

MailAgent

Sorts and files your email automatically, across every IMAP account you use.



Overview

MailAgent is a Mac app that keeps a local copy of your mailboxes, works out where each message belongs, and files it into folders on your mail server. Because the folders live on the server, your mail stays organized in every app you read it with, including Apple Mail and your phone.

MailAgent works in stages that run on their own in the background:

1. **Mirror.** MailAgent copies your folders and messages to your Mac and keeps the copy current.
2. **Extract.** Apple Intelligence reads each message on your Mac and records what it is about: the sender, the topic, and whether it needs action.
3. **Classify.** Your filing rules decide which folder each message belongs in.
4. **File.** MailAgent moves the message on the server.

Every change MailAgent makes to your mail is recorded before it is sent to the server and retried if a connection drops.

MailAgent is in development and not yet available for download. This manual describes the current development build.

Requirements

- A Mac with macOS 14 or later.
- For message analysis: macOS 26 or later on a Mac with Apple Intelligence turned on. On earlier systems MailAgent still mirrors your mail and runs the actions you take yourself, but it cannot analyze messages.
- One or more IMAP mail accounts. MailAgent has presets for iCloud, AOL, and Gmail, and accepts any other IMAP server.
- For iCloud, AOL, and most other providers: an app-specific password from your provider.
- For Gmail: an OAuth client ID and client secret from your own Google Cloud project.

Use cases

- **Keep several inboxes under control.** You read mail from a personal, a work, and a family account, and want receipts, newsletters, and notices out of all three inboxes without writing server-side rules for each.
- **Hold back unknown senders.** You want mail from senders you have never written to set aside until you decide to keep or block them.

- **Clean up after years of mail.** You have tens of thousands of old messages and want to find the senders, orders, and newsletters that fill your mailbox, then delete or file them in bulk.
- **Turn a habit into a rule.** You always move the library's notices to the same folder. MailAgent notices the pattern and offers to do it for you.
- **Catch suspicious mail.** You want messages with failed sender checks, look-alike domains, or other risk signals moved to a quarantine folder rather than left in your inbox.
- **Track to-dos that arrive by email.** Bills, appointments, and deadlines in your inbox become macOS Reminders.

Getting started

Install and open MailAgent

1. Move MailAgent to your Applications folder.
2. Open MailAgent. The dashboard opens. Until you add an account, it has nothing to show.

Only one copy of MailAgent runs at a time. If you open a second copy, it quits on its own.

Add your accounts

1. Choose **MailAgent > Settings** (⌘,), or click the gear button in the dashboard toolbar.
2. Select **Accounts**, then click **Add account**.
3. Click the new account to expand it, and enter:
 - A short name for the account, such as **home** or **work**. The dashboard uses it to label the account.
 - Your email address.
 - The provider: **iCloud**, **AOL**, **Gmail**, or **Custom**. For **Custom**, also enter the IMAP host and port.
 - How MailAgent signs in: **password** or **oauth**.
4. For a password account, enter the app-specific password from your provider.
5. For a Gmail account, enter your OAuth client ID and client secret, then click **Re-authorize**. Your browser opens Google's consent page. Sign in and allow access.
6. Choose **Save Settings** (⌘S).

MailAgent stores passwords and Gmail sign-ins in your Mac's Keychain, never in its settings file.

After you save, the mirror starts copying your mail. The first copy of a large mailbox can take a long time; the **Bodies to download** box on the dashboard shows how much is left.

Permissions MailAgent asks for

Permission	When MailAgent asks	Why
Keychain	The first time it reads your saved passwords	To sign in to your mail accounts
Reminders	When you turn on action item reminders	To create reminders for bills, deadlines, and appointments

Filing starts as a dry run

Out of the box, the background filing stage only reports what it would do. The dashboard shows `dry run: nothing is moved` beside the filing status, and the log lists what would have moved where. Actions you take yourself, such as deleting an email or accepting a rule with **Accept and refile**, always run.

To let MailAgent file mail on its own:

1. Open **Settings > Import / Export**.
2. Add the key `MESSAGE_FILING_WORKER` with the value `on`.
3. Choose **Save Settings** (⌘S).

To stop automatic filing, change the value to `dry-run` (report only) or `off`.

