

What's New in LISTSERV® Version 16.5-2018a

Copyright © 2018 L-Soft international, Inc.
20 Dec 2018

The LISTSERV 16.5-2018a Level Set

LISTSERV 16.5-2018a includes all known fixes and patches and between-release enhancements since the original release of LISTSERV 16.5 up to 8 December 2018. There are a number of bug fixes and enhancements in LISTSERV itself, and there are also changes and fixes to the WA CGI for the web interface and to the default web templates (default.wwwtpl) to support the WA changes. There is also an updated default.mailtpl which takes cognizance of an Outlook bug that affects certain mail templates.

Most importantly, this level-set release is a **"must have"** upgrade for organizations that publish a DMARC record with "p=reject" or "p=quarantine". If your organization is making use of DMARC with LISTSERV, you should plan to upgrade immediately to the 16.5-2018a level set release.

**IMPORTANT: LISTSERV 16.5-2018a requires a valid version 16.5 LAK!
This Level Set also requires valid Maintenance expiring on 8 Dec 2018 or later!**

You must obtain and install a LISTSERV version 16.5 product LAK and (for sites with perpetual licensing) an appropriate maintenance LAK, or LISTSERV will not start after the upgrade.

[More information](#)

[Current Supported Operating Systems](#)

Table of Contents

Changes for LISTSERV 16.5-2018a.....	3
IMPORTANT: Fix: DMARC SP= tag now correctly handled	3
IMPORTANT: Usability: New DMARC_NO_REWRITE configuration variable	3
General Improvement: X-tag contents excluded from search results	3
Fix: Corrupted JOB file could potentially crash LISTSERV	3
Fix: [Super-lists] ACK message incorrectly directed to list owner	3
General Improvement: List descriptions in INDEX.HTML	4
General Improvement: Use SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 when SUBSCRIBE command detected by X-CONFIRM	4
Usability: DEFAULT MAILTPL workaround for Outlook plain-text "linkify" bug.....	4
[Unix] General Improvement: Unix kits are now delivered with gzip compression.....	5
Usability: LAK change for LISTSERV Lite Free Edition	5
LISTSERV 16.5-2018a Level Set Changes for WA.....	5
LISTSERV 16.5-2018a Level Set Changes for Web Templates	6
Important: F-Secure Anti-Virus Support.....	6
F-Secure Server Security 12.x and Linux Server Security 11.x Support.....	6
Applying LISTSERV 16.5-2018a.....	7
Current Supported Operating Systems.....	8
SPECIAL NOTES.....	8
Upgrade Instructions.....	8
Supported Operating Systems.....	8
Support for GDPR Compliance.....	8

Changes for LISTSERV 16.5-2018a

Since the release of LISTSERV 16.5 in May 2018, the following improvements and bug fixes have been made.

IMPORTANT: This level set release is a **"must have"** for organizations that publish a DMARC record with "p=reject" or "p=quarantine".

IMPORTANT: Fix: DMARC SP= tag now correctly handled

Formerly, if a subdomain did not have its own DMARC record, LISTSERV would search "up" the chain to see if a subdomain actually was covered by the domain-level DMARC record, but would not act to rewrite the RFC822 "From:" line when "p=reject" or "p=quarantine" unless an "sp=" tag was present in the DMARC record. LISTSERV now correctly rewrites the From: line even in the absence of an "sp=" tag.

IMPORTANT: Usability: New DMARC_NO_REWRITE configuration variable

Organizations which use DMARC "p=reject" or "p=quarantine" for their own domain, and where the outbound MTA used by LISTSERV (i.e., in its SMTP_FORWARD_n= settings) is authorized to send from the organization's domain, may use the new DMARC_NO_REWRITE configuration variable to prevent posters' addresses in their own domain from being rewritten.

Examples:

z/VM:	DMARC_NO_REWRITE = 'EXAMPLE.COM *.EXAMPLE.COM'
unix:	DMARC_NO_REWRITE="EXAMPLE.COM *.EXAMPLE.COM" export DMARC_NO_REWRITE
Win:	DMARC_NO_REWRITE=EXAMPLE.COM *.EXAMPLE.COM

The default is the null string, that is, LISTSERV *will* perform a DMARC rewrite for any domain configured with "p=reject" or "p=quarantine" in its DMARC DNS record.

General Improvement: X-tag contents excluded from search results

Starting with this level set release, LISTSERV will no longer index the contents of X-tags in list postings. X-tags can contain quite a bit of information that is not at all pertinent to the subject matter of a given email, and in particular, RSS abstracts, which are delivered in X-LSV-RSS-* tags, should be excluded from search results.

Fix: Corrupted JOB file could potentially crash LISTSERV

This problem affected DISTRIBUTE JOB processing, primarily under Red Hat Enterprise Linux/CentOS 7, although one customer also reported the problem under AIX. The fix addresses these crashes, which usually resulted in a malloc error leading to "signal 11, segmentation fault". If you are seeing this type of crash following an attempt to process a DISTRIBUTE job, you should upgrade to this level set release.

