

Emailing Workers Using Python

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These instructions allow you to email up to 100 workers at a time using boto.

Step 1 - Download Necessary Software

Commands can be sent directly to Amazon Web Services using the Python programming language, but you also must install boto, which is an interface between your computer and Amazon Web Services.

1. Download and install Python (note that Macs generally come with Python preloaded)
2. Download and install boto as described on the boto site (<http://code.google.com/p/boto/>).

Step 2 - Configure boto (optional)

Boto can be configured to remember your Amazon Web Services access information, eliminating the need to reenter it at the beginning of each session. For instructions on how to do this, see here: <http://code.google.com/p/boto/wiki/BotoConfig>

2.1 Regardless of whether you set up a permanent file or not, you will need your access key and secret access key. Obtain your Amazon Web Services access key and secret access key by going [here](#), login and view security credentials.

Step 3 - Emailing Workers

1. Macs: in the Terminal window, run Python (by typing python)
PCs: launch python from the Start menu
2. Type the following commands, hitting Enter after each:
 - 2.1. `import boto`
 - 2.2. `from boto.mturk.connection import *`

Note: the asterisk is part of the code.

2.3. `access_key=' [your access key]'`

Note: This is not necessary if you have stored your access information in a `.config` file (Step 2)

2.4. `secret_access_key=' [your secret access key]'`

Note: This is not necessary if you have stored your access information in a `.config` file (Step 2)

2.5. `c=boto.mturk.connection.MTurkConnection
(access_key, secret_access_key)`

Note: the “c” here could be anything. You’re just using it as a variable to store that lengthy command after it. Otherwise, you’d have to type that out for every command you ran.

2.6. `c.get_account_balance()`

Note: This is not a necessary command; however, we use this as a test each time we launch the CLT or API to make sure everything is set up correctly. The account balance provided should match what you see in your account via the web interface.

2.7. `subject="whatever you want the subject of the email to workers to be"`

2.8. `message="whatever you want the message text to be."`

Note: If you want to include paragraph breaks in the message, enclose the entire message in triple quotes (either “” or “”” will work).

2.9. `workerids=["A360SF8N3MPFDV", "AH78W67KLW0IH1",
"A2JE8C19CAN2UL", "A12CXT8ND5HZ89", etc.]`

Note: You can send up to 100 workerids at a time (you can cut and paste a list in this format into the window)

2.10. `for item in workerids: c.notify_workers(item, subject, message)`

For every successful message sent, the command will return a []. If a worker has quit MTurk and the ID is no longer valid, upon reaching that worker, the command will return an error and will not continue. You can then send a new command to message workers starting with

the workerid after the one that caused the error. There may be a way to code around this (testing the IDs to see if they're valid), but we haven't found/developed it yet.