Features

Dashboard

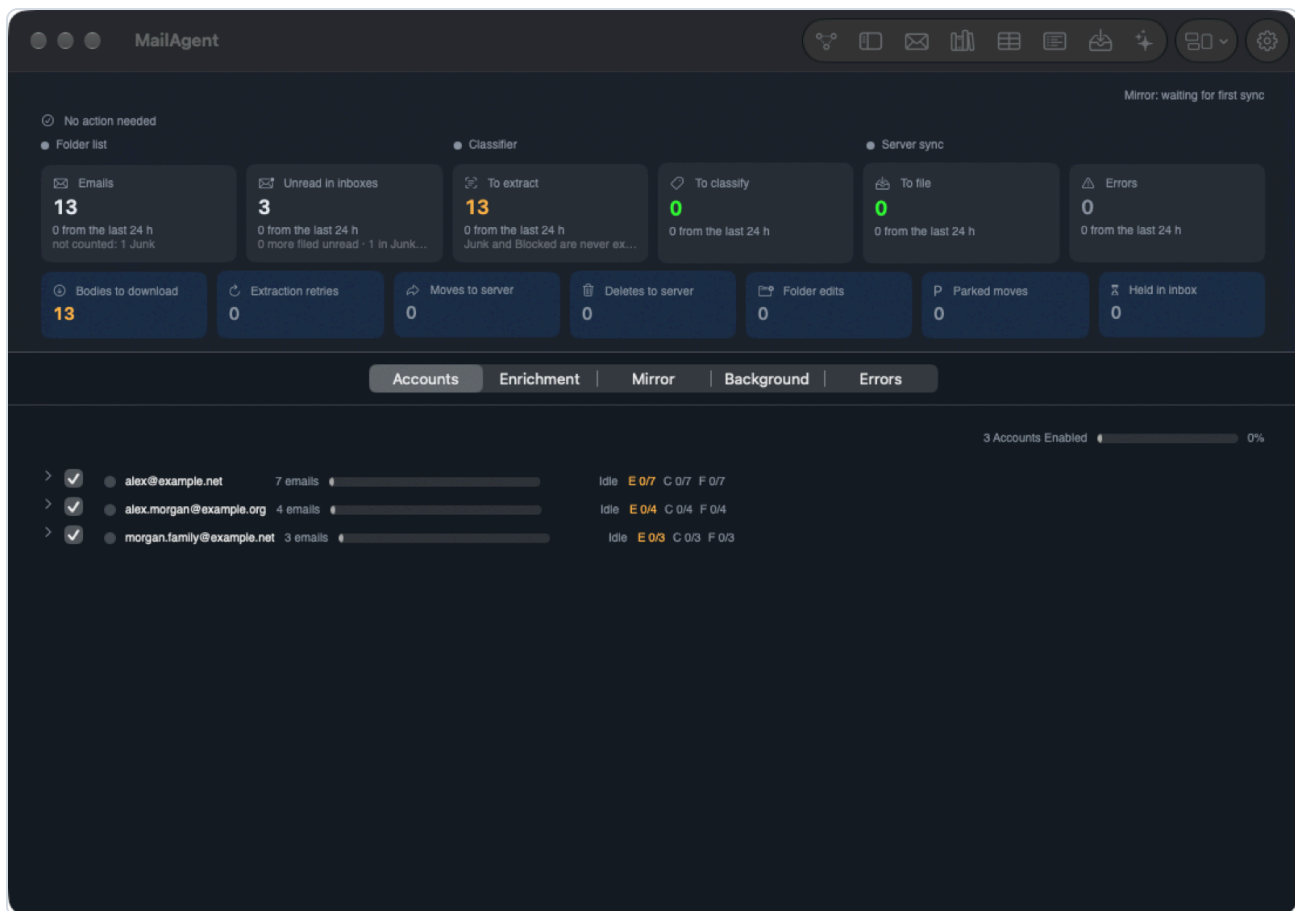
The dashboard is MailAgent's main window. It shows how much mail you have and how much of it each stage still has to process.

The top row of boxes counts your mail:

- **Emails:** every real email in your enabled accounts, counted once even when Gmail shows it under several labels. Junk, Blocked, and Trash are counted separately.
- **Unread in inboxes:** unread mail still in an inbox.
- **To extract, To classify, To file:** mail waiting at each stage. Orange means mail is waiting.
- **Errors:** messages the analysis gave up on, and server changes that failed.

The second row shows the queues behind the scenes: bodies still to download, extraction retries, moves and deletes waiting for the server, folder edits, parked moves (held back on purpose and never sent), and inbox mail held until you have read it and it is a day old.

Click any box to see the messages behind it in a searchable list.



The dashboard in the Run Bar layout, with three sample accounts.

Below the boxes are tabs:

- **Accounts:** one row per account, with its message count and progress through extraction (E), classification (C), and filing (F). Clear an account's checkbox to stop processing it. At least one account stays on.
- **Enrichment:** how much of your mail has been analyzed, and the topics found. Click a topic to see its emails.
- **Mirror:** how complete the local copy of your mail is.
- **Background:** what each background job is doing right now.
- **Errors:** failed server changes. Click **Retry** to send one again, or **Dismiss** to stop showing it. Dismissing never changes your mail.

Empty Trash

Beside the Trash, Junk, and Blocked counts, click **Empty Trash** to permanently delete every email in Trash, in every enabled account.

Warning: Emptying Trash deletes those emails from your mail servers permanently. You cannot undo it. MailAgent asks you to confirm first.

Dashboard layouts

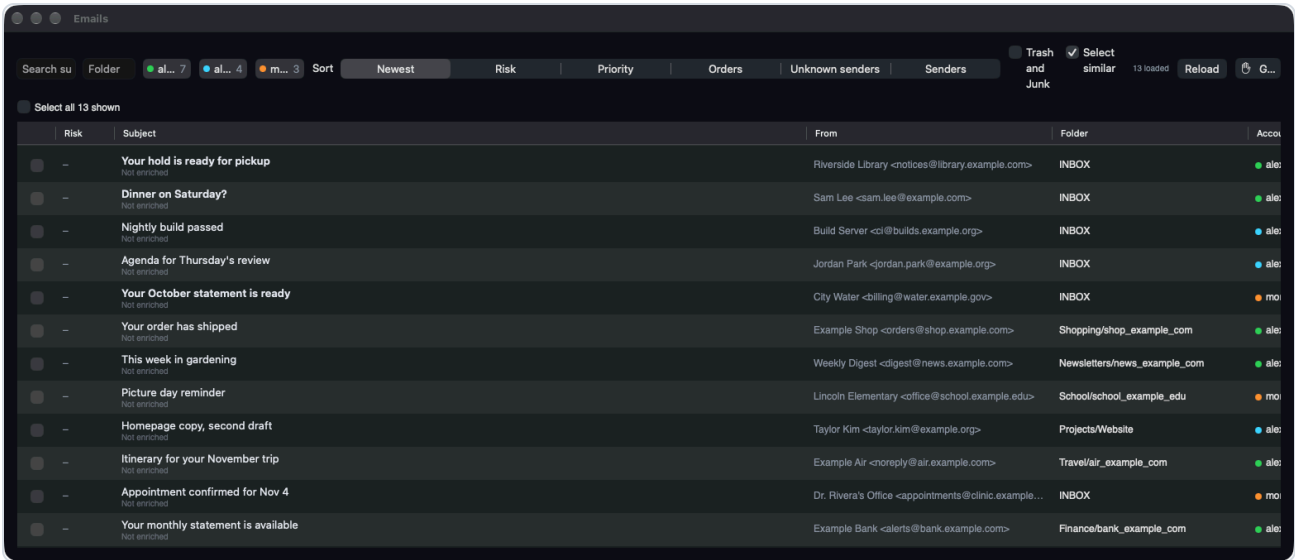
Choose a layout from the **Layout** button in the toolbar, or from the **View** menu:

Layout	Shortcut	What it shows
Run Bar	⌘1	Counters pinned above the account list
Inspector	⌘2	Accounts full width, run options in a side panel
Focused	⌘3	One headline, with everything else folded away

Choose **View > Light Appearance** to switch from the dark theme to a light one.

