

# OTRS - Manual

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**OTRS - Manual**

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Three Tables Beach Edition

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# Dedication

This manual is dedicated to the nice folks of *Cafe Lucas*(<http://www.cafe-lucas.de/>) and *Enchilada*(<http://www.enchilada.de/>) (two restaurants in Nuernberg). Thanks for the happy hour! Today we hang out mostly in Frankfurt but we still remember the good times in Nuernberg.

# Table of Contents

Foreword.....	i
<b>1. Install the biest.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Installing the rpm on a SuSE Linux (the quick and easy way).....	1
1.2. Using the tar.gz file to install OTRS on any Linux/Unix platform.....	4
1.2.1. Install.....	4
1.2.2. Database.....	7
1.2.3. Webservice.....	8
1.3. Install OTRS 1.0 on Win32.....	10
1.3.1. Installations.....	10
1.3.1.1. Install Cygwin (exim).....	10
1.3.1.2. Install PERL.....	10
1.3.1.3. Install Sambar Server.....	10
1.3.1.4. Install MySQL.....	11
1.3.1.5. Install OTRS.....	11
1.3.1.5.1. Download and install SQL-Code.....	11
1.3.2. Configuration.....	11
1.3.2.1. Configuring Cygwin (exim).....	11
1.3.2.2. Configuring Perl.....	12
1.3.2.3. Configuring Sambar.....	13
1.3.2.3.1. Securing /otrs/bin.....	14
1.3.2.4. Configuring MySQL.....	14
1.3.2.5. Configuring OTRS.....	15
1.3.2.5.1. CONFIG.PM.....	15
1.3.2.5.2. LOG.PM.....	16
1.3.2.5.3. TICKET.PM.....	16
1.3.2.5.4. VALID.PM.....	16
1.3.3. The First Start.....	16
1.3.3.1. System Email Addresses & POP3.....	16
1.3.3.2. Setup CRON Job(s).....	17
1.3.4. Done!.....	17
<b>2. Basics about a Trouble Ticket System.....</b>	<b>18</b>
2.1. A simple example for a small Trouble Ticket System.....	18
2.2. What is a trouble ticket in the OTRS?.....	18
2.3. What is a ticket queue?.....	18
<b>3. First steps.....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1. Login as root and create a new account.....	19
3.2. Login with user privilege.....	21
<b>4. Ticket topics.....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1. Answer ticket via email.....	23
4.2. Answer ticket via phone.....	23
4.3. Zoom ticket.....	24
4.4. History of ticket.....	24
4.5. Add note to ticket.....	25
4.6. Close ticket.....	26
4.7. Forward ticket.....	26
4.8. Ticket priority.....	26
4.9. Ticket print view.....	27
<b>5. Receiving emails.....</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1. Via POP3 account.....	28
5.2. Via command line programm and e. g. procmail.....	28
5.2.1. Queue dispatching with OTRS.....	29
5.2.2. Queue dispatching with procmail (for more complex dispatching).....	29
5.2.3. Example with procmail and a webform.....	30
5.2.4. Fetching emails via POP3 or IMAP and fetchmail.....	31

<b>6. Config File</b> .....	<b>32</b>
6.1. TicketHook.....	32
6.2. FQDN.....	32
6.3. Log.....	32
6.4. User Authentication.....	32
6.5. Max. Postmaster email.....	33
6.6. Ticket number format.....	33
6.7. Database settings.....	34
6.8. ASP (Application Service Provider) options.....	34
6.9. Custom Queue.....	34
6.10. Agent notification.....	35
6.11. Session management.....	35
6.12. URL login and logout settings.....	36
6.13. agent area default settings.....	36
<b>7. Language translations</b> .....	<b>39</b>
7.1. New translation files.....	39
<b>8. Customize the frontend</b> .....	<b>41</b>
8.1. The dtl syntax.....	41
8.2. Examples of dtl files.....	42
8.2.1. Motd.dtl.....	42
8.2.2. Login.dtl.....	42
8.2.3. Header.dtl.....	43
8.3. Create a new theme.....	44
<b>9. Cronjobs</b> .....	<b>45</b>
9.1. How it works - setup.....	45
9.2. Default cronjobs.....	45
9.2.1. aaa_base.....	45
9.2.2. pending_jobs.....	45
9.2.3. postmaster.....	45
9.2.4. postmaster_pop3.....	45
9.2.5. unlock.....	45
9.2.6. stats.....	46
9.2.7. session.....	46
9.2.8. rebuild_ticket_index.....	46
9.2.9. generic_agent.....	46
<b>10. Generic-Agent</b> .....	<b>47</b>
10.1. Config File.....	47
10.2. Examples.....	47
10.2.1. close spam tickets.....	47
10.2.2. delete tickets.....	48
10.2.3. move tickets from tricky to experts.....	48
10.2.4. move escalation ticket to experts and execute CMD.....	49
<b>11. Multi Hosting</b> .....	<b>50</b>
11.1. Multi Group.....	50
11.2. Multi Setup.....	50
<b>12. Performance Tuning</b> .....	<b>52</b>
12.1. OTRS.....	52
12.1.1. TicketIndexModule.....	52
12.1.2. TicketStorageModule.....	52
12.2. Database.....	52
12.3. Webserver.....	52
<b>13. Troubleshooting</b> .....	<b>54</b>
13.1. General problems with OTRS on SuSE Linux.....	54
13.1.1. SuSE Linux 8.0.....	54
13.1.2. SuSE Linux and Postfix.....	54
13.2. General problems with OTRS on other distributions (e.g. Redhat).....	54
13.3. Problems with Apache.....	54
13.3.1. Internal Server Error.....	54
13.3.2. Error: Can't connect to database!.....	55
13.3.3. FreeBSD, PostgreSQL and Apache (install_driver(Pg) failed).....	55
13.4. Problems with MySQL.....	55

13.4.1. Check the database connect .....	55
13.4.2. Access denied for user: 'otrs@localhost' .....	55
13.4.3. Lost root password of MySQL .....	56
13.4.4. http://localhost/otrs/installer.pl .....	56
13.5. Problems - misc.....	56
13.5.1. Problems with receiving emails .....	56
13.5.2. Lost root password of OTRS .....	56
<b>14. FAQ.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>A. Online resources .....</b>	<b>60</b>
A.1. Homepage .....	60
A.2. Mailinglists .....	60
A.3. Bugtracking.....	60
<b>B. The OTRS core team.....</b>	<b>62</b>
B.1. Martin Edenhofer .....	62
B.2. Stefan Wintermeyer.....	62
B.3. Sebastian Wormser.....	62
<b>C. Credits.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>D. RFC 1297 .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>E. GNU Free Documentation License .....</b>	<b>65</b>
0. PREAMBLE .....	65
1. APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS .....	65
2. VERBATIM COPYING .....	65
3. COPYING IN QUANTITY .....	66
4. MODIFICATIONS .....	66
5. COMBINING DOCUMENTS.....	67
6. COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS .....	67
7. AGGREGATION WITH INDEPENDENT WORKS .....	67
8. TRANSLATION .....	67
9. TERMINATION .....	68
10. FUTURE REVISIONS OF THIS LICENSE.....	68
How to use this License for your documents.....	68
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>69</b>

# List of Examples

5-1. .procmailrc .....	29
5-2. .fetchmailrc .....	31
6-1. Kernel/Config.pm - TicketHook .....	32
6-2. Kernel/Config.pm - FQDN .....	32
6-3. Kernel/Config.pm - LogModule .....	32
6-4. Kernel/Config.pm - AuthModule .....	33
6-5. Kernel/Config.pm - PostmasterMaxEmails .....	33
6-6. Kernel/Config.pm - TicketNumberGenerator .....	33
6-7. Kernel/Config.pm - Database settings .....	34
6-8. Kernel/Config.pm - MoveInToAllQueues .....	34
6-9. Kernel/Config.pm - ChangeOwnerToEveryone .....	34
6-10. Kernel/Config.pm - Custom Queue .....	35
6-11. Kernel/Config.pm - Agent notification .....	35
6-12. Kernel/Config.pm - Session management .....	35
6-13. Kernel/Config.pm - URL login and logout settings .....	36
6-14. Kernel/Config.pm - agent area default settings .....	37
7-1. Kernel/Language/de.pm - Old file .....	39
7-2. Kernel/Language/fr.pm - New file .....	40

# Foreword

## **About this Book**

This is an alpha edition of this book. This version may contain glaring inconsistencies, missing sections, and other misfeatures indicative of a work in progress. But please do not hesitate to add every found mistake in our bugtracking tool at <http://bugs.otrs.org/>.

