

Inbucket - great tool for email testing

May 8, 2018 / Gavin Jackson

continuous integration

email

go

linux

open source

testing

A quick post to share a great tool I came across. It's called inBucket and it provides a self hosted alternative to mailinator. The premise is that you can dynamically send emails to any address and check the contents of the email via a web browser (or via POP or the REST API).

At work we have just rolled it out into our low environments to assist with testing our background email processes. We intend to wire up our CI environment to the REST API to perform automated regression testing of our automated emails.

It's Open Source, written in GO, runs on Linux - listens on ports 80 (for the web interface) and 25 (smtp), 110 (pop) - it was really easy to install (great documentation!).

Here is a quote from their website:

"Need to test your webapps outbound emails with Mailinator but stuck behind a firewall Want to keep the new application you are developing secret until it's time to release it Need to validate that emails go out as part of your integration test suite Want to send a link to a coworker demonstrating an email without giving them your gmail password Need to load test your application without melting your corporate Exchange server Want to use production data in your test environment without the risk of test messages leaking to an end user Need to preview emails in multiple desktop email clients Use Inbucket!"

They just released a new version too (version 2.0 - which includes a web based configurator). As you can see, it uses a bootstrap theme that provides a pleasant (responsive) web interface.

The screenshot shows the Inbucket web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Inbucket logo, a 'Recent Mailboxes' dropdown menu showing 'james' and 'swaks', a 'Status' field with 'mailbox' and '@inbucket', and a 'View' button. Below the navigation bar, there's a list of emails on the left and a detailed view of the selected email on the right. The email list includes:

- Swaks Top Level HTML (nobody@inbucket.org, 12:15:28 PM)
- Swaks Attachment (nobody@inbucket.org, 12:15:29 PM)
- Test of ёп50qтng (nobody@inbucket.org, 12:15:29 PM)
- Test from Gmail (nobody@inbucket.org, 12:15:29 PM)
- Test from Outlook (nobody@inbucket.org, 12:15:29 PM)

The detailed view of the selected email shows:

- From: nobody@inbucket.org
- Date: 2016-03-04 12:15:29.0392693 -0800 PST
- Subject: Swaks Attachment

The body of the email contains the text: "This is a test mailing. This should be clickable: <http://google.com/>". Below the text, there's an attachment named 'favicon.png (image/png)' with 'View' and 'Download' buttons.




Inbucket Status

Metrics are polled every 10 seconds. Inbucket does not keep history for the 10 minute graphs, but your web browser will accumulate the data over time.



Configuration

Version:	'1.1.0-rc1', built on '2016-03-03T21:46:41-08:00'
SMTP Listener:	0.0.0.0:2500
POP3 Listener:	0.0.0.0:1100
HTTP Listener:	0.0.0.0:9000
No-Store Domain:	Not Configured




General Metrics

Uptime:	13 minute(s)		(10min)
System Memory:	8.60 MB		(10min)
Heap Size:	4.78 MB		(10min)
Heap In-Use:	1.53 MB		(10min)
Heap # Objects:	10,657		(10min)

SMTP Metrics

Current Connections:	0		(10min)
Total Connections:	8		(60min)
Messages Received:	8		(60min)
Errors Logged:	0		(60min)
Warnings Logged:	0		(60min)

Data Store Metrics

Retention Period:	4.0 hour(s)		(60min)
Retention Scan:	Completed 18 seconds ago		(60min)
Retention Deletes:	0		(60min)
Currently Retained:	8		(60min)

Here are some links to check out:

- Web page: <http://www.inbucket.org>
- Github: <https://github.com/jhillierd/inbucket>
- API doco: <https://github.com/jhillierd/inbucket/wiki/REST-API>

Downloaded from <https://www.gavinj.net/post/inbucket-great-tool-for-email-testing>

Generated July 9, 2026. Copyright Gavin Jackson. All rights reserved.