Emails window

Click **Emails** in the dashboard toolbar to list every mirrored email across your accounts, newest first. Each account has its own color.



The Emails window. Account buttons at the top show or hide each account's mail.

Use the controls at the top to narrow the list:

- **Search subject or sender:** type to filter.
- **Folder:** show one folder and its subfolders, such as **Blocked** or **Archive/2022**. Press Return to apply.
- **Account buttons:** show or hide one account's mail.
- **Trash and Junk:** include mail already in Trash or Junk.
- **Sort:** choose a view:
 - **Newest:** everything, newest first.
 - **Risk:** mail with a risk score of 40 or more, highest first.
 - **Priority:** urgent, high-priority, and needs-action mail.
 - **Orders:** orders and services with no delivery, cancellation, or completion email yet.
 - **Unknown senders:** mail from senders you have not approved.
 - **Senders:** mail grouped by sender.

Each row has action buttons. Hover over one to see what it does:

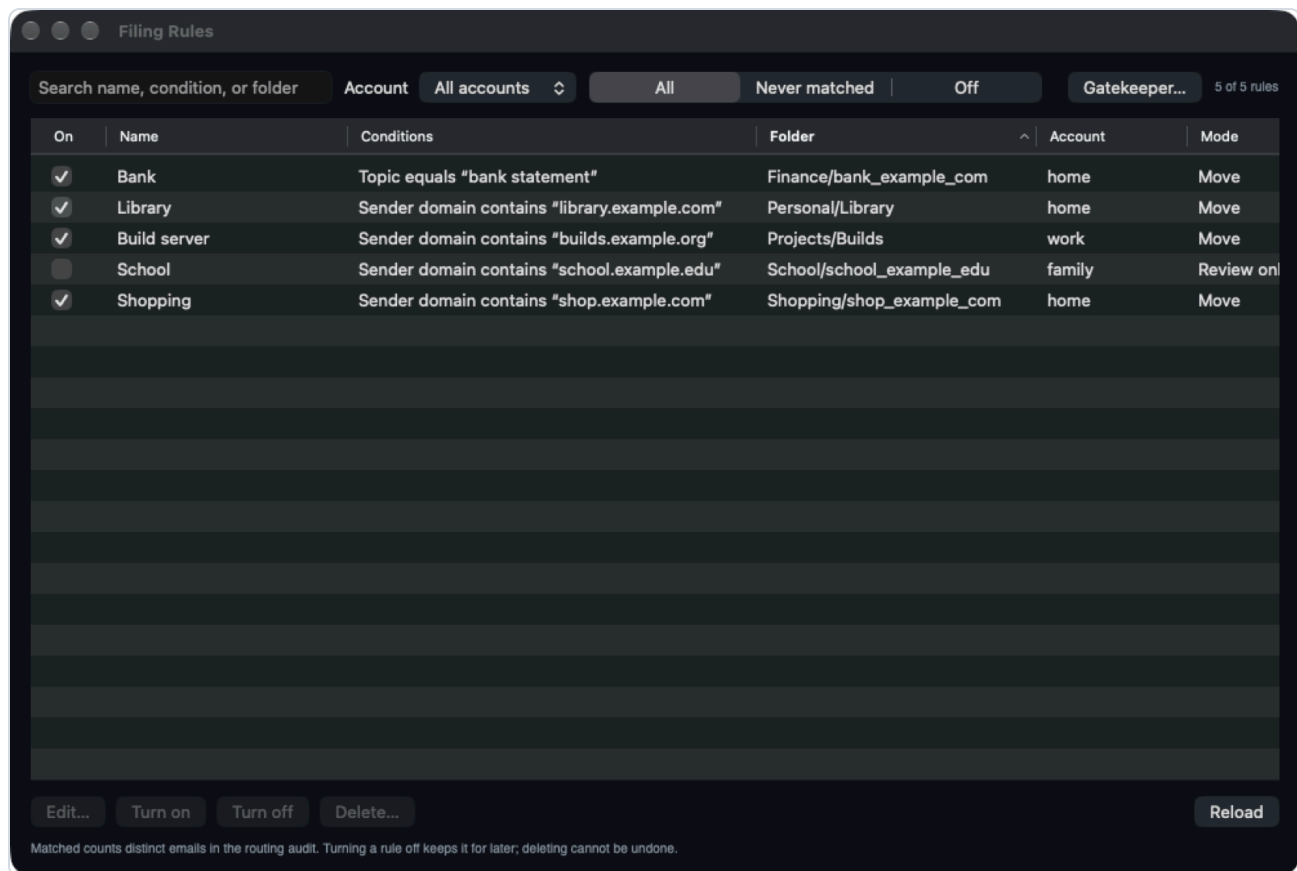
Action	What it does
Open	Reads the email
Delete	Moves the email to Trash
File	Moves the email into a folder you choose
Mark as spam	Moves the email to the account's Junk folder
Block	Sends future mail like this one to Blocked
Block sender	Blocks the address, moves its mail to Trash, and unsubscribes where safe
Keep sender	Approves the sender and files all their mail
Create rule	Starts a filing rule for this sender

To act on several emails at once, check them, or turn on **Select similar** so that checking one email also checks every email from the same sender. Then use the buttons that appear, such as **Delete *n* selected** or **Block *n* selected**.

Load older email loads the next page of the list.

Filing rules

Click **Filing rules** in the dashboard toolbar to see every saved rule: its conditions, the folder it files into, its account, and its mode.



The Filing Rules window. The School rule is turned off.

A rule's mode is either **Move**, which files matching mail, or **Review only**, which records matches without moving anything.

To manage rules:

1. Search by name, condition, or folder, or filter with **All**, **Never matched**, or **Off**.
2. Select one or more rules.
3. Click **Edit...**, **Turn on**, **Turn off**, or **Delete...**

Turning a rule off keeps it for later. Deleting a rule cannot be undone; mail it already filed stays where it is.