You will find the current HTML online version of this book at <http://otrs.org/docu/> or in PDF-format at <http://otrs.org/docu/manual.pdf>.

Anyhow we are keen on your feedback. Please do not hesitate to send us an e-mail to <[feedback@otrs.org](mailto:feedback@otrs.org)>

Your OTRS core team

# Chapter 1. Install the biest.

The described way of installing the otrs is tested on a newly installed system. In case you have trouble to install it on your working system please try it with a new Linux installation. Most of the installation problems are caused by messy apache configurations and forgotten mysql database passwords. So please use a fresh installation to encircle an installation problem in case it occurs.

We try to keep the installation as easy as possible. But the OTRS is a very powerfull and complex application which can not just be untared in some directory and that's it.

## 1.1. Installing the rpm on a SuSE Linux (the quick and easy way)

This section is a guide for installing OTRS on a SuSE Linux. We tested the SuSE Linux versions 7.3, 8.0 and 8.1. Before starting the installation have a look at <http://otrs.org/> (<http://www.otrs.org/>) and check if a newer and better version of the rpm file is available. If so please download it and use the newer documentation and the newer rpm.

Install the otrs.rpm with YaST (YaST2) or on the command line with rpm (what ever you prefer). Please be aware of the fact that OTRS needs some Perl-Modules which are not installed by default in a typical SuSE installation. So it might be a good idea to use YaST to install the rpm because it will handle and solve all the dependencies.

In case you prefer the command line rpm way (you have to have installed the needed modules first otherwise rpm will ask you to do so):

```
ernie:~ # rpm -ivh /tmp/otrs.rpm
otrs
#####
Check OTRS user (/etc/passwd)... otrs exists.
SetPermissions.sh $Revisio : 1.16 $ - set OTRS file permissions
Copyright (c) 2002 Martin Edenhofer martin at otrs.org
Setting file permissions...
chown -R 0:0 /opt/otrs
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/.fetchmailrc
chmod 0710 /opt/otrs/.fetchmailrc
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/.procmailrc
chmod 0644 /opt/otrs/.procmailrc
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/.mailfilter
chmod 0600 /opt/otrs/.mailfilter
chown -R otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/var/
chown -R wwwrun:nogroup /opt/otrs/var/sessions/
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/var/log/TicketCounter.log
chmod -R 755 /opt/otrs/bin/
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs/bin/DeleteSessionIDs.pl
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs/bin/UnlockTickets.pl
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs/bin/otrs.getConfig

Next steps:

[SuSEconfig]
Execute 'SuSEconfig' to configure the webserver.

[start Apache and MySQL]
Execute 'rcapache restart' and 'rcmysql start' in case they don't run.

[install the OTRS database]
Use a webbrower and open this link:
http://localhost/otrs/installer.pl

[OTRS services]
Start OTRS 'rcotrs start-force' (rcotrs {start|stop|status|restart|start-force|stop-force}).

Have fun!

Your OTRS Team
http://otrs.org/

ernie:~ #

Know it's time to start SuSEconfig:

ernie:~ # SuSEconfig
```

```

Starting SuSEconfig, the SuSE Configuration Tool...
Running in full featured mode.
Reading /etc/sysconfig and updating the system...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.3ddiag...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.aaa_at_first...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.alljava...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.apache...
Including /opt/otrs/scripts/apache-httpd.include.conf
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.bootsplash...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.doublecheck...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.guile...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.hostname...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.ispell...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.libgnomeprint...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.libxml2...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.man_info...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.pango...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.perl...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.permissions...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.postfix...
Setting up postfix local as MDA...
Setting SPAM protection to "off"...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.profiles...
Executing /sbin/conf.d/SuSEconfig.scpm...
Finished.

```

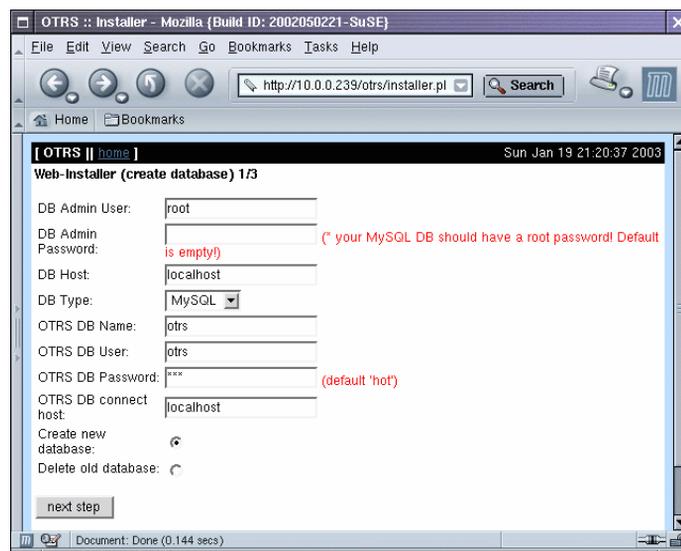
Once you installed the otrs.rpm on your system you have to restart the apache by rcapache restart to force apache to reload the config file.

```

ernie:~ # rcapache restart
Shutting down httpd                               done
Starting httpd [ PERL ]                            done
ernie:~ #

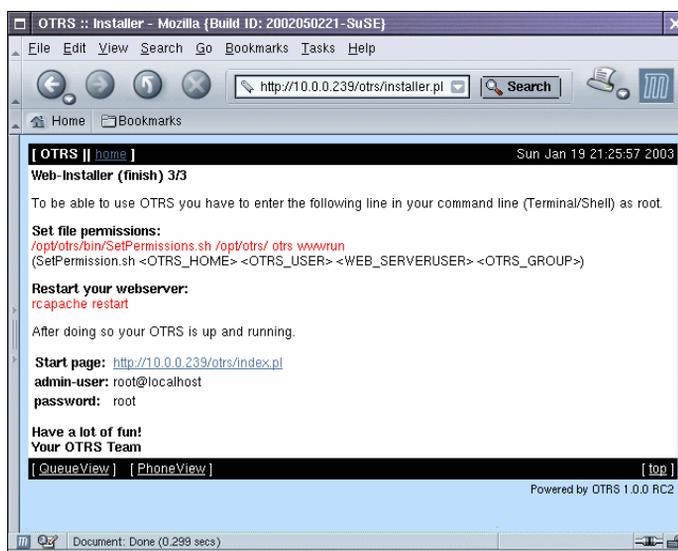
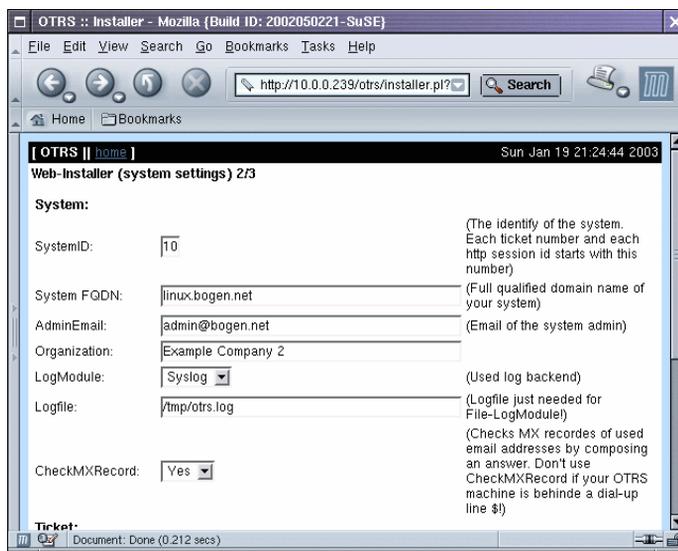
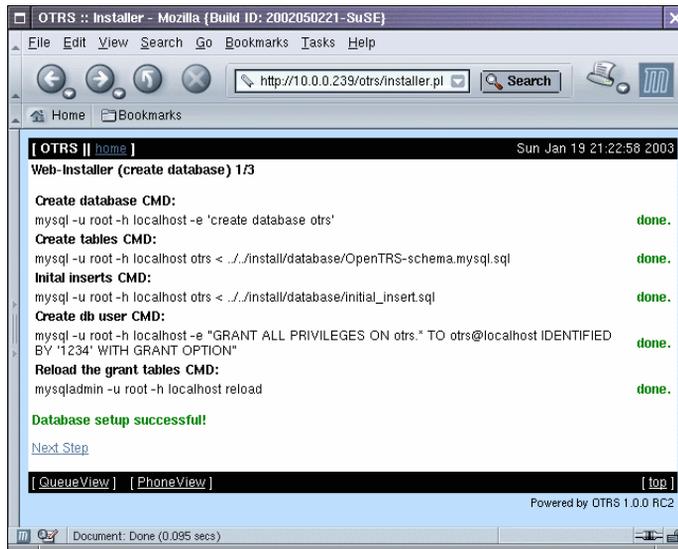
```