Fix: [Super-lists] ACK message incorrectly directed to list owner

On mailing lists with sub-lists defined, the posting acknowledgement message for a non-list owner subscriber set to the ACK option was erroneously sent to the list owner. This behavior was also observed if neither the list owner nor the poster were subscribed to either the super-list or a sub-list (i.e., when the super-list was set to "Send= Public"). If this behavior is reported, you should upgrade to this level set release which contains the fix.

General Improvement: List descriptions in INDEX.HTML

In previous versions, hovering over a list name in the LISTSERV web interface's main archive index page would display a pop-up bubble with information about the list only if such information was provided in an <HTML></HTML> block in the list header.

In this level set release, if no HTML block is provided in the list header, LISTSERV uses the list's "long description" (all visible lines in the list header that do not contain keywords) for this purpose. Header lines not containing keywords but which should not be displayed in this way should be contained inside .HH ON/OFF blocks.

General Improvement: Use SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 when SUBSCRIBE command detected by X-CONFIRM

In previous versions, an attempt to subscribe to a mailing list from the web interface (using the X-CONFIRM function of WA) would result in the generic CONFIRM1 template message being sent to the invoker. Unfortunately the only thing that indicated the confirmation request was the result of a SUBSCRIBE command was the echoed command, e.g.,

Your command:

SUBSCRIBE TEST

requires confirmation. To confirm the execution of your command, simply click on the following link:

(etc.)

The SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 message template in DEFAULT MAILTPL has been included in LISTSERV for years, but did not trigger on an X-CONFIRM command; this has been fixed in the current level set.

In LISTSERV 16.5, the default SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 message template simply imbeds the CONFIRM1 template text. If you prefer, you could edit SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 to generate a more relevant message when someone attempts to subscribe via the web interface.

Naturally, the SUBSCRIBE_CONFIRM1 template message is customizable at both the server and list levels.

Usability: DEFAULT MAILTPL workaround for Outlook plain-text "linkify" bug

L-Soft has discovered what appears to be a bug in the way Microsoft Outlook converts URLs in plain-text messages into clickable hyperlinks. If the URL is the last physical line of the message, the bug causes the entire body of the message to be clickable, including any white space that may follow the last line in the open message window. **This problem is known to affect Microsoft Outlook 2016 and may affect earlier versions as well.**

What this means for LISTSERV is that links in bottom banners and links in moderation and other confirmation requests can be clicked inadvertently in some cases, simply by clicking somewhere in the body of the message (for instance, to set a focus point to scroll the message up or down).

To alleviate this problem, a new DEFAULT MAILTPL file has been provided in this level set release with workarounds to prevent inadvertent clicking in these cases. Effectively, the workaround is either to place a line of border characters, e.g., "#" or "=" or similar, or extra line breaks, at the end of templates such as BOTTOM_BANNER, such that the clickable URL is never the last text in the message.

When using the web interface to edit a template that has a URL at the end, be careful to ensure that any extra line break you add to the message survives the replacement operation. For instance, at the bottom of the default MSG_POSTING_CONFIRM_EDITOR message template, a blank line has been added between the approval URL and the end of the conditional in which it is contained:

```
( . . . )  
.bb &OK_URL ^= ''  
  
.fo off  
To APPROVE the message:  
&OK_URL  
  
.eb
```

This will survive the upload operation. However, if the extra blank line is placed after the conditional, e.g.:

```
( . . . )  
.bb &OK_URL ^= ''  
  
.fo off  
To APPROVE the message:  
&OK_URL  
.eb
```

it will be stripped when the message template is updated and you will be right back to square one.

This means that if there isn't a conditional block present at the end of the template, as is the case with BOTTOM_BANNER, you will have to add a line of border characters (or some other text) as noted above, as again, simply inserting a blank line at the end of the template will not survive the upload.

[Unix] General Improvement: Unix kits are now delivered with gzip compression

For many years, LISTSERV for Unix has been delivered as tar.Z and bin.Z archives, made with the obsolete compress(1) utility. As compress(1) is no longer provided by default in most unix distributions, L-Soft has converted its kit-making apparatus to use gzip(1) instead. This changes nothing of importance (unless your machine does not have gzip available, in which case it is generally available for download for many different operating systems) – we simply wanted to make note of the change.

Usability: LAK change for LISTSERV Lite Free Edition

Beginning with 16.5-2018a, the LISTSERV Lite Free Edition no longer requires a maintenance LAK, only a valid Free Edition product LAK for the version of LISTSERV you are running (in the present case, 16.5).

LISTSERV 16.5-2018a Level Set Changes for WA

The current WA version at the version 16.5 release is "16.5 (Build Date: 6 Nov 2018)".

WA continues to undergo improvements and optimizations. L-Soft also continues to quash XSS and similar vulnerabilities as they are reported. Because these issues remain exploitable in older versions of

WA, L-Soft will not discuss the specific changes made in this regard, other than to state that all those vulnerabilities that have been found during the course of a comprehensive code review have been fixed in the current release of WA.

LISTSERV 16.5-2018a Level Set Changes for Web Templates

Only minor editorial changes were made to the web templates for version 16.5-2018a.