Filing recommendations

When most of a sender's filed mail already sits in one of your folders, MailAgent suggests a rule to file that sender's new mail there too. A badge on the **Recommendations** toolbar button shows how many suggestions are waiting.

For each recommendation, click:

- **Accept:** saves the rule and switches it on for new mail.
- **Ignore:** dismisses the suggestion.
- **Junk:** files this sender's mail, now and from now on, into the account's Junk folder.

Accept all accepts every suggestion in the list. Use **Recommend after** to set how many messages a sender needs before MailAgent suggests a rule. The folder must hold 75% of the sender's filed mail.

File Inbox

Click **File Inbox** in the dashboard toolbar to step through read inbox mail that no rule files yet. For each email, MailAgent suggests a rule and a folder.

1. Check or change the folder in **File into**.
2. Click **Accept and refile** to save the rule and refile every read email it matches, in the inbox and in other folders. Or click **Skip** to leave the email where it is and move to the next one.

Gatekeeper

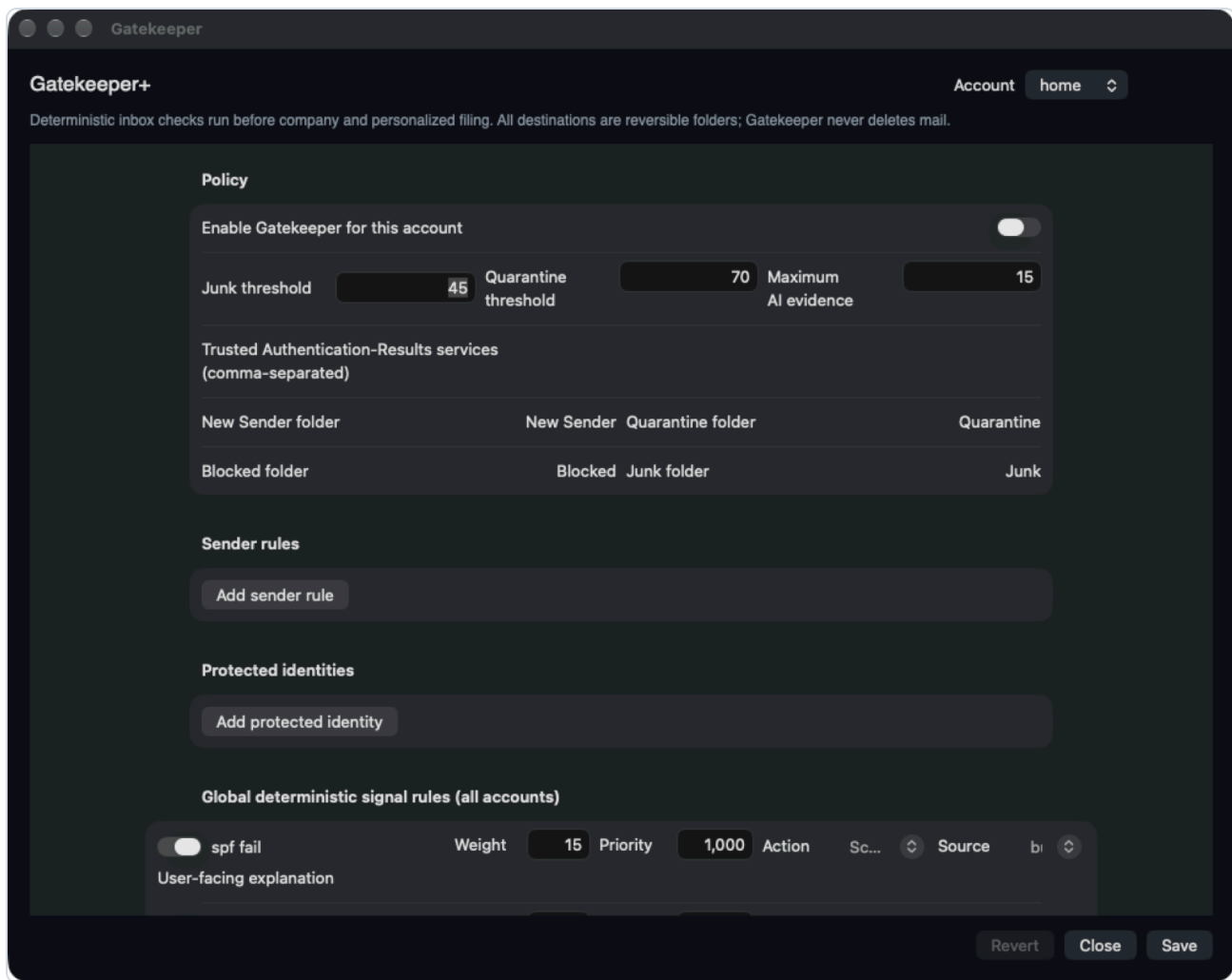
Gatekeeper checks new inbox mail before your filing rules do. It scores each message on signals such as failed sender authentication, look-alike domains, and impersonation of names you protect, then routes it:

- Mail from senders you have never corresponded with goes to **New Sender**.
- Mail that scores at the quarantine threshold or higher goes to **Quarantine**.
- Mail that scores at the junk threshold or higher goes to **Junk**.
- Mail from senders you block goes to **Blocked**.

Every destination is an ordinary folder you can move mail back out of. Gatekeeper never deletes mail. When you first turn it on, MailAgent marks everyone you have already corresponded with as a known sender.

To set up Gatekeeper:

1. Click **Filing rules** in the toolbar, then click **Gatekeeper...**
2. Choose an account.
3. Turn on **Enable Gatekeeper for this account**.
4. Adjust the thresholds and folder names if you need to.
5. Under **Sender rules**, click **Add sender rule** to always allow or always block an address or domain.
6. Under **Protected identities**, click **Add protected identity** to protect a display name, such as your bank's name, along with its legitimate domains. Mail that uses the name from another domain scores higher.
7. Click **Save**.



The Gatekeeper editor. Defaults: junk at 45, quarantine at 70.

The signal rules at the bottom of the editor apply to all accounts. Each has a weight, a priority, and a switch to turn it off.