Now you have to setup the databases. Please open <http://localhost/otrs/installer.pl> to do so.



### Warning

It is not a good idea to use the default passwords. You install a very important piece of software and you do not want anybody to be able to hack your database just because you didn't change the default password!



And because we want to keep the system as secure as possible we change some permissions by using the following script:

```
ernie:~ # /opt/otrs/bin/SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs wwwrun
SetPermissions.sh $Revisio : 1.16 $ - set OTRS file permissions
Copyright (c) 2002 Martin Edenhofer martin at otrs.org
Setting file permissions...
chown -R 0:0 /opt/otrs/
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs/
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs//.fetchmailrc
chmod 0710 /opt/otrs//.fetchmailrc
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs//.procmailrc
chmod 0644 /opt/otrs//.procmailrc
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs//.mailfilter
chmod 0600 /opt/otrs//.mailfilter
chown -R otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs//var/
chown -R wwwrun:nogroup /opt/otrs//var/sessions/
chown otrs:nogroup /opt/otrs//var/log/TicketCounter.log
chmod -R 755 /opt/otrs//bin/
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs//bin/DeleteSessionIDs.pl
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs//bin/UnlockTickets.pl
(chown && chmod 700) otrs:0 /opt/otrs//bin/otrs.getConfig
ernie:~ #
```

OK, now it is time to fire up the otrs. Do so on the command line:

```
ernie:~ # rcotrs restart-force
Shutting down OTRS
  Disable /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl ... done.
no crontab for otrs
  Shutting down cronjobs ... failed!
Shutting down OTRS (completely)
  Shutting down Apache ... done.
  Shutting down MySQL ... done.
done

Starting OTRS (completely)
Starting Apache ... done.
Starting MySQL ... done.
Starting OTRS
Checking Apache ... done.
Checking MySQL ... done.
Checking database connect... (It looks Ok!).
Enable /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl ... done.
Checking otrs spool dir... done.
Creating cronjobs (source /opt/otrs/var/cron/*) ... done.

--> http://ernie.example.com/otrs/index.pl <--
done
done

ernie:~ #
```

Finish! Wasn't that a piece of cake? ;-)

You can use the OTRS by opening the <http://ernie.example.com/otrs/index.pl> link.

## 1.2. Using the tar.gz file to install OTRS on any Linux/Unix platform

This section is a guide for installing OTRS on any Linux. Please use this way only in case you feel comfortable with it otherwise use the RPM. Before starting the installation have a look at <http://otrs.org/> (<http://www.otrs.org/>) and check if a newer and better version of the tar.gz file is available. If so please download it and use the newer documentation and the newer rpm.

## 1.2.1. Install

Software requirements?  
=====

On all Perl-Platforms! You need:

- \* min. Perl5
- \* Database (e. g. MySQL, PostgreSQL)
- \* Webserver (mod\_perl isn't required but "very nice" to have)
- \* some CPAN-Module (DBI, DBD:mysql, Digest::MD5, MIME::Base64 (if Perl < 5.8), Net::DNS) and for stats (GD, GD::Text, GD::Graph, GD::Graph::lines, GD::Text::Align)

Installation:  
=====

This few steps describe an OTRS installation incl. webserver and database settings. The OTRS user is "otrs" and the home (root) directory is /opt/otrs (of cause you can choose an other directory or/and OTRS user).

### 1. Install CPAN Modules (if needed):

-----

Note: use "bin/otrs.checkModules" to get an overview of all installed and required cpan modules.

- a) Install the RPMs if your distributions provides RPMs for the required CPAN modules.
- b) Install the required modules via CPAN shell (<http://www.cpan.org/>)
 

```
perl -MCPAN -e shell;
...
install Digest::MD5
install Net::DNS
install MIME::Base64 (if Perl < 5.8)
...

and maybe the GD stuff (stats support, not required!)
...
install GD
install GD::Text
install GD::Graph
install GD::Graph::lines
install GD::Text::Align
...
```

Check if all needed modules are installed:

-----

```
$shell:~> perl -cw /opt/otrs/bin/cgi-bin/index.pl
/opt/otrs/bin/cgi-bin/index.pl syntax OK
$shell:~> perl -cw /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl
/opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl syntax OK
$shell:~>
```

If you get "syntax OK" it seems to be Ok. Go ahead.

### 2. Create user:

-----

Add user:

-----

```
$shell: useradd -d /opt/otrs/ -c 'OTRS user' otrs
```

Add user to webserver group (if the webserver is not running with OTRS user):

-----

```
$shell: usermod -G nogroup otrs
```

(SuSE=nogroup, Red Hat=apache)

### 3. Install tar.gz:

-----

```
$shell: cd /opt/
$shell: tar -xvzf otrs-xxxx-xx-xx.tar-gz
$shell: chown -R /opt/otrs/* otrs
```

## 4. Demo config files:

```
-----
There are several OTRS demo config files in $OTRS_HOME/Kernel/*.dist
and $OTRS_HOME/Kernel/Config/*.dist. Make copies of all demo config files:
```

```
cp Kernel/Config.pm.dist Kernel/Config.pm

cd Kernel/Config/
for foo in *.dist; do cp $foo `basename $foo .dist`; done
```

Or if you are installing OTRS an a Windows system:

```
copy Kernel/Config.pm.dist Kernel/Config.pm

cd Kernel/Config/
copy *.dist *.
```

## 5. Webserver:

```
-----
[follow README.webserver]
```

## 6. Database setup:

```
-----
If you use MySQL, you can use the Web-Installer (http://yourhost/otrs/installer.pl).
Else follow README.database --> "DB - Setup Example".
```

## 7. Config file (\$HOME/Kernel/Config.pm):

```
-----
If you used the Web-Installer, you can skip this point. If not,
set some Kernel::Config ($HOME/Kernel/Config.pm) Options (FQDN, SystemID, TicketHook,
Home, ...)
```

## 8. File Permissions:

```
-----
Set the file permissions with
"$HOME/bin/SetPermissions.sh <OTRS_HOME> <OTRS_USER> <WEBSERVER_USER> [OTRS_GROUP] [WEB_GROUP]"
e. g.
  Webserver with OTRS user: "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs otrs"
  Webserver with wwwrun user (e. g. SuSE): "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs wwwrun"
  Webserver with apache user (e. g. Redhat): "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs apache users apache"
```

## 9. First Login:

```
-----
http://yourhost/otrs/index.pl
User: root@localhost
PW: root
```

--> goto AdminArea and set some config settings (UserAdd, Queues, ...).

Finished.

