

Ancillary Servers

November 5, 2019 / Gavin Jackson

development

inbucket

monitoring

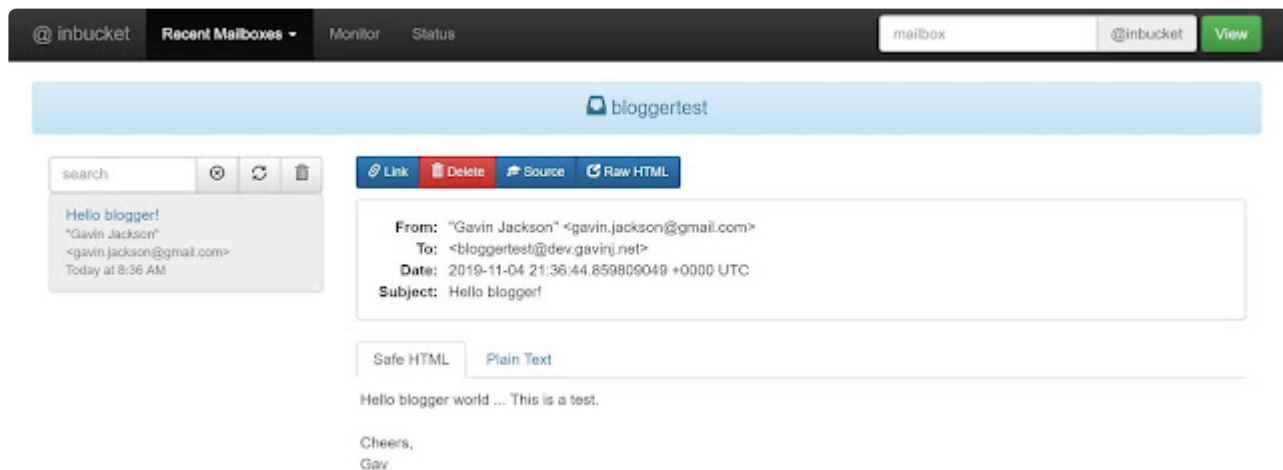
open source

pastebin

This post looks at handy ancillary servers that I find myself using to support my day-to-day software development tasks.

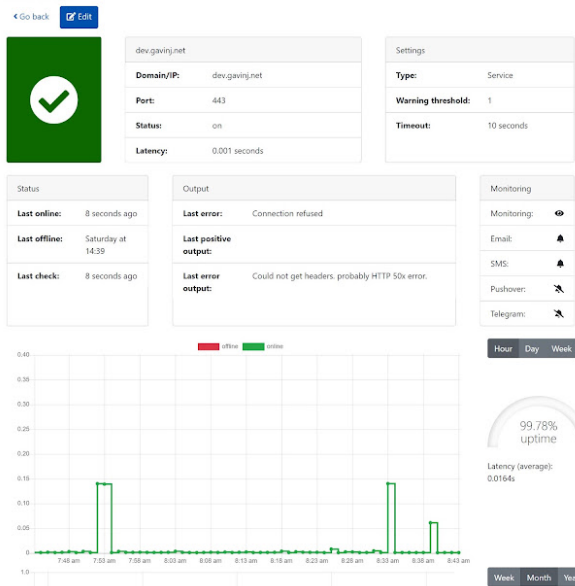
What do I mean by *ancillary server* In this context, it's an internet-connected server that is used to help me in my day to-day work. These typically run on a cheap VPS server (think Linode or Digital Ocean). The utilities are all open source software.

1. **InBucket** - this is a mailinator-like service for testing email services, it's basically an SMTP server listening on port 25 that accepts email for all email addresses and provides a web interface that allows you to check the email - a REST API allows you to write unit tests. I find this handy for a lot of reasons, obviously this is great for testing software (we use an internal instance for testing low environments), but it's also great for creating throw-away emails. <https://www.inbucket.org/>



2. **PHPServerMonitor** - need a simple service to check if your servers are running This is a nice, simple one that does just that. It integrates with a number of notification subsystems (email, SMS gateways etc) you can easily define the frequency of the checks - I have them running every minute and it send me an sms if any of my servers go down. Quick and easy to set up. <https://www.phpservermonitor.org/>

Servers



3. **Stikked** - a personal pastebin that allows you to easily share snippets of code (or temporarily store them for yourself if you are jumping between networks etc). Simple rules for aging off notes, and very pretty syntax highlighting. <https://github.com/claudehohl/Stikked>

The screenshot shows the Stikked web interface. At the top, there are tabs for Create, Recent, Trending, API, and About. The main content area displays a "Test python paste" from user "Perf Cassowary". The URL is `https://dev.gavinj.net/pastebin/view/0820e38`. The code is a Python script that uses the `requests` library to fetch data from a website and store it in a spreadsheet. The code is syntax-highlighted and includes comments. A QR code is also present next to the code.

4. **Owncloud** - ever wanted your own personal dropbox server Owncloud seems to fit the bill nicely. Written in PHP it's easy to set up, and also provides mobile apps that can connect to your own server! <https://github.com/owncloud>, <https://owncloud.org/>

Files

ownCloud

gavin

All files

Favorites

Shared with you

Shared with others

Shared by link

Tags

Deleted files

Settings

Documents

Name

Size

Modified



candlebark.pdf



...

35.4 MB

a year ago



candlebark.psd



...

139.9 MB

a year ago



eco-sensitive-construction.pdf



...

35.5 MB

a year ago



eco-sensitive-construction.psd



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135 MB

a year ago



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a year ago



geo-features.psd



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140.1 MB

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local-heritage.psd



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142.7 MB

a year ago



regen-area.pdf



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29.8 MB

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