

Electronic Bulletin Boards at Carnegie Mellon University

This document contains the following sections:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Requesting a Bboard](#)
- [Posting to a Bboard](#)
- [FAQ Bboard](#)

For information related to this topic refer to:

- [Bulletin Boards \(http://www.cmu.edu/computing/email/bboards.html\)](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/email/bboards.html)
- [Webmail: Using \(http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html\)](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html)

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What is a bboard?

Electronic bulletin boards (bboards) are similar to regular (non-electronic) bulletin boards in that they are places where people can post and read messages. Any kind of written interaction can take place on a bulletin board, but most bulletin boards have customary ways that people interact on them. It is a good idea to read a few discussions on the bboard to get an idea of what is customary before you begin posting. On Cyrus, each bboard has a name that describes something about the bboard.

Explanation of Bboard trees

Bboards are organized in a tree structure where each "tree" represents a bboard purpose. Following are descriptions of the top-level bulletin boards available on Cyrus

official

Restricted posting bboards that contain official information from various places (e.g., official.cmu-news, official.computing-news).

academic

Bboards for courses.

assocs

Top-level node for user-created sub-nodes pertaining to various associations, formal and informal, at Carnegie Mellon. Those organizations recognized by Student Senate may also request a bboard in the cmu.student tree.

cmu

This is the top level node for campus-wide usenet groups, like cmu.misc.market, including bboards imported from the School of Computer Science (cs). Bboards under the cmu level may be distributed to other systems on campus under a special protocol (e.g., to CS, SEI, the Computer Club, PSC).

graffiti

Uncensored scribbling. Pretty much, anything-goes here. Users are encouraged to choose the graffiti tree rather than assocs or hobbies when they wish to start bboards for random, recreational scribbling. Bboards whose names target individuals for ridicule or offense will, at the individual's request, be removed.

org

Bboards devoted to university departments.

internet

Mailing lists distributed across the Internet and other external networks are presented as bboards here. Users are encouraged to read mailing lists as bboards under this top-level bboard instead of directly subscribing to the lists. This eases the load on our mail servers and on you. (The mail servers only receive one copy of the mailing list messages rather than copies to multiple users; and, you have access to read the messages without cluttering your Inbox.)

netnews

Newsgroups obtained from the netnews mechanism. Most of these discussion forums are distributed worldwide.

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Requesting a Bboard for Group Email Access

Many departments would like to have a departmental email address which allows access to a specified group of people. For group access to a single contact email address, we recommend the use of an email alias along with an electronic bboard. The email alias is the advertised email address for your group. This email address is then set to forward mail to the bboard. This provides a single email address used to contact your group but multiple people are able to read and respond to the messages.

Note: Your email client can also be configured to show the email alias as the "From" and "Reply To" address on outgoing mail. This is referred to as using a separate identity. Please see the documentation for your specific email client (Outlook, Entourage, Webmail) for detailed steps to create these identities.

Requesting an Email Alias

To request an email alias, send the following information to advisor@andrew.cmu.edu (<mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu>).

Note: If you have not already requested your bboard, combine the following information with your bboard request.

1. Name of the mail alias (i.e., the email address): This address can be any length, but must contain a hyphen. This is required to differentiate the alias from a standard Andrew userID (e.g., our-department@andrew.cmu.edu).
2. Name of the bboard: Specify the name of the bboard that mail will be forwarded to.
3. List of Andrew userIDs with permission to read, post, and delete messages from the bboard.

Requesting a Bboard

Before requesting a new bboard, verify that a bboard for this purpose does not already exist. Use the [Subscribing to Folders and Bboards](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html>) section of the [Outlook](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html>) documentation to search for available bboards. (Instructions for displaying bboards in [Entourage](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/entourage/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/entourage/index.html>) and [Webmail](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html>) are also available.)

To set up a new restricted posting/reading bboard, send the following information to advisor@andrew.cmu.edu (<mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu>).

1. Bboard tree
Use the descriptions above to determine under which tree the bboard should be located.
2. Bboard name
This should include the tree name and adhere to the following naming rules.
 - Do not include any spaces in the bboard name
 - The name must be alpha-numeric characters and must not include any symbols, dashes or dots (other than those necessary to separate the tree structure, e.g., official.computing-news).
 - All lowercase letters.