## 10. First Email:

```
-----
pipe an email directly into $OTRS_HOME/bin/Postmaster.pl
(e. g. 'cat /opt/otrs/doc/test-email-1.box | /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl').
```

## 11. Cronjobs for the OTRS user:

```
-----
There are several OTRS default cronjobs in $OTRS_HOME/var/cron/*.dist.
Make copies of all of the default cronjobs:
```

```
cd var/cron
for foo in *.dist; do cp $foo `basename $foo .dist`; done
```

Or if you are installing OTRS an a Windows system:

```
cd var/cron
copy *.dist *.
```

Use `$OTRS_HOME/bin/Cron.sh {start|stop|restart}` to start or stop this cronjobs from `$OTRS_HOME/var/cron/*` (.dist will be ignored).

>> Note: Install this cronjobs as OTRS user. <<

Remark: For installation questions ask `otrs@otrs.org` (<http://lists.otrs.org/>).

Have a lot of fun.

Martin Edenhofer

(January 2003 Frankfurt/Germany)

EOF

## 1.2.2. Database

Where can I find the database description files?  
=====

XML:

====

`$HOME_OTRS/install/database/OpenTRS-schema.xml`

The XML description files for torque which generate the SQL for your target database e. g. MySQL, PostgreSQL, DB2, Oracle, ...)

More Infos: <http://jakarta.apache.org/turbine/turbine-2/howto/torque-howto.html>

MySQL:

-----

`$HOME_OTRS/install/database/OpenTRS-schema.mysql.sql`

PostgreSQL:

-----

`$HOME_OTRS/install/database/OpenTRS-schema.postgresql.sql`

Initial insert file:

=====

`$HOME_OTRS/install/database/initial_insert.sql` contains all needed standard values. At first use the `OpenTRS-schema*.sql` and the insert this file.

DB - Setup Example (MySQL):

=====

Create OTRS database:

-----

shell> `mysql -u root -p -e 'create database otrs'`

Create the OTRS tables:

-----

shell> `mysql -u root -p otrs < install/database/OpenTRS-schema.mysql.sql`

Insert inital data:

-----

shell> `mysql -u root -p otrs < install/database/initial_insert.sql`

Create an database user:

-----

shell> `mysql -u root -p -e 'GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON otrs.* TO otrs@localhost IDENTIFIED BY "some-pass" WITH GR`

Reload the grant tables of your mysql-daemon:

-----

shell> `mysqladmin -u root -p reload`

```

*****
*
* Change the DB-Settings (host, database, user and password) *
*
*   $OTRS_HOME/Kernel/Config.pm
*   [...]
*   # Database
*   # (The database name.)
*   $Self->{Database} = 'otrs';
*
*   # DatabaseUser
*   # (The database user.)
*   $Self->{DatabaseUser} = 'otrs';
*
*   # DatabasePw
*   # (The password of database user.)
*   $Self->{DatabasePw} = 'some-pass';
*   [...]
*
*****
EOF

```

### 1.2.3. Webserver

Which webserver is needed?

=====

I prefer the apache webserver (<http://httpd.apache.org>).

Configuration:

=====

"After" this steps, you will get the login page at  
<http://your-host/otrs/index.pl> or <http://your-host/otrs/installer.pl>.

SuSE Linux:

=====

a) Install the RPM-Package (<http://otrs.org/> - "rpm -i otrs-xxx.rpm").

b) The manual way:

Use the "\$OTRS\_HOME/scripts/suse-httpd.include.conf" include config file.

Add it to /etc/sysconfig/apache with HTTPD\_CONF\_INCLUDE\_FILES

[...]

HTTPD\_CONF\_INCLUDE\_FILES=/opt/otrs/scripts/suse-httpd.include.conf

[...]

Start SuSEconfig and restart the webserver (rcapache restart).

Or edit the httpd.conf directly:

=====

a)

\*) Change the webserver user (normaly wwwrun) to the OTRS user (otrs).

[...]

User wwwrun

[...]

User otrs

[...]

\*) If you can't change the user and group of your webserver (system-wide),  
because you have other applications running on this server, you can  
also work with group permissions (more tricky).

Use "\$HOME/bin/SetPermissions.sh <OTRS\_HOME> <OTRS\_USER> <WEBSERVER\_USER> [OTRS\_GROUP] [WEB\_GROUP]"

e. g.

Webserver with otrs user: "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs otrs"

```

Webserver with wwwrun user (e. g. SuSE): "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs wwwrun"
Webserver with apache user (e. g. Redhat): "SetPermissions.sh /opt/otrs otrs apache"

```

b)

\*)

```

Without mod_perl (just CGI):
=====
Add this to the cgi-bin stuff section in httpd.conf
[...]
ScriptAlias /otrs/ "/opt/otrs/bin/cgi-bin/"
[...]

```

\*)

```

With mod_perl (speed!):
=====
Add this to the mod_perl stuff section in httpd.conf
[...]
Alias /otrs/ "/opt/otrs/bin/cgi-bin/"

```

```

<Location /otrs>
  SetHandler perl-script
  PerlHandler Apache::Registry
  Options ExecCGI
  PerlSendHeader On
</Location>

```

May you want use a mod\_perl startup script. Compiled modules on startup (speed!)! Use the mod\_perl startup script which comes with otrs (scripts/apache-perl-startup.pl).

```

- Change the default startup script location of your httpd to
$OTRS_HOME/scripts/apache-perl-startup.pl in httpd.conf
[...]
# load all otrs modules
PerlRequire /opt/otrs/scripts/apache-perl-startup.pl
[...]

```

Edit the scripts/apache-perl-startup.pl script:

```

- Establish datababase connections on process startup (httpd).

```

```

[...]
use Apache ();
use Apache::DBI ();
Apache::DBI->connect_on_init('DBI:mysql:otrs', 'otrs', 'some-pass');
# Apache::DBI->connect_on_init($data_source, $username, $auth, \%attr)
[...]

```

```

- Change the otrs lib dir (if needed)!

```

```

[...]
# --
# set otrs lib path!
# --
use lib "/path/to/otrs/";
use lib "/path/to/otrs/Kernel/cpan-lib";
[...]

```

Nice! You will love mod\_perl! ,-) )

c)

```

Restart the webservice
=====

```

d)

```

Web-Installer
=====
http://yourhost/otrs/installer.pl

```

```

First login
=====

```

```

http://yourhost/otrs/index.pl
User: root@localhost
PW: root

```

EOF

## 1.3. Install OTRS 1.0 on Win32

This How-To installs the Open Ticket Request System OTRS(<http://otrs.org>), *version 1.0* on systems running *Win32*. I tested it on Windows 2000, it should run on Windows 98, 98SE, ME, NT4 and XP, too.

### 1.3.1. Installations

You will need four main components on your system, a webservice (*Sambar Server*), a database (*MySQL*), an MTA (=Mail Transfer Agent, *exim* from the UN\*X emulation *Cygwin*) and a programming language (*Perl*).

The whole installation will assumingly take place on drive D:, but you may install wherever you like, for sure.

#### 1.3.1.1. Install Cygwin (exim)

Install Cygwin using their <http://www.cygwin.com/setup.exe>. Choose the following as option. Leave everything else on their defaults or suit it to your needs.

```

Choose A Download Source:
  Install from Internet
Select Root Install Directory:
  d:\cygwin
Install for:
  All Users
Default Text File Type:
  Unix
Select Local Package Directory:
  d:\cygwin\packages
Select Packages:

```

If you have got enough disk space, a fast internet connection and/or lots of time, I'd advice you to just install everything. If for any reason you don't want to take advantage of this great Un\*x software, be sure to at least install the package *exim* from its category *Mail*. Install this one and the default packages (marked *Keep*), for sure.

#### 1.3.1.2. Install PERL

Download *Perl, Version 5.6.1 build 633* from <http://www.activestate.com/Products/Download/Download.plex?id=ActivePerl>. I recommend choosing the MSI version.

Install Perl using the default values to *D:\Perl*.

#### 1.3.1.3. Install Sambar Server

Download Sambar Server from <http://sambar.robertkehl.de>, the home page is <http://www.sambar.com>. I recommend using version 5.2 Production, surely any later version will do, too. Do not use any version prior to 5.2 Production!

Read the security notes on <http://www.sambar.com/syshelp/security.htm> and install Sambar, where you like to, *D:\Sambar* is a good choice.

