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undbx

Tool to extract, recover and undelete e-mail messages from Outlook Express DBX files.

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UnDBX

UnDBX - Tool to extract, recover and undelete e-mail messages from Outlook Express .dbx files.

Copyright (C) 2008-2010 Avi Rozen <avi.rozen@gmail.com>

DOWNLOAD

Windows binary and source code archives are available at <http://code.google.com/p/undbx/downloads/list> together with corresponding `sha1sum` digests, which you can use to verify each archive's integrity.

INSTALLATION

There's no installer or setup program. Simply extract the distribution .zip file to some folder.

You should end up with several files/icons in that folder:

- the **UnDBX** executable `undbx.exe`
- the **UnDBX** HTML application `undbx.hta`, which serves as its graphical user interface
- this `README` in HTML format
- the GPL v3 license (`COPYING`)

USAGE

Just double-click either of the `undbx` icons that you've extracted from the distribution .zip file. A simple dialog box should appear.

If you hit the *Extract!* button in the dialog box, **UnDBX** will extract e-mail messages (as individual .eml files), from all of the .dbx files in the Outlook Express storage folder, to corresponding sub-folders on the Desktop.

The same dialog box also lets you browse and select other input and output folders, and optionally enable recovery mode for corrupted .dbx files.

OPERATION

When run for the first time, **UnDBX** extracts all the messages as individual .eml files.

In subsequent runs **UnDBX** *synchronizes* the output folder with the contents of the .dbx file:

- new messages in the .dbx file, that do not correspond to existing .eml files, will be extracted
- existing .eml files, that do not correspond to messages in the .dbx file, will be treated as deleted messages and will be deleted

This way **UnDBX** can facilitate *fast* incremental backup of .dbx files.

Activity: [Medium](#)

Code license:

[GNU General Public License v3](#)

Labels:

[windows](#), [e-mail](#), [recovery](#)

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The file names of extracted .eml files are composed from the contents of the `From:`, `To:` and `Subject:` message headers. The modification time of each file is set to match the date specified by the `Date:` header.

In recovery mode, **UnDBX** can open corrupted .dbx files (including files larger than 2GB) and recover their contents and undelete deleted messages.

ADVANCED USAGE

NORMAL OPERATION

Run the following command in a command-line window, to extract e-mail messages from all the .dbx files in <DBX-FOLDER> to corresponding sub-folders in <OUTPUT-FOLDER>:

```
undbx <DBX-FOLDER> <OUTPUT-FOLDER>
```

You may also specify a single .dbx file to extract, instead of a folder.

If the destination folder is omitted, the .dbx files will be extracted to sub-folders in the current working folder.

RECOVERY MODE

In recovery mode, **UnDBX** attempts to recover e-mail messages from corrupted .dbx files:

```
undbx --recover <DBX-FOLDER> <OUTPUT-FOLDER>
```

Again, you may omit the output folder, and you may specify a single .dbx file, instead of an input folder.

During the recovery process **UnDBX** scans the .dbx file for e-mail message fragments, and collects them into .eml files. Recovery can take a long while to complete, so please be patient.

In recovery mode **UnDBX** always extracts all the messages it can find, instead of extracting only those messages that have not been extracted yet.

Keep in mind that recovered messages may be corrupted.

DELETED MESSAGES

Deleted messages are normally stored by Outlook Express in a special folder (e.g. "Deleted Items"), and can thus be restored by extracting them from the corresponding .dbx file.

Most of the contents of deleted messages still exists in the original .dbx file, as long it has not been compacted or otherwise modified.

In recovery mode, **UnDBX** attempts to undelete any deleted message fragment it can find.

NOTE: Outlook Express overwrites the first 4 bytes of every 512-byte chunk of each deleted message. In other words, some data is permanently lost when a message is deleted and *there's no general way to fully recover deleted messages*.

SOURCE CODE

SNAPSHOT

UnDBX current source code snapshot is available at <http://code.google.com/p/undbx/downloads/list>

REPOSITORY

UnDBX development source code may be cloned from its public Git repository at <http://github.com/ZungBang/undbx/tree>

COMPILING

UnDBX uses GNU Autoconf/Automake:

```
tar -xvzf undbx-0.20.tar.gz
cd undbx-0.20
./configure
make
make install
```

On Windows, this means that you need to install either [Cygwin](#) or [MinGW](#).

If you got the source code from the source repository, you'll need to generate the `configure` script before building **UnDBX**, by running

```
autoreconf -vfi
```

BUGS

Please report problems via the **UnDBX** issue tracking system: <http://code.google.com/p/undbx/issues/list>

CERTIFICATION

Well, it works on my machine :-)
[\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

CREDITS

The **UnDBX** .dbx file format parsing code is based on [DbxConv](#) - a DBX to MBOX Converter, Copyright (C) 2008, 2009 Ulrich Krebs <ukrebs@freenet.de>

UnDBX contains [RFC-2822](#), and [RFC-2047](#) parsing code that was adapted from [GNU Mailutils](#) - a suite of utilities for electronic mail, Copyright (C) 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010 Free Software Foundation, Inc.

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