

# Emacs Sieve Manual

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by Simon Josefsson

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This file documents the Emacs Sieve package, for server-side mail filtering.

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## Sieve Support for Emacs

This manual documents the Emacs Sieve package.

It is intended as a users manual for Sieve Mode and Manage Sieve, and as a reference manual for the ‘`sieve-manage`’ protocol Emacs Lisp API.

Sieve is a language for server-side filtering of mail. The language is documented in RFC 3028. This manual does not attempt to document the language, so keep RFC 3028 around.

A good online Sieve resources is <http://www.cyrusoft.com/sieve/>.



# 1 Installation

The Sieve package should come with your Emacs version, and should be ready for use directly.

However, to manually set up the package you can put the following commands in your `~/.emacs`:

```
(autoload 'sieve-mode "sieve-mode")
(setq auto-mode-alist (cons '("\\.s\\(v\\|iv\\|ieve\\)\\'" . sieve-mode)
                           auto-mode-alist))
```



## 2 Sieve Mode

Sieve mode provides syntax-based indentation, font-locking support and other handy functions to make editing Sieve scripts easier.

Use ‘M-x `sieve-mode`’ to switch to this major mode. This command runs the hook `sieve-mode-hook`.

Sieve mode is derived from `c-mode`, and is very similar except for the syntax of comments. The keymap (`sieve-mode-map`) is inherited from `c-mode`, as are the variables for customizing indentation. Sieve mode has its own abbrev table (`sieve-mode-abbrev-table`) and syntax table (`sieve-mode-syntax-table`).

In addition to the editing utility functions, Sieve mode also contains bindings to manage Sieve scripts remotely. See [Chapter 3 \[Managing Sieve\], page 7](#).

*C-c RET*    Open a connection to a remote server using the Managesieve protocol.

*C-c C-1*    Upload the Sieve script to the currently open server.





### 3 Managing Sieve

Manage Sieve is a special mode used to display Sieve scripts available on a remote server. It can be invoked with *M-x sieve-manage RET*, which queries the user for a server and if necessary, user credentials to use.

When a server has been successfully contacted, the Manage Sieve buffer looks something like:

```
Server   : mailserver:2000

2 scripts on server, press RET on a script name edits it, or
press RET on <new script> to create a new script.
  <new script>
ACTIVE .sieve
      template.siv
```

One of the scripts are highlighted, and standard point navigation commands (<up>, <down> etc) can be used to navigate the list.

The following commands are available in the Manage Sieve buffer:

- m*            Activates the currently highlighted script.
- u*            Deactivates the currently highlighted script.
- C-M-?*       Deactivates all scripts.
- r*            Remove currently highlighted script.
- RET*
- mouse-2*
- f*            Bury the server buffer and download the currently highlighted script into a new buffer for editing in Sieve mode (see [Chapter 2 \[Sieve Mode\], page 5](#)).
- o*            Create a new buffer in another window containing the currently highlighted script for editing in Sieve mode (see [Chapter 2 \[Sieve Mode\], page 5](#)).
- q*            Bury the Manage Sieve buffer without closing the connection.
- ?*
- h*            Displays help in the minibuffer.



## 4 Examples

If you are not familiar with Sieve, this chapter contains a few simple code snippets that you can cut'n'paste and modify at will, until you feel more comfortable with the Sieve language to write the rules from scratch.

The following complete Sieve script places all messages with a matching `'Sender:'` header into the given mailbox. Many mailing lists uses this format. The first line makes sure your Sieve server understands the `fileinto` command.

```
require "fileinto";

if address "sender" "owner-w3-beta@xemacs.org" {
  fileinto "INBOX.w3-beta";
}
```

A few mailing lists do not use the `'Sender:'` header, but does contain some unique identifier in some other header. The following is not a complete script, it assumes that `fileinto` has already been required.

```
if header :contains "Delivered-To" "auc-tex@sunsite.dk" {
  fileinto "INBOX.auc-tex";
}
```

At last, we have the hopeless mailing lists that does not have any unique identifier and you are forced to match on the `'To:'` and `'Cc'` headers. As before, this snippet assumes that `fileinto` has been required.

```
if address ["to", "cc"] "kerberos@mit.edu" {
  fileinto "INBOX.kerberos";
}
```



## 5 Manage Sieve API

The ‘`sieve-manage.el`’ library contains low-level functionality for talking to a server with the MANAGESIEVE protocol.

A number of user-visible variables exist, which all can be customized in the `sieve` group (*M-x customize-group RET sieve RET*):

`sieve-manage-default-user`

Sets the default username.

`sieve-manage-default-port`

Sets the default port to use, the suggested port number is 2000.

`sieve-manage-log`

If non-`nil`, should be a string naming a buffer where a protocol trace is dumped (for debugging purposes).

The API functions include:

`sieve-manage-open`

Open connection to managesieve server, returning a buffer to be used by all other API functions.

`sieve-manage-opened`

Check if a server is open or not.

`sieve-manage-close`

Close a server connection.

`sieve-manage-authenticate`

Authenticate to the server.

`sieve-manage-capability`

Return a list of capabilities the server supports.

`sieve-manage-listscripts`

List scripts on the server.

`sieve-manage-havespace`

Return non-`nil` if the server has room for a script of given size.

`sieve-manage-getscript`

Download script from server.

`sieve-manage-putscript`

Upload script to server.

`sieve-manage-setactive`

Indicate which script on the server should be active.



## 6 Standards

The Emacs Sieve package implements all or parts of a small but hopefully growing number of RFCs and drafts documents. This chapter lists the relevant ones. They can all be fetched from <http://quimby.gnus.org/notes/>.

*RFC3028* Sieve: A Mail Filtering Language.

*draft-martin-managesieve-03*

A Protocol for Remotely Managing Sieve Scripts





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