If you're running Windows NT4, 2000 or XP, you can and should install Sambar as a Service, if the install routine hasn't done so yet. Therefore you click *Start -> Execute*, enter *CMD* and press RETURN. Now a so called command box pops up, which we won't need only for now. You enter the following:

```
d:\sambar\bin\ntserver.exe -i -s Sambar
```

Now start Sambar using the built-in service administration panel or by entering:

```
net start Sambar
```

On Win9x/ME, you start Sambar clicking *Start -> Programs -> Sambar Server -> Start Sambar Server*. There are no services on Win9x/ME.

Ensure that Sambar is running: <http://localhost>. The documentation can be found here: <http://localhost/syshelp/index.htm>. The system administration forms are here: <http://localhost/session/adminlogin?RCpage=/sysadmin/index.stm>.

**Important:** Ensure to \*now\* set the admin password to prevent others using your Sambar in a malicious way. You do this on the sysadmin forms under *User Management*. Good Passwords are longer than eight keystrokes and look like this:  
**sie.&Ph9w\_ig**

### 1.3.1.4. Install MySQL

Download MySQL from <http://www.mysql.com/downloads/mysql-3.23.html> and install it in *D:\mysql*, under Win 2000/XP as a service, too. Start it.

For a more comfortable configuration interface I recommend installing phpMyAdmin from <http://www.phpmyadmin.net>, too, location: *D:\mysql\phpMyAdmin*.

We change the password for root later.

### 1.3.1.5. Install OTRS

Last but not least - the beast!

Download OTRS as a tarball (.tar.gz): <http://otrs.org/pages/index.pl?Site=Download>.

We have to install this tarball manually, because there is a file "INSTALL" in it, who has the same name like the directory "install", which is also contained. Un\*x differentiates between the two - Windows doesn't. In addition, the two files .fetchmailrc and .procmairc are doubled, your unzip program will complain about this. Future releases will allow automatic unzipping.

Open the tarball using WinRAR (<http://www.rarlab.com>), Winzip (<http://www.winzip.com>) or a similar software. Unzip the files .fetchmailrc, .procmairc and INSTALL to *d:\otrs\*. Rename INSTALL to INSTALL.txt. Now unzip the rest of the archive to *d:\otrs\*.

#### 1.3.1.5.1. Download and install SQL-Code

Download the *SQL-Code for phpMyAdmin on Win-32* from [robertkehl.de](http://robertkehl.de). Save it here: *d:\otrs\install\database\OpenTRS-SQL-win32.mysql.sql* (<http://www.robertkehl.de/downloads/OpenTRS-SQL-win32.mysql.sql>).

## 1.3.2. Configuration

### 1.3.2.1. Configuring Cygwin (exim)

Open the file *D:\cygwin\etc\exim.conf* search for this line:

```
begin routers
```

Directly beneath you enter the following:

```
# Send all mail to a smarthost
smarthost:
driver = accept
transport = remote_smtp
```

Underneath this:

```
begin transports
```

you note:

```
remote_smtp:
  driver = smtp
  hosts = smtp.yourprovider.com
```

Now *exim* will send each incoming message to the relay server of your provider. By now you can't forward messages to Sambar. In future we won't need *exim* and Cygwin at all, because OTRS will have it's own SMTP module included.

Now you change the access rights for *D:\cygwin\etc\exim.conf* using *chmod* from Cygwin:

```
d:
cd d:\cygwin
cygwin
chown SYSTEM /etc/exim.conf
chmod 755 /etc/exim.conf
```

That's it for *exim* and Cygwin.

### 1.3.2.2. Configuring Perl

We now patch our Perl because it doesn't suit our needs in the default installation, there are some so called "packages" missing. We could use the tools ppm2 or ppm3 from ActiveState for downloading the packages, too, but I prefer downloading them manually.

Download the following ZIP-packages from <http://www.activestate.com/PPMPackages/zips/6xx-builds-only/>:

```
DBD-Mysql.zip
DBI.zip
IO-Stringy.zip
```

Unzip all files to *D:\Perl\packages*.

#### Caution!

Every directory contains a README, which will be overwritten by the following one. If you want to read each README you should rename it directly after unzipping each package.

Change to directory *D:\Perl\packages*, by entering:

```
D:
cd Perl\packages
```

Start the *Perl Package Manager*, by entering **ppm**. Now install:

```
PPM> install DBI.ppd
Install package 'DBI.ppd?' (y/N): y
[...snipped...]
PPM> install IO-stringy.ppd
Install package 'IO-Stringy.ppd?' (y/N): y
[...snipped...]
PPM> install DBD-Mysql.ppd
Install package 'DBD-Mysql.ppd?' (y/N): y
```

Your Perl should now look like this or even better:

```

PPM> query
Archive-Tar      [0.072 ]
Compress-Zlib    [1.16  ]
DBD-MySQL        [1.2200]
DBI              [1.32  ]
Digest           [1     ]
Digest-HMAC      [1.01  ]
Digest-MD2       [2     ]
Digest-MD4       [1.1   ]
Digest-MD5       [2.20  ]
Digest-SHA1      [2.01  ]
File-CounterFile [0.12  ]
Font-AFM         [1.18  ]
HTML-Parser      [3.26  ]
HTML-Tagset      [3.03  ]
HTML-Tree        [3.11  ]
IO-stringy       [2.108 ]
MD5              [2.02  ]
MIME-Base64      [2.12  ]
PPM              [2.1.6 ]
SOAP-Lite        [0.55  ]
Storable         [1.0.12]
Tk               [800.023]
URI              [1.19  ]
XML-Parser       [2.27  ]
XML-Simple       [1.06  ]
libwin32         [0.19.1]

```

You quit ppm by entering **quit**. If you like you can delete the files in D:\Perl\packages.

That's it for Perl.

### 1.3.2.3. Configuring Sambar

We now configure our webserver *Sambar*. Open the file *D:\Sambar\config\mappings.ini* and create these entries:

```

[aliases]
/mysql = d:/mysql/Docs
/phpMyAdmin = d:/mysql/phpMyAdmin
[cgi-aliases]
/otrs/ = /otrs/bin/cgi-bin/
/obin/ = /otrs/bin/

```

Now you set the beneath values in *D:\Sambar\config\config.ini*:

```

[common]
Trace Level = INFO
Trace Performance = true
Network Trace Level = None
Dynamic IP Test = true
License =
Licensee =
DNS Primary = IPadresse.DNS1.beideinem.Provider
DNS Secondary = IPadresse.DNS2.beideinem.Provider
[server]
System Administrator = admin
System Administrator IP = 127.0.0.1
Act As HTTP Server = true
Act As HTTPS Server = false
Act As DNS Server = false
Act As DHCP Server = false
Act As Mail Server = false
Act As TFTP Server = false
Act As FTP Server = false
Act As FTPS Server = false
Act As FTP Proxy = false
Act As NNTP Proxy = false

```

```

Act As SMTP Proxy = false
Act As POP3 Proxy = false
Act As IMAP4 Proxy = false
Act As Bridge Proxy = false
Act As SOCKS Proxy = false
Act As Telnet Server = false
Trace FTP = true
Trace TFTP = true
Trace Bridge = true
Trace DHCP = true
Trace DNS = true
SMTP Server = smtp.deinprovider.de
DOT-File Security = true
[http]
Act As HTTP Proxy = false
Trace Proxy Usage = true
Trace Requests = true
Log Format = performance
Don't Log IPs = 127.0.0.1
Default Page = index.pl index.php index.stm index.shtml index.shtm index.sht index.htm index.html
Perl Executable = D:/Perl/bin/perl.exe
CGI Extensions = *.pl
Enforce .htaccess = true
[events]
Monitor Invalid Logins = true
Monitor Invalid Requests = true
Share User Logins = true
Trace User Logins = true

```

Restart Sambar for the changes to take affect.

**Note::** At the very moment we do not use the *mail server* of Sambar, nor the *DNS server*. To use them right now (outside of OTRS), you need a *Pro version* of Sambar, see <http://sambar.com/syshelp/pro.htm>. The http functionality is not limited in the freeware version, which is automagically active. Entering this in config.ini will enable the demo version of the Pro version aktiviert, which will run between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

```

[common]
License = demo
Licensee = demo

```

### 1.3.2.3.1. Securing /otrs/bin

We *\*have\** to secure the alias /obin/ which points to d:\otrs\bin, holding all of the code useful for hacking the system. I personally do not want to expose these "tools" to everyone.

