the short version template. After getting comfortable with remote posting, most users use the short version for posting, as it requires less keystrokes.

The Standard Template:

```
COMMAND1 :  
COMMAND2 :  
DATE :  
TITLE :  
LOCATION :  
AUTHOR :  
BODY :
```

###

The Short Template:

```
[s]  
[c1]  
[c2]  
[d]  
[t]
```

[l]
[a]
[b]

###

Note that the short template always begins with the key "[s]" – this tells the remote processor to look for the short keywords.

The keys correspond to the weblog post fields you should already be familiar with. In addition, there are two command fields, which can be used to send commands to the remote processor. See the "Remote Commands" section later in the document for information on how to use these fields.

As with the web interface, the only required fields are title and body (technically, "date" is required as well, but if the date is omitted, the current system date and time is used). Unused keywords can be omitted from the mail body.

All fields with the exception of the body terminate on the end of a single line.

The symbol "###" can be used to indicate the end of the post body. If omitted, the processor will take all information to the end of the mail body. This symbol is useful for those mailers and mailing systems that automatically add a footer to mail messages – such as free email accounts or text messaging from mobile phones. Using this can strip this footer from messages sent from those accounts.

The keywords can appear in any order, but if a keyword appears in sequence after the body, the body must include the "###" end indicator else the body that displays to the user will also include any codes that come after the body. In practice, it's good to simply get in the habit of having the body be the final key of a remote post.

COMPOSING A SIMPLE REMOTE ENTRY

Posting remotely is as simple as sending an ordinary email message. In your desired email client compose a message as you normally would. (See the section ATTACHMENTS & IMAGES for information about tested mail clients.)

Address the email to the address you were assigned for your weblog.

In the subject, type in the subject key you were provided for your weblog.

In the body of the email, add the desired weblog post information after the proper keywords:

```
COMMAND1:  
COMMAND2:  
DATE: 4/2/03  
TITLE: This is a test remote post  
LOCATION: My Office  
AUTHOR: Tim Harincor  
BODY: This is a test of the remote processor. If all goes well, this  
message will appear in my weblog very shortly.  
###
```

Send the mail. The remote processor will process the message within a minute or so and send back a confirmation email that the post was accepted and added to your weblog.

Here is the same post, using the short version (and dropping unused keywords) of the template:

```
[s]
[d]4/2/03
[t]This is a test remote post
[l]My Office
[a]Tim Harincarc
[b]This is a test of the remote processor. If all goes well, this
message will appear in my weblog very shortly.
###
```

ATTACHMENTS & IMAGES

Allowable attachments are web-standard images, GIF, JPEG and PNG files. Any other attachments will be rejected, though the post will still be accepted. XJournal Remote has been tested with numerous web-based email clients, Microsoft Outlook, Lotus Notes, and Apple Mail, and should work with most standard mail clients. However, not every mail client has been tested and some mail clients create multipart mail messages (messages with attachments) in strange ways, so we cannot guarantee that the remote processor will recognize attachments from all email clients. Best to test your favorite client. If you do find a client behaving strangely, notify the XJournal dev team and we'll see if it can be made to work.

As with the web-based administration tool, you can attach a single image to a weblog entry that is posted via email. If more than one image is attached, the remote processor will accept the first image in the message sequence (note that the message sequence may order the attachments differently than you added them to the email with the client – best to only add a single image).

The remote processor will check the attachment to verify that it is a web allowable image, and that it does not exceed the image size limits set in the weblog properties (refer to information on configuring your weblog). The attachment will be deleted if it is not a valid image.

COMMANDS

XJournal Remote is designed to be used in replacement of, not just in addition to, the web-based administration. As such, you can do many of the same things through Remote that you can do via the web admin interface. You can add, update and delete posts as well as add or remove images. You can also request a copy of this document (help) or get a copy of the template.

A command will have the following structure:

```
COMMAND1:keyword[:option]
```

Where the keyword is the command you wish to execute, and the option is a parameter to the keyword, if the keyword accepts parameters. For example, the following line would instruct the remote processor to update weblog entry #27:

```
COMMAND1:update:27
```

COMMAND KEYWORDS

template | t : emailAddress – requests a copy of the template. If the short key ("t") is sent, the short template will be returned. Email address is optional, if used the template will be sent to the indicated address.

fetch | f : recordNumber – will request the remote processor to return the weblog entry of *recordNumber*, formatted for an update. Passing 0 for a recordNumber will cause the processor to send back a list of recordNumbers and Titles currently in the weblog.

Example 1:

```
COMMAND1:fetch:27
```

Example 2 (short template):

```
[c1]f:27
```

update | u : recordNumber – tells the remote processor to take the information in this message and update the record specified with *recordNumber*.

Example 1:

```
COMMAND1:update:27
```

Example 2 (short template):

```
[c1]u:27
```

position | p : coords – (beta) Will pass the coordinate information to the XPlot mapping system and request an update of the associated map. (Requires XPlot to be configured). Coords cannot be updated or deleted via the XJournal Remote system, only posted. Coordinates must be *latitude:longitude* and be in the format of degrees + decimal minutes with a direction flag (N,S,E,W). Coords can be posted with or without a full journal entry.

Example 1:

```
COMMAND1:position:70 0.0'N:45 0.0'W
```

Example 2 (short template):

```
[c1]p:70 0.0'N:45 0.0'W
```

...

for attitional information about XJournal Remote contact support@x-journal.com