
NeoMutt: new Thunderbird

I've used Thunderbird ... a lot... actually every day since Google ditched Inbox. It was my daily driver for emails with 4 mailboxes. I'm a gruvbox lover so I've installed gruvbox theme and modified userChrome.css and userContent.css files so my email client looked even more gruvboxy with the same font I use throughout my whole system.

One day Mozilla came up with an UI overhaul called Supernova. This change turned Thunderbird into Outlook layout in default layout. Anyway half of my userChrome setup broke down. My font set-up was gone. Counting in the memory consumption this was the last straw on camels back. I had to migrate to something else.

Choices

Let's enumerate what options I had:

- Evolution - tied to Gnome
- KMail - tied to KDE
- Geary - not bad but uses Outlook-like layout
- Blue Mail - proprietary
- Claws Mail - used in past but the UI is ugly even for me
- Mail Spring - Electron ...
- a few other Electron apps ...
- a few discontinued apps ...
- NeoMutt - CLI app - kinda rough

Long story short, except Thunderbird, there is no good e-mail client for Linux if you use WM not DE and you don't wanna go CLI. But wait... I like CLI (nvim, mocp, mc, weechat, ...) so I went for NeoMutt. Maybe it won't be that difficult + I will free some MB from my memory.

NeoMutt setup

First I went thru a few (i.e. here) blog posts so I was able to imagine what actually NeoMutt is. Also NeoMutt's homepage offers pretty good guide as an entry point. I recommend to read the whole guide. It's worth the time.

The blog post I linked above is good and goes thru the complex setup with a GMail mailbox - which was my case. Except setting a custom password for external application there was no issue whatsoever. My NeoMutt instance could connect to GMail and fetch all my mails - really fast - actually much faster than Thunterbird.

It's worth to mention there is quite a difference in setting up following directives

- `header_cache`
- `message_cachedir`

to file paths or to directory paths. In case of file NeoMutt uses that file as one large shared database file. In case of directory NeoMutt uses the directory as a root directory for caching stuff in more separated files. I went for option 2 because it performs faster.

NeoMutt has a ton of configuration directives therefore I went step by step - sidebar -> index (list of emails) -> pager (email message detail) -> I configured every piece of NeoMutt step by step so I get the expected behavior but wasn't overwhelmed by new stuff.

I also focused first on reading emails then on the NeoMutt machinery of composing emails. That prevented me from losing track what is what and gave me some time to get used to keybindings.

The good advice is to keep config separated in a few individual files and then source them in the main `neomutt.rc` file.

```
File: neomutt.rc
```

```
1 source ./accounts
2 source ./sidebar
3 source ./index
4 source ./macros
5 source ./pager
6 source ./ux
7 source ./keys
8 source ./theme
```

This helps to keep stuff organized by it's intent. Another step not to get lost in all the NeoMutt's config directives.

Here is my config (current to this date). You can check it out and get inspired. I removed most of unexpected (compared to Thunderbird) behavior, set up Firefox as default HTML emails viewer (some HTML emails contain HTML errors which the default viewer is not able to render), and set up a macro for saving attachments to disk.

First impressions

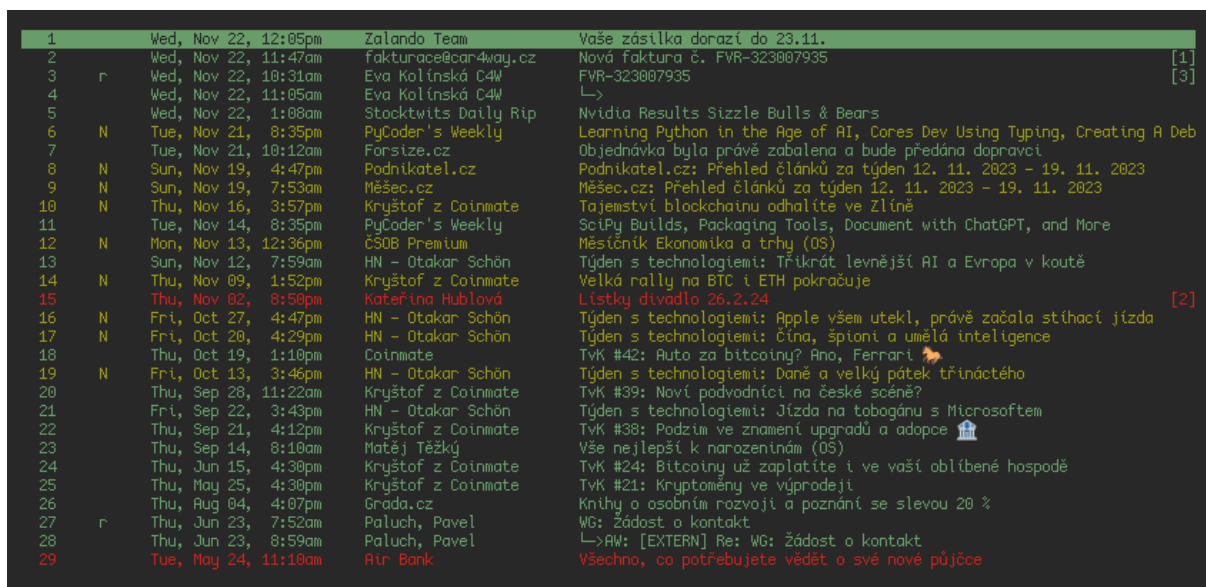
I've been using NeoMutt for like 4 weeks and I had no hard times. Surprisingly. I'm used to CLI so no potential hurdles here but I was surprised how intuitive the UI is and how easy it's to get used to a few

new keybindings.