Create the file *d:\otrs\bin\htaccess.txt* using Windows Explorer containing just this one line:

```
require group root
```

Open a command box and enter this:

```

d:
cd d:\otrs\bin
ren htaccess.txt .htaccess

```

Now only users belonging to the group "root" and the system itself (CRON jobs f.e.) will be allowed to access the scripts in "d:\otrs\bin".

### 1.3.2.4. Configuring MySQL

Secure your MySQL by providing good passwords for the users `@%`, `root@%` und `root@localhost`. This can easily be done via *phpMyAdmin*.

Let's fill the database. You can do this via the command line, as show beneath:

```
d:
cd d:\mysql
mysql -u root -p password -e 'create database otrs'
mysql -u root -p password otrs < d:\otrs\install\database\OpenTRS-SQL-win32.mysql.sql
mysql -u root -p -e 'GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON otrs.* TO otrs@localhost IDENTIFIED BY "some-pass" WITH GRANT OPT
mysqladmin -u root -p password reload
```

I recommend using *phpMyAdmin* under `http://localhost/phpMyAdmin` instead of working on the command line. You create the database right on the start screen. Now you click the register "SQL", and enter `d:\otrs\install\database\OpenTRS-SQL-win32.mysql.sql`. Click OK.

Now commit this command:

```
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON otrs.* TO otrs@localhost IDENTIFIED BY "irgendeinpasswort" WITH GRANT OPTION;
```

That's it for MySQL, which we provided with the database `otrs` and the user `otrs@localhost`.

### 1.3.2.5. Configuring OTRS

#### 1.3.2.5.1. CONFIG.PM

Now you teach OTRS s.th. about you. First create your configuration file:

```
d:
cd d:\otrs\Kernel
copy Config.pm.dist Config.pm
```

Despite your settings concerning FQDN etc., you set the following in `d:\otrs\Kernel\Config.pm`:

```
# -----#
# Sendmail
# -----#
$Self->{Sendmail} = 'd:/cygwin/bin/exim-4.12-2.exe -t -i -f ';
# -----#
# fs root directory
# -----#
$Self->{Home} = 'd:/otrs';
# -----#
# LogModule #
# -----#
# (log backend module)
# $Self->{LogModule} = 'Kernel::System::Log::SysLog';
$Self->{LogModule} = 'Kernel::System::Log::File';
# param for LogModule Kernel::System::Log::File (required!)
$Self->{'LogModule::LogFile'} = '<OTRS_CONFIG_Home>/var/log/otrs.log';
# -----#
# own config settings #
# config settings taken from Kernel/Config/Defaults.pm #
# -----#
# $Self->{SessionUseCookie} = 0;
$Self-A>{SessionModule} = 'Kernel::System::AuthSession::DB';
```

**A note about your FQDN:** This is the called *Full Qualified Domain Name* of your PC, just like your IP adress it's unique across the universe ...ah... internet, I mean. If you're using a dial-up line to connect to the internet, your FQDN will always be a different one each time you dial anew. This is indeed ok for OTRS, but it's not nice if exim announces itself with a wrong name. It can lead to difficulties in mail delivery.

To solve this problem you can use so called *Dynamic DNS services* like <http://www.dyndns.org>. By using a client such as *DirectUpdate* (<http://www.directupdate.net>) you submit your IP address to *dyndns.org* each times it changes and can thereby obtain a FQDN, for example *gogos-pc.home-ip.net*. You can even forward your domain <http://www.thisismydomain.com> to your home PC. If you got further questions concerning Dynamic DNS services, don't hesitate to ask(<mailto:otrs-win32@robertkehl.de?subject=Dynamic%20DNS>) - but now back to OTRS :)

#### 1.3.2.5.2. LOG.PM

Now we have to uncomment five rows in *d:\otrs\Kernel\System\Log.pm*:

```
13:
# use IPC::SysV qw(IPC_PRIVATE IPC_RMID S_IRWXU);
58:
# $Self->{Key} = shmget($Self->{IPCKey}, $Self->{IPCSize}, 0777 | 0001000) || die $!;
126,127:
# my $String = $Self->GetLog();
# shmwrite($Self->{Key}, $Data.$String, 0, $Self->{IPCSize}) || die $!;
141:
# shmread($Self->{Key}, $String, 0, $Self->{IPCSize}) || die "$!";
```

#### 1.3.2.5.3. TICKET.PM

We are now working with *d:\Sambar\Kernel\System\Ticket.pm*, open it and search for this row

```
use Kernel::System::Ticket::Article;
```

Add this line beneath:

```
use Kernel::System::Ticket::ArticleStorageDB;
```

#### 1.3.2.5.4. VALID.PM

Lastly we tell OTRS where to find our *nslookup.exe*. In *d:\otrs\Kernel\cpan-lib\Email\Valid.pm* we change the following lines:

```
15:
@NSLOOKUP_PATHS = qw( /usr/bin /usr/sbin /bin c:/winnt/system32 );
94:
return "$path/nslookup.exe" if -x "$path/nslookup.exe" and !-d _;
```

Now *Valid.pm* is suitable for Win32 *\*only\**, but that's ok for us :)

### 1.3.3. The First Start

Now startup OTRS for the first time. A good idea is to reboot your machine before, remember: You're on Windows ;) Then call <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl> in your favourite browser.

The user name is "root@localhost", the password is "root", both without the quotes.

**Important:** It's a *\*very good\** idea to *\*now\** change your password on <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl?Action=AdminUser>

### 1.3.3.1. System Email Addresses & POP3

You set your system email addresses here: <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl?Action=AdminSystemAddress> These are the addresses your customers later on use to reach your OTRS.

You create POP3 accounts for each System Email here: <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl?Action=AdminPOP3>

*Your OTRS is now ready, you can start!* Have a look around the interface and work on the test ticket provided.

Now write an Email to one of the System Email addresses. Enter this in your browser, it provides the eMail to OTRS. We will later automate this: <http://localhost/obin/PostMasterPOP3.pl>.

Your Email will be visible in the queue *Raw* that's here: <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl?Action=AgentQueueView>. Answer this first inquiry.

**Tip:** It is *NO* good idea to use one of the system Email addresses to address the system, this will produce loops.

### 1.3.3.2. Setup CRON Job(s)

At last, we tell Sambar to fetch all POP3-Mail every 10 minutes and pump it into the database. Therefore you enter this in *D:\Sambar\config\schedule.ini*:

```
[cron]
# fetch emails every 10 minutes
*/10 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/PostMasterPOP3.pl &
```

**Important:** The schedule entry will be active 1-2 minutes after saving the file.

**Tip:** You may enter the following CRON jobs at this very moment, too. Their very purpose is described elsewhere in this manual.

```
[cron]
# start generic agent every 20 minutes
*/20 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/GenericAgent.pl &

# check every 60 min the pending jobs
45 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/PendingJobs.pl &

# Rebuild Ticket Index every day
01 01 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/RebuildTicketIndex.pl &

# delete every six hours old session ids
55 */6 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/DeleteSessionIDs.pl --expired &

# unlock every hour old locked tickets
35 * * * * perl d:/otrs/bin/UnlockTickets.pl --timeout &
```

## 1.3.4. Done!

Congratulations, you hopefully were successful in installing OTRS on Win32!

If s.th. still is not as clear as it should be or if you are getting nothing more than error messages instead of the interface of OTRS, don't hesitate to mail [otrs-win32@robertkehl.de](mailto:otrs-win32@robertkehl.de) (mailto:otrs-win32@robertkehl.de). Hopefully you get a ticket back :-)

I would be more enlightened if you'd send some success stories!

Surely this chapter will follow the development of OTRS(<http://otrs.org>). OTRS on Win32 can be done with Apache, too, and I will soon include a part on it.

Have fun using your OTR on Sambar!