Important: F-Secure Anti-Virus Support

LISTSERV Classic and LISTSERV Classic HPO sites running F-Secure Anti-Virus or F-Secure Linux Security should note carefully the following:

F-Secure Server Security 12.x and Linux Server Security 11.x Support

These versions of F-Secure's products are certified for use with LISTSERV 16.0-2014b and following. However, **L-Soft STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that these products be used only with LISTSERV 16.0-2017a and following.** This is due to backward-incompatible changes introduced in the 11.x versions of the F-Secure products. The incompatibility may result in occasional spurious reports from LISTSERV of out-of-date anti-virus signatures. ***We took account of this incompatibility in LISTSERV version 16.0-2017a and following.*** To ensure that you have at least LISTSERV version 16.0-2017a, issue a SHOW LICENSE to your LISTSERV server. The build date reported should be 28 Feb 2017 or later.

However, for best results, we strongly recommend that all sites upgrade to the LISTSERV version 16.5-2018a level set.

Integration documentation and information about where to download F-Secure installers and hotfixes can be found at <http://www.lsoft.com/resources/manuals-download.asp?id=301&format=PDF> .

Applying LISTSERV 16.5-2018a

IMPORTANT: Install (or ensure that it is installed) your LISTSERV 16.5 product LAK before upgrading! A valid product LAK (License Activation Key) with "REL=16.5" must be installed before upgrading or LISTSERV will not start after the upgrade. Also, **a valid maintenance LAK expiring no earlier than 8 Dec 2018 is required** in order to apply this level set release.*

If you have not received a LISTSERV 16.5 product LAK, please contact your sales representative or SALES@LSOFT.COM before upgrading!

To find out if you can upgrade to LISTSERV 16.5 with your current license key, please issue a SHOW LICENSE command to LISTSERV and examine the response. It will be similar to this:

```
License type:      Permanent
Expiration date:  None - perpetual license
Maintenance until: 26 Nov 2019, serial number MNT-XYZ-1
Capacity:         Unlimited
Version:          16.5
Serial number:    XYZ-1
Build date:       8 Dec 2018
```

Your license key will be valid for the 16.5 upgrade if your current product LAK is for version 16.5 or higher, and your maintenance LAK is valid until at least 8 Dec 2018.

* LISTSERV Lite Free Edition installations require *only* the 16.5 product LAK, starting with this level set.

Sites running LISTSERV 14.4 or later may use the LAK input tool in the Web Administration interface to apply and check their new LAK before upgrading.

The installation kits found on L-Soft's web site can be used either to install a new copy of LISTSERV or to upgrade an existing installation. To download LISTSERV 16.5-2018a, simply go to L-Soft's Web site and download an evaluation copy of LISTSERV or LISTSERV Lite, then follow the installation instructions for your operating system. The kits can be found at:

<http://www.lsoft.com/download/listserv.asp>

<http://www.lsoft.com/download/listservlite.asp>

Current Supported Operating Systems

LISTSERV for Microsoft Windows	Windows 7 (64-bit only)
	Windows 8.x (64-bit only)
	Windows 10 (64-bit only)
	Windows Server 2008 R2
	Windows Server 2012
	Windows Server 2012 R2
LISTSERV for Unix	Windows Server 2016
	AIX 4.3 (PowerPC) and later
	Linux 2.6 and later (RH6 64-bit)
	Linux 3.10 and later (RH7 64-bit)
	Linux 2.4.2 or later (S/390)
	Solaris 10 and later (SPARC)
LISTSERV for MacOS	Solaris 10 and later (x64)
	MacOS X (x86)
LISTSERV for VM/ESA, z/VM	(LISTSERV 16.5 is available for z/VM with this level-set release.)

Support for 32-bit Windows and Linux was withdrawn as of the release of LISTSERV 16.0-2017a.

Support was withdrawn for OpenVMS as of the release of LISTSERV 16.0-2017a.

A separate build for Linux 2.6 that was built on RHEL 5 has been withdrawn with the release of LISTSERV 16.5-2018a.

SPECIAL NOTES

Upgrade Instructions

This document does not include upgrade instructions. Please see the installation guide specific to your OS platform for upgrade instructions. Installation guides are available at <http://www.lsoft.com/resources/manuals.asp#2>.

Supported Operating Systems

LISTSERV version 16.5-2018a is available only for operating systems currently supported by L-Soft. L-Soft no longer maintains development systems for unsupported operating systems and is not in a position to compile LISTSERV 16.5-2018a for those systems.

Support for GDPR Compliance

L-Soft has made available, at no charge, a comprehensive EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) reporting script written in the Microsoft PowerShell scripting language, which can be used in conjunction with L-Soft's LCMD or LCMDX utilities on Microsoft Windows, Linux, and MacOS systems. For more information, please see our *GDPRSCAN Installation and Operating Guide for Windows, Linux, and MacOS* at http://www.lsoft.com/manuals/16.5/GDPRSCAN_Installation_and_Operating_Guide.html.

end of file