

How can I configure Pine or Alpine to use MIT's M365 email?

Q: How can I configure Pine or Alpine to use MIT's M365 email?

Microsoft 365 (Exchange in the cloud) requires two-factor authentication (also known as Modern Auth) which Pine/Alpine can accomplish via XOAUTH2. Verify your mailbox is on M365 before making these changes to your Alpine configuration by either contacting the service desk or attempt to log into outlook.office.com.

Configuration

These settings apply to Alpine on the athena dialups, but should also work with Alpine on a personal workstation. You can either edit ~/.pinerc directly with a text editor, or start Alpine and go to Setup >> Config. Assuming a Kerberos username of "tim", set the following values:

```
inbox-path={outlook.office365.com:993/ssl/user=tim@mit.edu/auth=oauth2}INBOX
folder-collections="MIT Mail" {outlook.office365.com:993/ssl/user=tim@mit.edu/auth=oauth2}[]
```

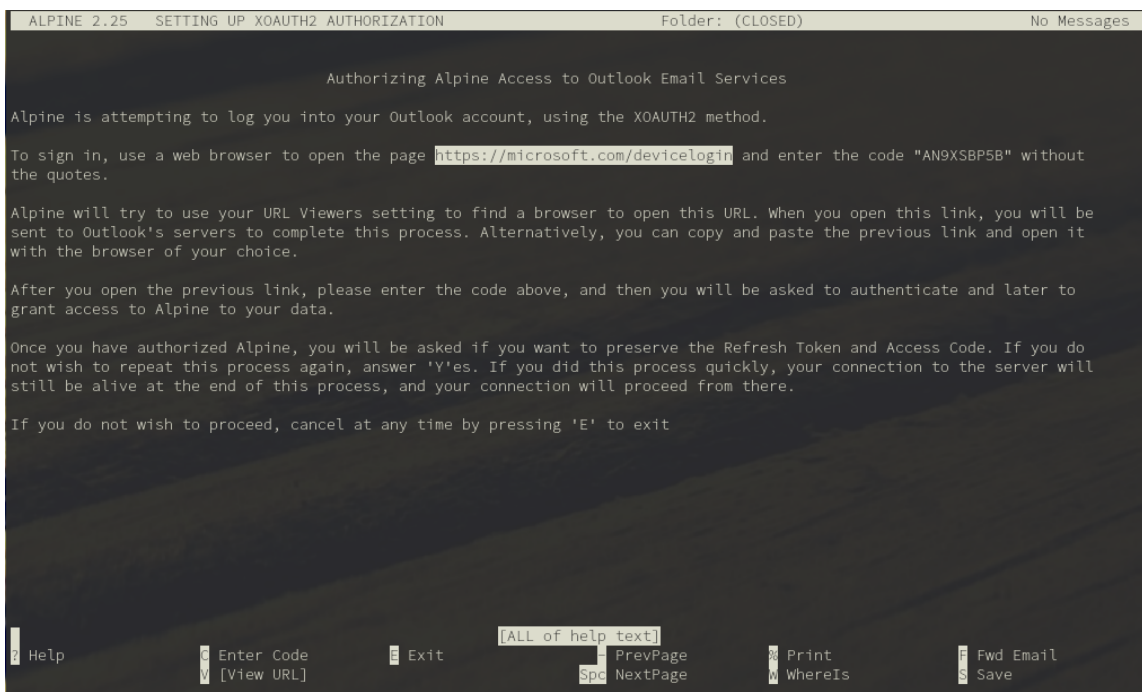
If you are using Alpine on a personal workstation with sendmail/postfix as MTA, set:

```
customized-hdrs=From: "Tim Beaver" <tim@mit.edu>
```

In all cases, you need to create a file where Alpine can store the oauth credentials:

```
touch ~/.pine-passfile
```

Upon starting Alpine with these settings, you will be presented with a window:



If you are ssh'd into athena.dialup.mit.edu, you do not need X11 forwarding for this to work. Visit <https://microsoft.com/devicelogin> from any browser, whether it is on athena or not, and log into your account via Touchstone, providing the code Alpine gave you on your screen. Once complete, Alpine will ask for a master password to encrypt .pine-passfile. After setting a password for the passfile, you should have access to your inbox.

Troubleshooting

If you receive this error:

Code 400: Invalid grant: AADSTS700082: The refresh token has expired due to inactivity.

Your token has expired and you will need to obtain a new one. Destroy the contents of .pine-passfile and retain the file itself:

```
tim@musical-notes:~$ > ~/.pine-passfile
```

then run alpine again and you will be presented with the same window as shown in the initial setup. Visit <https://microsoft.com/devicelogin> from any browser, whether it is on athena or not, and log into your account via Touchstone, providing the code Alpine gave you on your screen. Once complete, Alpine will ask for a master password to encrypt .pine-passfile. After setting a password for the passfile, you should have access to your inbox.