When you open an email that Gatekeeper moved, a pane at the top names the signals that added to its score and lets you loosen the settings, for example **Always allow** the sender.

Gatekeeper review

In the Emails window, click **Gatekeeper review...** to scan the mail you already have for messages the current rules would flag. Scanning reads every mirrored email once, takes a few minutes, and changes nothing. For each flagged email, click **Keep** to trust its sender or **Delete** to move it to Trash. The **Recommendations** tab proposes rules you can **Approve**.

Nested folders

Click **Nested folders** in the dashboard toolbar to browse each account's folders as a tree, with message counts from the server. Select a folder to list its emails, and select an email to read it

and see the tags and entities extracted from it.

From the folder view you can:

- Move or delete one email, every email from a sender, or every email in a sender-domain group.
- Mark an email as spam.
- Create a rule to file future mail from a sender address, a domain, or a subject phrase.
- Open an email in Apple Mail with **Open in Mail**.
- Search subjects, senders, or message bodies.

Mailbox graph

Click **Mailbox graph** in the dashboard toolbar to see how your mail flows from sender to category to folder. The thickness of each band is the number of emails. Hover to see counts; click a band to list its emails. Bands marked as filed under another category's folder can point to misfiled mail.

Use **Account**, the range (**30 days, 90 days, 1 year, All time**), and **Top senders** to change what the graph shows. **Exclude Junk, Trash and Blocked** is on by default. The graph shows only mail that has been analyzed.

Entities

Click **Entities** in the dashboard toolbar to browse the people, organizations, and topics MailAgent has found in your mail, in a sortable spreadsheet. Select an entry to see its related emails, a profile for a person or the relationship level for an organization, and a graph of the entries it shares the most email with.

From an entry you can create a filing rule (**Make filing rule**), create a folder and a rule together, or move its related emails to Trash. Saving a rule never moves the emails shown.

Action item reminders

When reminders are on, MailAgent looks for bills, invitations, deadlines, account actions, and other to-dos in inbox mail and creates a macOS Reminder for each, with the due date when it finds one.

To turn them on, open **Settings > Accounts**, expand **Action item reminders**, and select **Create macOS Reminders**. macOS asks for permission to use Reminders the first time.

Connect an AI assistant

MailAgent can act as an MCP server, so an AI assistant such as Claude Desktop or Cursor can list your accounts, folders, and messages, suggest a folder for a message, and move mail. The

connection is available only to apps on your Mac.

To connect an assistant, add a stdio MCP server to its settings with this command, using the path where MailAgent is installed:

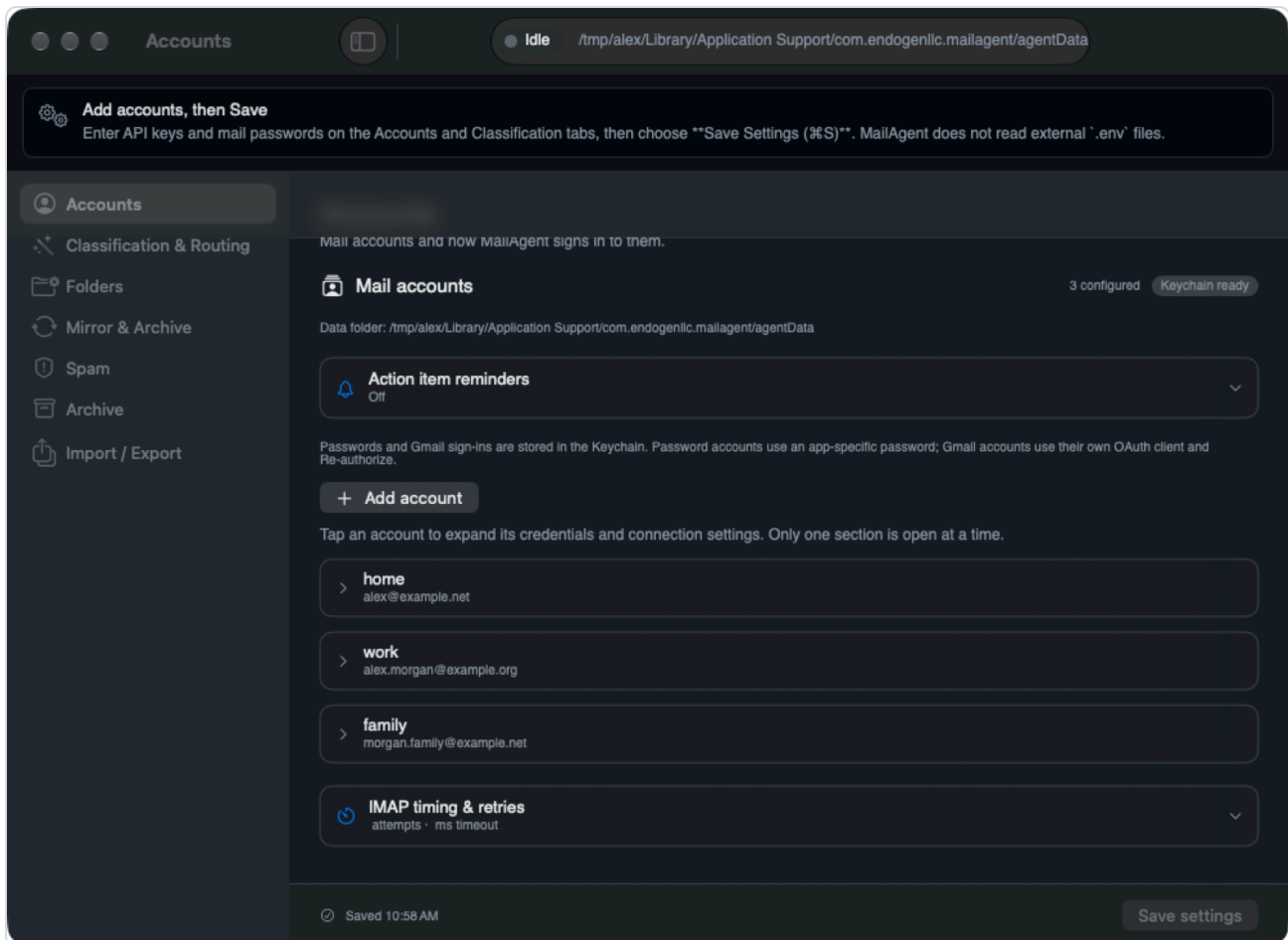
```
/Applications/MailAgent.app/Contents/MacOS/MailAgent --mcp
```

If MailAgent is already running, the assistant connects to the running app.