3. List of Andrew userIDs that should have read access.
 - The name of a PTS group is acceptable. If you have many people who need access to this bboard, we recommend that you [create a PTS group \(http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/unix/pts-groups/index.html\)](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/unix/pts-groups/index.html) for them.
4. List of Andrew userIDs that should have "post" access to the bboard.
 - Again, the name of a PTS group is acceptable.
5. List of Andrew userIDs that should have administrative access to the bboard (i.e., permission to grant access rights to others).
6. List of Andrew userIDs that should have rights to delete items from the bboard.
7. Email this information to advisor@andrew.cmu.edu.
(<mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu>)

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Posting a Message to a Bboard

To post to a bboard, compose a new message and place an address for in the following format in the From:, CC: or BCC: header:

post+bulletinboardname@andrew.cmu.edu

For example, to post to the cmu.misc.market board, the To: address would be:

post+cmu.misc.market@andrew.cmu.edu

Posting to a Restricted Bboard

To post to a posting restricted bboard, you must:

- Use a Cyrus mail client that supports authenticated mail sending (SMTP AUTH). Pine, Webmail, Outlook and Entourage all allow authenticated mail sending.
- Have authenticated sending turned on in your mail client preferences. Pine and Webmail automatically authenticate when sending mail but [Outlook](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/outlook/index.html>) and [Entourage](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/entourage/index.html) (<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/entourage/index.html>) must be configured for authentication.

When you send a message to a posting restricted bboard, the mail system checks the header to see that you have permission to post to that bboard. If your mail is not "authenticated", the message bounces back to you. An authenticated mail header, might include the following in the "Received" section.

(authenticated user=jdoe bits=xx)

OR (user=jdoe mech=KERBEROS_v4 (0 bits))

- Have post (p) access to the bboard.
(If you do NOT already have "post" access, contact the advisor@andrew.cmu.edu (<mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu>) or the bboard administrator to have your access rights changed.)

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Bboard Frequently Asked Questions

I want to read an Internet mailing list, but I don't want to receive the messages in my INBOX. Can Computing Services create a bboard for these messages?

Mailing lists distributed across the Internet can be subscribed to Cyrus bulletin boards. Typically mailing lists are subscribed to bboards in the internet.* tree.

Computing Services encourages you to subscribe mailing lists to bboards instead of subscribing directly to the lists. This eases the load on our mail servers and on you. (The mail servers only receive one copy of the mailing list messages rather than copies to multiple users; and, you have access to read the messages without cluttering your Inbox.)

Please email your request to including the information outlined in the [How to Request a Bboard](#) section.

How do I request a private club bboard?

Computing Services does not provide private (read or posting restricted) bboards for student organizations. However, organizations can set up their own private bboards in the club's email space on Cyrus.

How do I set up a Private Cyrus bboard?

Any club that has been recognized by Student Senate may request a club account and a Cyrus mailbox. To do this, send mail to [_mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu_](mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu) including the information outlined in the *How to Request a Bboard* section.

Clubs that already have an account, but do not have a Cyrus mailbox may request a mailbox the same way. The club account administrators will have full access to this mailbox, and may grant access to others to read, post, and delete messages. The account administrators may also create new folders inside the organization's Cyrus mailbox. This is the recommended way to set up a private bboard for a club.

How do I create a new graffiti or assocs bboard?

If you want to create a new cyrus bboard, you must use either Webmail, Outlook, Entourage or cyradm, a mail system administration program that runs on UNIX and Linux. Pine will only allow you to create personal Mailboxes.

To create a bboard using Webmail:

1. Launch Webmail.
2. Subscribe to the **graffiti** or **assocs** bboard. For more information, see the [Bboards \(http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/bboards.html\)](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/bboards.html) section of the [Webmail: Using \(http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html\)](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/doc/email/webmail/index.html) document.
3. Click the **Folders** link.
4. Under **Create a Folder** type the name of the bboard you want to create.
5. From the **as a subfolder of** drop-down, choose **graffiti** or **assocs**.
6. Click **Create**.

To create a bboard using Outlook:

1. Start Outlook and connect to Cyrus.
2. If a graffiti or assocs folder is not displayed:

- Right click your INBOX and choose IMAP Folders.
 - Select the **All** tab.
 - Type **graffiti** or **assocs** in the Display folders whose name contains field and click Query.
 - Select graffiti or assocs from the list and click **Subscribe**.
3. Right click the graffiti folder and choose **New Folder**.
 4. Title the folder to describe the bboard you want to create.

To create a bboard using Entourage:

1. Start Entourage and click the Cyrus Mail server. A list of folders will appear on the right.
2. Locate the **graffiti** or **assocs** folder.
3. CTRL click the graffiti or assocs folder.
4. From the pop-up menu choose **New Subfolder**.
5. Title the folder to describe the bboard you want to create.

Using cyradm to create a new bboard:

1. Launch a telnet session and open a connection to unix.andrew.cmu.edu or linux.andrew.cmu.edu
2. At the system prompt, type **cyradm mail1**.
3. At the mail1.andrew.cmu.edu> prompt, type:
create graffiti.bboardname
or
create assocs.bboardname
where bboard name is the name of the new bboard you want to create.
4. Type **quit** to quit cyradm.

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