After I tuned up the config the experience was pretty great. I started noticing the speed of CLI (which is why I use most of CLI apps) and different memory footprint - a fraction of what Thunderbird was taking. Handling NeoMutt is in fact much easier than I was thinking.

Screenshots

(please keep in mind that the look is my custom gruvbox theme)



```
1 Wed, Nov 22, 12:05pm Zalando Team Vaše zásilka dorazí do 23.11.
2 Wed, Nov 22, 11:47am fakturace@car4way.cz Nová faktura č. FVR-323007935 [1]
3 r Wed, Nov 22, 10:31am Eva Kolínská C4W FVR-323007935 [3]
4 Wed, Nov 22, 11:05am Eva Kolínská C4W ↳
5 Wed, Nov 22, 1:08am Stocktwits Daily Rip Nvidia Results Sizzle Bulls & Bears
6 N Tue, Nov 21, 8:35pm PyCoder's Weekly Learning Python in the Age of AI, Cores.Dev Using Typing, Creating A Deb
7 Tue, Nov 21, 10:12am Forsize.cz Objednávka byla právě zabalena a bude předána dopravci
8 N Sun, Nov 19, 4:47pm Podnikatel.cz Podnikatel.cz: Přehled článků za týden 12. 11. 2023 - 19. 11. 2023
9 N Sun, Nov 19, 7:53am Měsec.cz Měsec.cz: Přehled článků za týden 12. 11. 2023 - 19. 11. 2023
10 N Thu, Nov 16, 3:57pm Kryštof z Coinmate Tajemství blockchainu odhalíte ve Zlině
11 Tue, Nov 14, 8:35pm PyCoder's Weekly SciPy Builds, Packaging Tools, Document with ChatGPT, and More
12 N Mon, Nov 13, 12:36pm ČSOB Premium Měsíčník Ekonomika a trhy (05)
13 Sun, Nov 12, 7:59am HN - Otakar Schön Týden s technologiemi: Třikrát levnější AI a Evropa v koutě
14 N Thu, Nov 09, 1:52pm Kryštof z Coinmate Velká rally na BTC i ETH pokračuje
15 Thu, Nov 02, 8:50pm Kateřina Hublová Lístky divadlo 26.2.24 [2]
16 N Fri, Oct 27, 4:47pm HN - Otakar Schön Týden s technologiemi: Apple všem utekl, právě začala stíhací jízda
17 N Fri, Oct 20, 4:29pm HN - Otakar Schön Týden s technologiemi: Čína, špióni a umělá inteligence
18 Thu, Oct 19, 1:10pm Coinmate TvK #42: Auto za bitcoiny? Ano, Ferrari 🚗
19 N Fri, Oct 13, 3:46pm HN - Otakar Schön Týden s technologiemi: Daně a velký pátek třináctého
20 Thu, Sep 28, 11:22am Kryštof z Coinmate TvK #39: Noví podvodníci na české scéně?
21 Fri, Sep 22, 3:43pm HN - Otakar Schön Týden s technologiemi: Jízda na tobogánu s Microsoftem
22 Thu, Sep 21, 4:12pm Kryštof z Coinmate TvK #38: Podzim ve znamení upgradů a adopce 🏠
23 Thu, Sep 14, 8:10am Matěj Těžký Vše nejlepší k narozeninám (05)
24 Thu, Jun 15, 4:30pm Kryštof z Coinmate TvK #24: Bitcoinů už zaplatíte i ve vaší oblíbené hospodě
25 Thu, May 25, 4:30pm Kryštof z Coinmate TvK #21: Kryptoměny ve výprodeji
26 Thu, Aug 04, 4:07pm Grada.cz Knihy o osobním rozvoji a poznání se slevou 20 %
27 r Thu, Jun 23, 7:52am Paluch, Pavel WG: Žádost o kontakt
28 Thu, Jun 23, 8:59am Paluch, Pavel ↳AW: [EXTERN] Re: WG: Žádost o kontakt
29 Tue, May 24, 11:10am Air Bank Všechno, co potřebujete vědět o své nové půjčce
```