For safety, moves default to a dry run; an assistant must pass both `dry_run=false` and `confirm=true` to move mail. The assistant has no tool for deleting mail, and passwords and sign-in tokens are never shown to it.

Settings

Open Settings with **MailAgent > Settings** (⌘,). Most changes take effect when you choose **Save Settings** (⌘S).



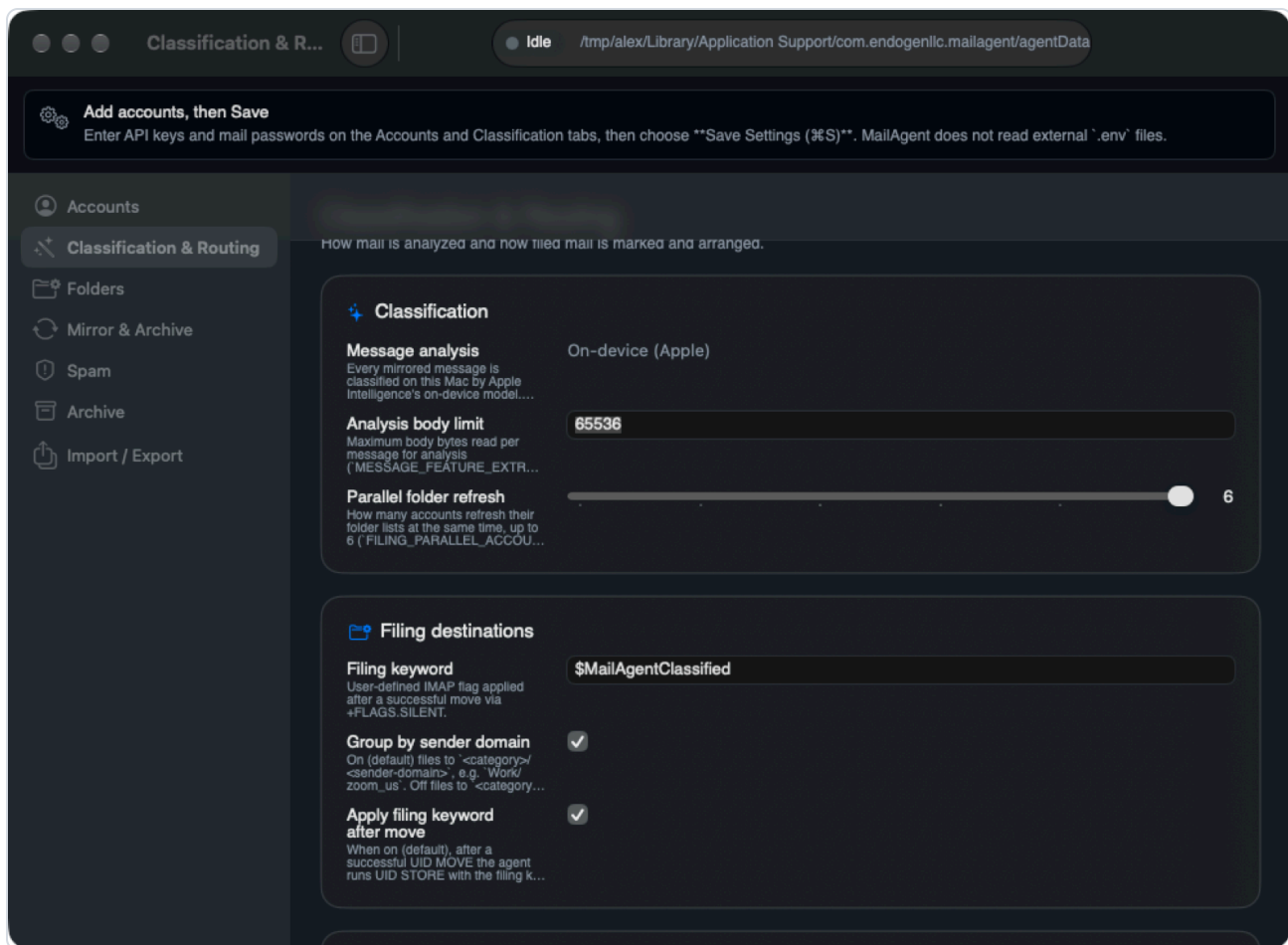
Settings > Accounts with three sample accounts.

Accounts

Setting	What it does	Default
Name, email, provider	Identify the account and its server	None
Auth	Password or OAuth (Gmail)	password
Password	App-specific password, kept in Keychain	None
OAuth client ID and secret	Your Google Cloud OAuth client	None
IMAP host, port	Server for a Custom account	Provider preset
TLS	Encrypts the connection	On
Gmail IMAP	Treat the account as Gmail	Auto
Create macOS Reminders	Turns on action item reminders	Off
Connect spacing (ms)	Wait between account sign-ins	4000
Login max attempts	Sign-in tries before giving up	5
Login retry base (ms)	Wait before retrying a sign-in	10000
Socket timeout (ms)	How long a quiet connection lasts	900000

Classification & Routing

Setting	What it does	Default
Message analysis	Shows whether on-device analysis is available	On-device (Apple)
Analysis body limit	Most bytes of a message read for analysis	65536
Parallel folder refresh	Accounts that refresh folders at once (1-6)	6
Filing keyword	IMAP keyword added to filed mail	<code>\$MailAgentClassified</code>
Group by sender domain	Files to <code><category>/<sender domain></code>	On
Apply filing keyword after move	Adds the filing keyword after a move	On
Protected folder roots	Folders never deleted when empty	None