# Chapter 2. Basics about a Trouble Ticket System

## 2.1. A simple example for a small Trouble Ticket System

What is a typical scenario for using OTRS?

Example: Bob is a manufacturer of VCRs and his customers often have problems to program the VCRs. So they send Bob an e-mail. Sometimes they send a second e-mail to show Bob how important their request is. They are wondering if Bob is alive and how fast he will answer. Bob is using a normal INBOX and reads his e-mails with pine, mutt or what ever e-mail client. Sometimes his two brothers Tim and Joe help him to answer the e-mails. They all use the same INBOX. Of course they have no clue that one customer wrote two e-mails and maybe Tim gives a different answer to the first e-mail than his brother Joe does for the second. So the client gets different information. Of course Bob has no client-history and no clue how much support he is offering. For the next VCR he is producing he has no feedback from his support. That is bad!

But Bob is a smart cookie so he installs OTRS. The e-mail from his customers are not anymore going to his personal INBOX but are routed to the OTRS account (normally called otrs). The OTRS account has some nifty procmail rules which pipe this e-mail messages to the system. The system answers the client a standard text which says that they received the e-mail and gives the client a Trouble Ticket Number (which is very important to trace the customers request). The client is happy because he knows that his valuable e-mail was received by Bob and his team. Anybody from Bob's team can open a webbrowser with the URL of the OTRS to have a look at the amount of received e-mails and to answer them. In case the customer Mr. Smith sent a question, Bob can answer it. Maybe Mr. Smith does not understand the question and sends a reply. But Bob is ill. Now even Tim can open this ticket and has access to the history of the ticket. He can read Bob's answer(s) and the original e-mail of Mr. Smith. Tim can answer to Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith even does not realize that he was handled by two different persons.

Of course this is just a very rough overview of the benefits of OTRS. Probably Bob receives some 100 e-mail messages a day which could be handled even without a Trouble Ticket System. But by the time you receive some 100000 or even just some 500 e-mails a day you will be happy to have a system which handles all the e-mails.

## 2.2. What is a trouble ticket in the OTRS?

Within the OTRS all trouble tickets are handled as normal e-mails. In case you want to attach something (e.g. a fax) it will be attached as an e-mail attachment. All tickets are stored on the harddrive in clear text format. The headers are stored in a database, too. The database is used to sort the tickets and to give quick access to them. For detailed information about this mechanism have a look in the source code.

## 2.3. What is a ticket queue?

For native english speaking folks this might be a bit funny but for non native speakers the term QUEUE does not make any sense at all. So we use this section to describe the idea and concept.

Normally a e-mail (and as described above a trouble ticket is stored as an e-mail) is stored in an INBOX. An INBOX is a large file and every new e-mail is just appended to the end of the INBOX. The e-mail client is parsing this file and sorts it as you want it (typically by date of receiving).

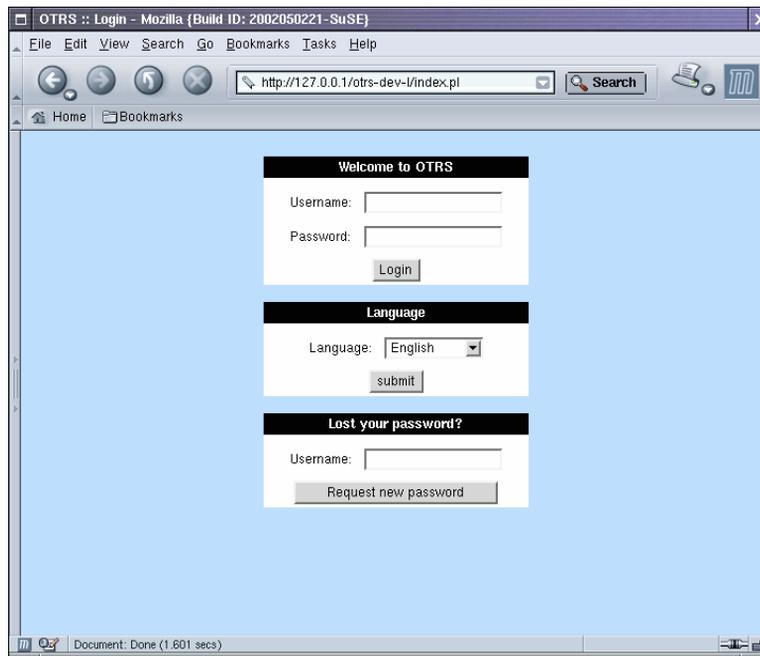
A queue is a mechanism to store many tickets within. As a user you do not know where the tickets are stored. You just know that a new ticket is e.g. in the RAW queue. An user (agent) can move a ticket from one queue to another. Why should he/she do this? You can use different queues to get more order and a better overview to your tickets. Let's assume you receive 200 e-mail messages (tickets) a day. And you have 3 teams of specialists. It doesn't make any sense to ask every specialist to read every ticket. It is a waste of time. So you have to create a fourth team which dispatches all the tickets in the INCOMING-QUEUE (or how ever you call this queue). The dispatch instance will have a quick (quick!) look at every ticket and move it then to a special queue. The 3 teams of specialists read their special queues only.

## Chapter 3. First steps

### 3.1. Login as root and create a new account

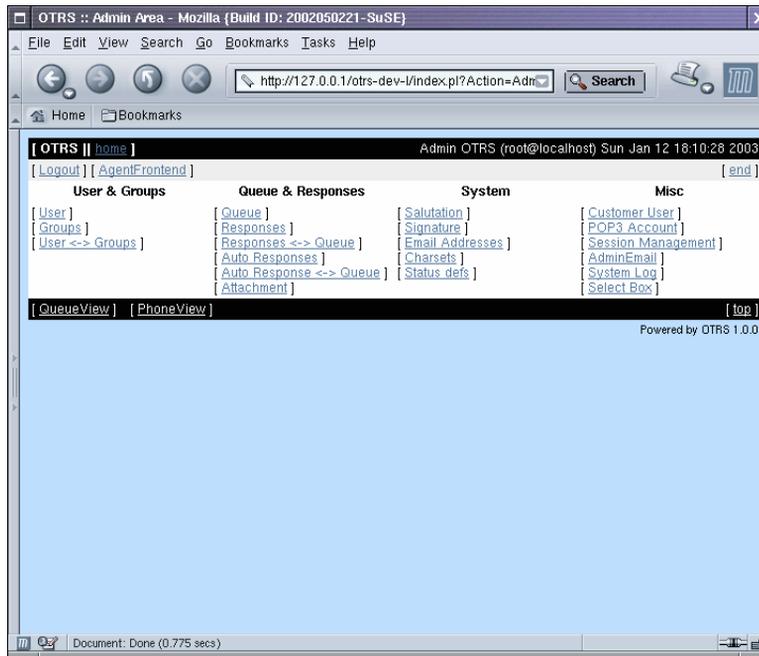
Let's presume that you have an installed OpenTRS system on your system and of course you do not want to waste too much time and see results quickly.

First you have to start your favourite webbrowser and have a look at <http://localhost/otrs/index.pl>

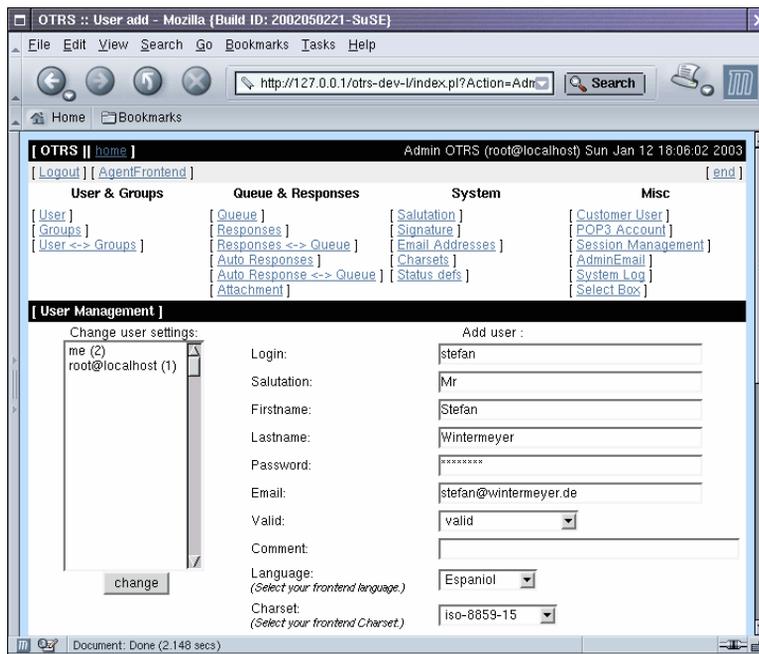


Login as `root@localhost` who by default has assigned the password `root`. Please change this in the admin part asap (of course it is totally independent from your normal linux root account).