8	Sun, Nov 19, 4:47pm	Podnikatel.cz	Podnikatel.cz: Přehled článků za týden 12. 11. 2023 - 19. 11. 2023
9	Sun, Nov 19, 7:53am	Měsec.cz	Měsec.cz: Přehled článků za týden 12. 11. 2023 - 19. 11. 2023
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16	Fri, Oct 27, 4:47pm	HN - Otakar Schön	Týden s technologiemi: Apple všem utekl, právě začala stíhači jízda
17	Fri, Oct 20, 4:29pm	HN - Otakar Schön	Týden s technologiemi: Čína, špióni a umělá inteligence

[Folder: +INBOX] [*29 messages]

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2023 19:35:14 +0000 (UTC)
From: PyCoder's Weekly <admin@pycoders.com>
To: l@gmail.com
Subject: SciPy Builds, Packaging Tools, Document with ChatGPT, and More

Read this issue in your browser: <https://pycoders.com/issues/603/aichlmeius>

** PyCoder's Weekly #603: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

SciPy Builds on Windows Are a Minor Miracle

Moving SciPy to Meson meant finding a different Fortran compiler on Windows, which was particularly tricky to pull off for conda-forge. This blog tells the story about how things looked pretty grim for the Python 3.12 release, and how things ended up working out just in the nick of time. Associated [HN discussion](<https://pycoders.com/link/11781/aichlmeius>).

<https://pycoders.com/link/11765/aichlmeius>

An Unbiased Evaluation of Environment and Packaging Tools

This detailed article covers the wide world of packaging in Python, how the different tools overlap, and how each has its own area of specialization. A great deep dive on all the choices out there that can help you pick the right tool for your project.

<https://pycoders.com/link/11773/aichlmeius>

Automate LLM Backend Deployments Using Infrastructure as Code

New GitHub project to provision, update, and destroy the cloud infrastructure for a LLM backend using infrastructure as code (Python). Deployment options include deploying [Hugging Face models to Docker (local), Runpod, and Azure >](<https://pycoders.com/link/11753/aichlmeius>)

<https://pycoders.com/link/11753/aichlmeius> [sponsor]

Document Your Python Code and Projects With ChatGPT

Good documentation is a critical feature of any successful Python project. In practice, writing documentation is hard and can take a lot of time and effort. Nowadays, with tools like ChatGPT, you can quickly document your Python code and projects.

<https://pycoders.com/link/11779/aichlmeius>

PSF Receives "Wonderfully Welcoming Award" From GitHub!

<https://pycoders.com/link/11761/aichlmeius>

** Discussions

Idea: Return a NamedTuple

<https://pycoders.com/link/11774/aichlmeius>

** Articles & Tutorials

Python Errors as Values

Error handling can be done in a variety of ways, and this article discusses why one organization decided to use returned error values instead of exceptions. Along the way, you'll see comparisons between Python, Go, and Rust to better understand the different mechanisms.

<https://pycoders.com/link/11754/aichlmeius>

Guide to Hash Tables in Python

Hash tables offer an efficient and flexible method of storing and retrieving data, making them indispensable for tasks involving large data sets or requiring rapid access to stored items. Python's 'dict' is a hash, learn how it works and how it can help your code.

<https://pycoders.com/link/11775/aichlmeius>

Confusing 'git' Terminology

- +- 11/29: PyCoder's Weekly SciPy Builds, Packaging Tools, Document with ChatGPT, and More -- (41%)

```
INBOX [2]          4/29      1  N   Wed, Nov 22,  3:59pm  Kraken          A new device is trying to sign in
Starded           4          2  N   Wed, Nov 22,  3:11pm  GitLab          vystaviste web | Failed pipeline for featu
All Mail          40/9171   3  N   Wed, Nov 22, 11:57am  Jan Sehnoutka (@jan. T-Business | Feature/ithreads (144)
Drafts           0          4  N   Wed, Nov 22, 11:57am  Jan Sehnoutka (@jan. <
Sent Mail         5195     5  N   Tue, Nov 21,  9:50pm  foodora         6449 - ?Jste pripraveni ziskat pristup do
Spam              66/66     6  N   Tue, Nov 21,  9:05pm  Trading 212     Identity verified!
Trash [3]         258/504   7  N   Tue, Nov 21,  9:00pm  Trading 212     Pavel - verify your identity
                  8  N   Tue, Nov 21,  8:46pm  Trading 212     Welcome to Trading 212!
                  9  N   Tue, Nov 21,  8:46pm  Trading 212     Verify your email with a single click
                  10 N   Tue, Nov 21,  8:35pm  support@xtb.cz  Vas ucet pro platformu xStation je nyní ak

[ Folder: +[Gmail]/Trash ] [*504 messages (258 new) ]
Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2023 10:57:15 +0000
From: " " < > <gitlab@mg.gitlab.com>
To: " " < > <gmail.com>
Subject: Re: T-Business | Feature/ithreads (144)

Reassigned merge request 44

https://gitlab.com/proboston/tmobile/t-business/-/merge_requests/44

Assignee changed to n1

--
Reply to this email directly or view it on GitLab:
https://gitlab.com/proboston/tmobile/t-business/-/merge_requests/44
You're receiving this email because you have been assigned an item on
gitlab.com.
```