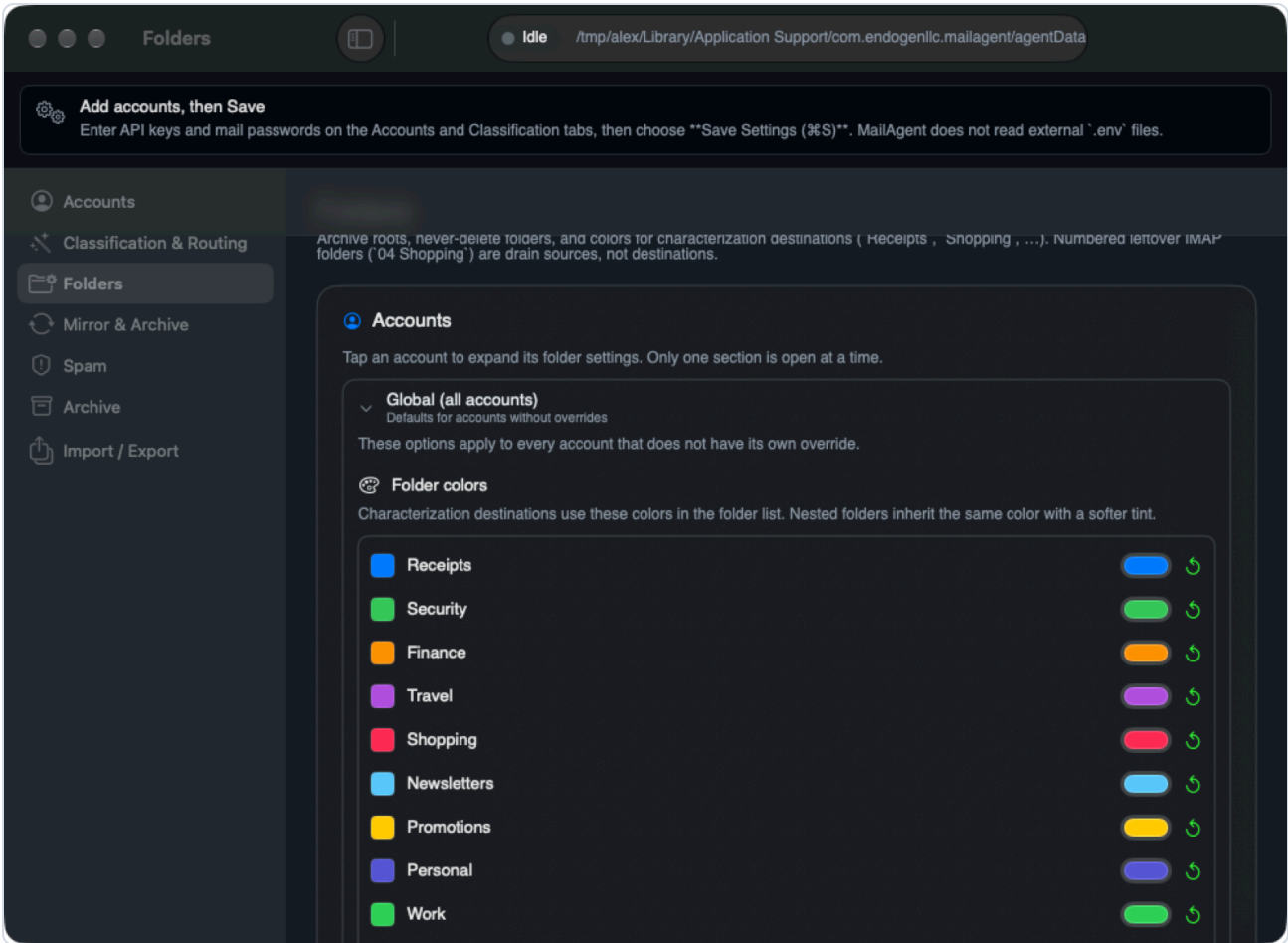


Settings > Classification & Routing.

Folders

The **Folders** section sets folder colors, archive names, and never-delete folders, either for all accounts or per account. Expand **Global (all accounts)** for the shared options, or an account to

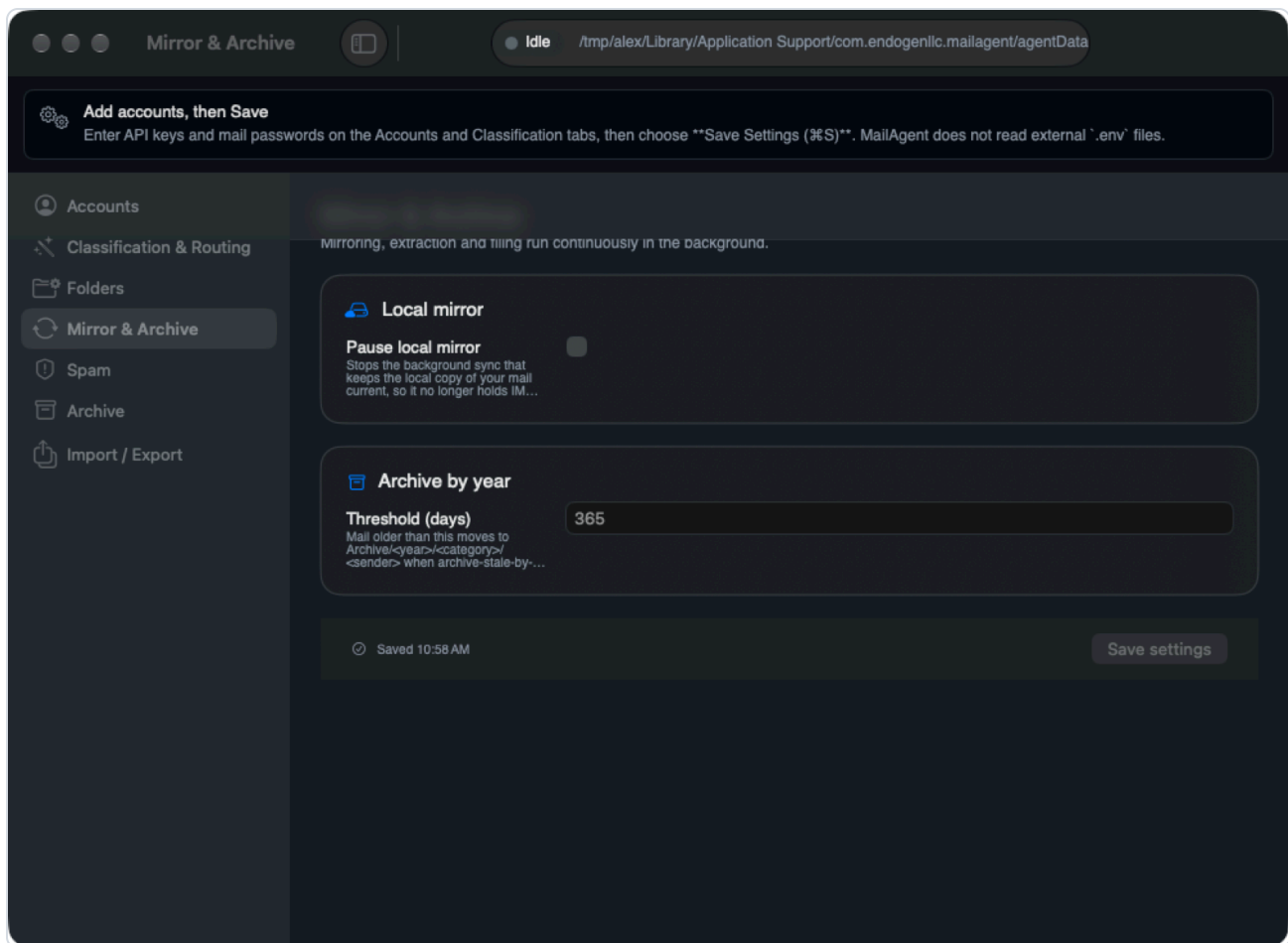
override them for that account only. Well-known folders such as Inbox, Sent, Trash, Drafts, Junk, and Archive are always excluded.



