

# Vacation messages setup



You can setup a vacation message while you are away from your email in several ways. The most simple method is email yourself a specific message (see below). This may, however, not be so simple if you setup your mail program to use HTML formatted email or if you use an exotic program such as Outlook. For such occasions the webmail utility provides a nice feature (also see below). As a last resort you can always use the Linux specific procmail utility, which for all STRW accounts has been setup for you already (see last section below).

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## Email yourself

### Turn on auto reply

To turn on the “vacation” message, send yourself an e-mail with subject: **vacation on**. The message body will become the message sent to others when they mail you. Be sure to send the mail from your local strw account, otherwise it will not get processed (we don't want that others can turn this feature on or off for you!)

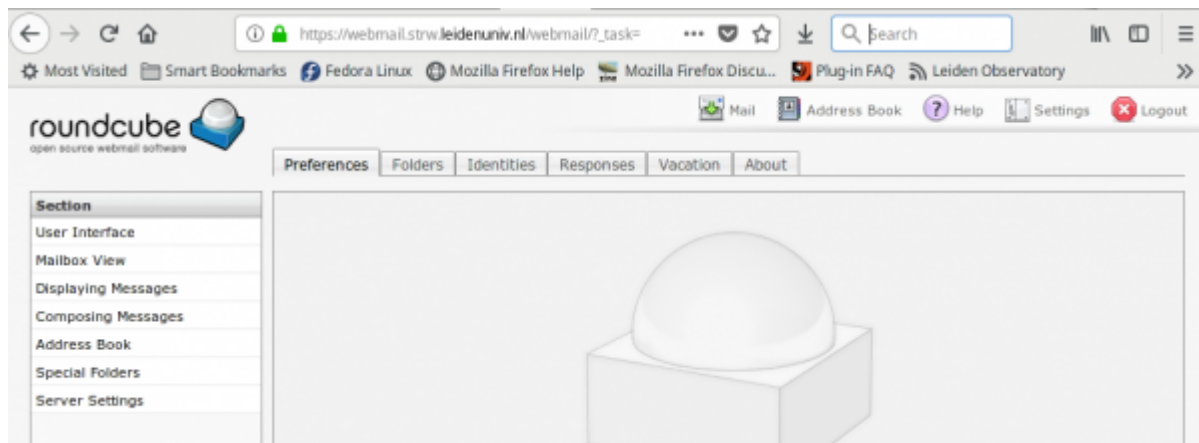
### Turn off auto reply

To turn the “vacation” feature off, send yourself a message with subject: **vacation off**

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## Use Roundcube WEB mail

The Observatory provides a [WEB mail facility](#) that allows you to read and write email from your STRW account using a standard WEB browser. The tool providing this facility is based on the open source package Roundcube. This package has several plugins, one of which is the vacation plugin. You can access this plugin by selecting the Settings option (top right). Once selected you are presented a window with tabs, one of the tabs is the Vacation Tab:



Click on the Vacation tab and (after some time) you are presented the vacation form:

If you did not yet set a vacation message, a default text is filled in for you to modify. Then select the checkbox 'Enable vacation message' and click on the Save button. Now this text is put into your vacation message file and from this point on people who send you an email will get this text in reply.

If you have a vacation message setup previously, you will see the text from that vacation message in the form. You now have two options,

- modify the text, tick the checkbox and click Save to update your message text, or
- leave the checkbox unchecked and click Save to remove the vacation message and thus disabling the vacation messaging system

## Procmail Alternative

Vacation messages are setup at the mail server using the [procmail](#) program facilities.

The use of the 'vacation' program is not always a good idea. It causes spam bounces to the local

postmaster (who probably has better things to do than reading spam addressed to you) and in the worst case, it confirms the validity of your e-mail address to the spammer, which makes your address so much more valuable to him. So if you don't want to be buried in spam when you come back from your trip, don't use 'vacation', but use this vacation-like setup (from procmailx man page, modified for local settings)

Additional note: as of Fedora Core 1(?), the vacation program is no longer distributed with the mail server setup, probably because of these same reasons. All the more reason to use an alternative like this.

Below you find the lines (that may be commented out in your .procmailrc file) which have to be the .procmailrc file to make **procmail** perform the same actions as the vacation program, excluding the problems mentioned above. If you don't have a .procmailrc file, or an older one without these additions, run **SfinxUpdate .procmailrc** to install a **procmail** setup on your account.

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