Settings > Folders. Each category has a color used in the folder list.

Mirror & Archive

Setting	What it does	Default
Pause local mirror	Stops background sync of your mail	Off



Settings > Mirror & Archive. The archive-by-year threshold is used by a cleanup that this build does not start from the app.

While the mirror is paused, MailAgent keeps analyzing and filing the mail it already has, but it does not see new mail or changes you make in other mail apps.

Archive

Setting	What it does	Default
Archive root	Folder that holds archived mail	None
Archive file roots	Folders treated as the archive	None
Use a top-level fallback root	Archives under a top-level folder instead	Off
Fallback root	The top-level archive folder	Archive
Never-delete folder roots	Folders kept even when empty	None

When **Archive file roots** is empty, Gmail accounts use `[Gmail]/Archive` and then `Archive`; other accounts use `Archive`. MailAgent never files mail out of the archive.

Import / Export

Import / Export holds extra settings as key and value pairs, such as `MESSAGE_FILING_WORKER`. Values that look like secrets are masked and stored in Keychain. **Reset to defaults** restores every setting in every section.

Troubleshooting

"Add accounts, then Save" appears at the top of Settings. MailAgent has no passwords loaded. Add your accounts, enter their passwords, and choose **Save Settings** (⌘S).

"Credentials did not load yet" or "Loading credentials from Keychain..." appears. MailAgent reads your passwords from Keychain in the background after launch. Unlock your Mac, wait a moment, or quit and reopen MailAgent. When the fields fill in, choose **Save Settings**.

Message analysis says "On-device analysis needs macOS 26 or later" or "Apple Intelligence is not available on this Mac". Analysis needs macOS 26 and Apple Intelligence. Update macOS, or turn on Apple Intelligence in System Settings. Until then, mail waits in **To extract**.

A Gmail account keeps failing to sign in with `invalid_grant`. Remove MailAgent's access on your Google Account permissions page, then click **Reset Gmail OAuth** for the account in **Settings > Accounts** and sign in again.

A queue box says an account's queue is waiting, for example "sign-in failed". MailAgent paused that account's changes because the server refused them. Fix the account's password or sign-in, then retry the failed edits from the **Errors** tab.

Nothing is being filed. Check the filing status on the dashboard. If it says `dry run: nothing is moved`, turn on automatic filing as described in [Filing starts as a dry run](#). Inbox mail is also held until you have read it and it is a day old; the **Held in inbox** box counts it.

An account added with an `@example.com` address disappears. MailAgent removes placeholder accounts that use `@example.com` addresses when it starts. Use your real address.

The local mirror is empty. The mirror fills within a few minutes of launch. Check that at least one account is turned on in the **Accounts** tab of the dashboard, and that **Pause local mirror** is off.

A second MailAgent window quits right after opening. Only one copy of MailAgent runs at a time. Use the copy that is already open.

Saved preferences were reset to defaults. MailAgent could not read its saved settings and fell back to defaults. Your passwords in Keychain are kept. Re-enter your other settings and save.

Privacy

- **Your mail stays on your Mac and your mail servers.** MailAgent copies your mail to `~/Library/Application Support/com.endogenllc.mailagent` on your Mac. It talks only to your own mail servers to read and change your mail.
- **Analysis runs on your Mac.** Messages are analyzed by Apple Intelligence's on-device model. MailAgent does not send message content to any analysis service.
- **Passwords are kept in Keychain.** Mail passwords and Gmail sign-in tokens are stored in the macOS Keychain, never in the settings file.
- **Gmail sign-in uses Google.** For Gmail accounts, MailAgent contacts Google to sign you in and refresh access, using the OAuth client you provide.
- **Unsubscribing contacts the sender.** When you block a sender and unsubscribe, MailAgent sends a one-click unsubscribe request to the sender's web address, only when the message offers that standard method. It never sends an unsubscribe email from your address.
- **Reminders stay in Reminders.** Action item reminders are created in your own Reminders app.
- **Connected AI assistants run on your Mac.** The MCP connection accepts only apps on your Mac. What an assistant does with the mail it reads depends on that assistant.

MailAgent collects no analytics. For Endogen's full privacy policy, see the [Endogen privacy policy](#).

Support

Email support@endogenllc.com or visit the [MailAgent page](#).