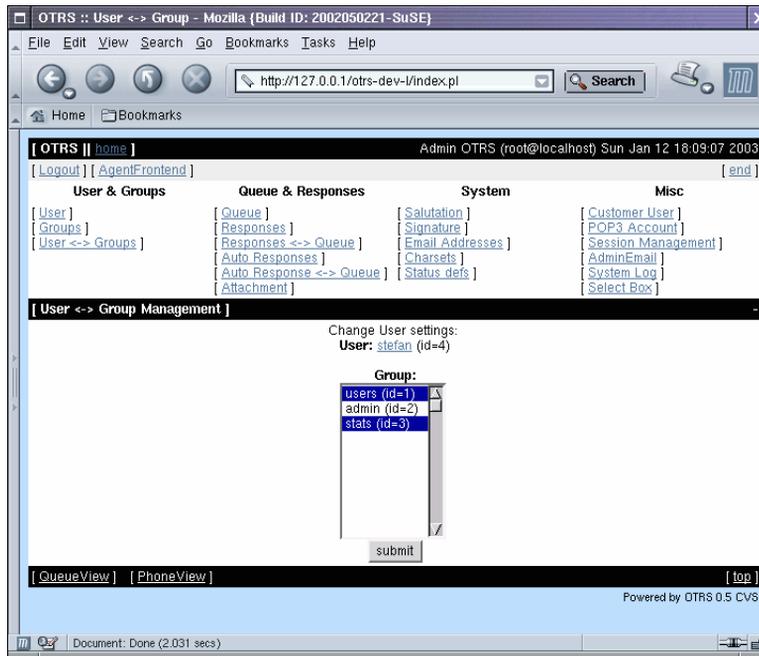
You are the root user of OpenTRS now. That means that you can do everything! You have the power, you are admin of the system. Normally you will not want to work as root and of course you need an account for all agents. So the first thing is to go into the admin interface.



The admin interface is the central of your power. You can create and delete users, groups, queues and all sort of usefull stuff here. Browse around and give it a try. But for now we want to create a new user at once.

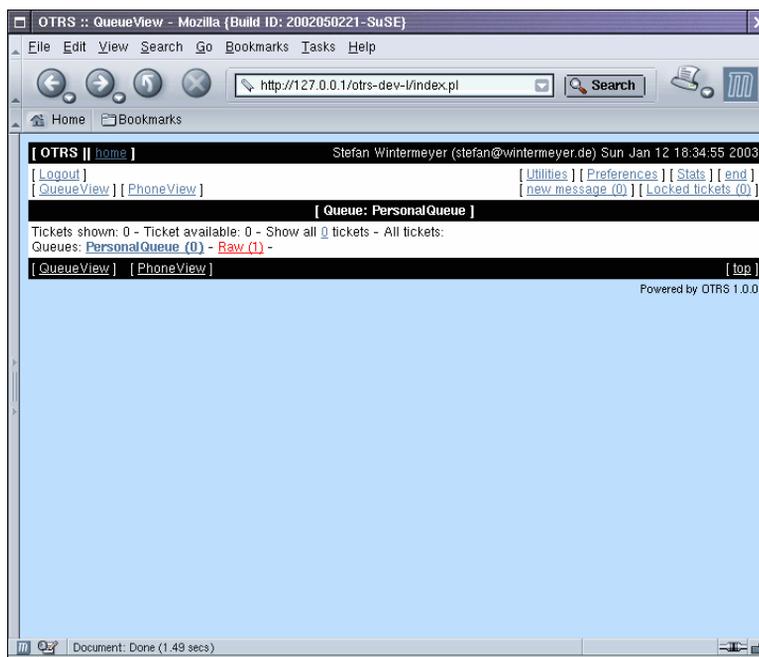


Now add the new user to the 'users' and 'stats' group or some other groups.

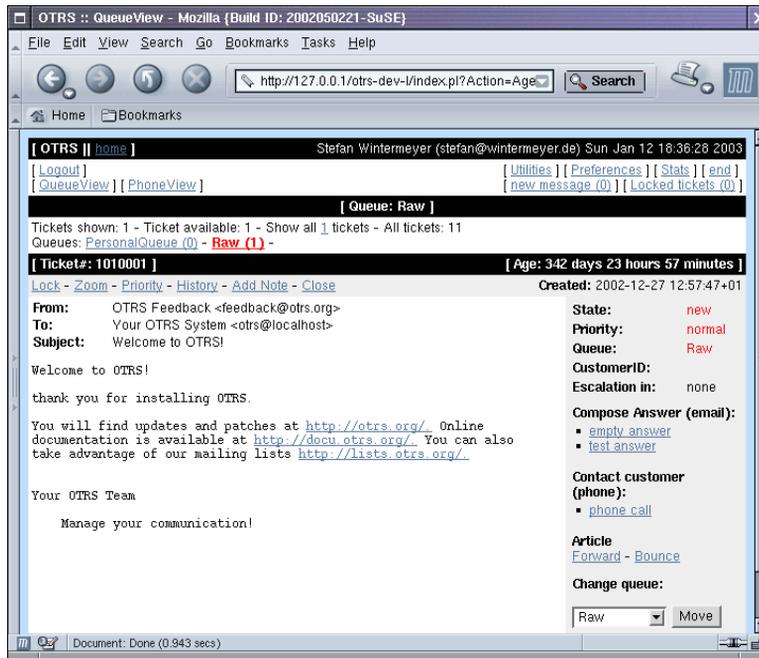


## 3.2. Login with user privilege

After you created the new user we ask you to logout and to login again as this new user. After login in he/she will see the following screen:



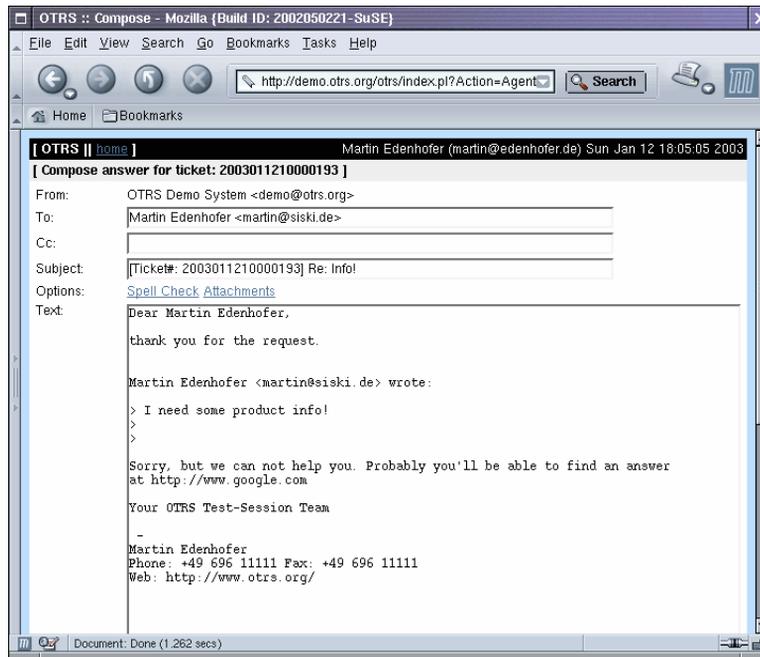
Between the second and third black bar (in this example) the user has access to the different queues. He/she can browse the queue by simply clicking on the link with the queue name.



# Chapter 4. Ticket topics

## 4.1. Answer ticket via email

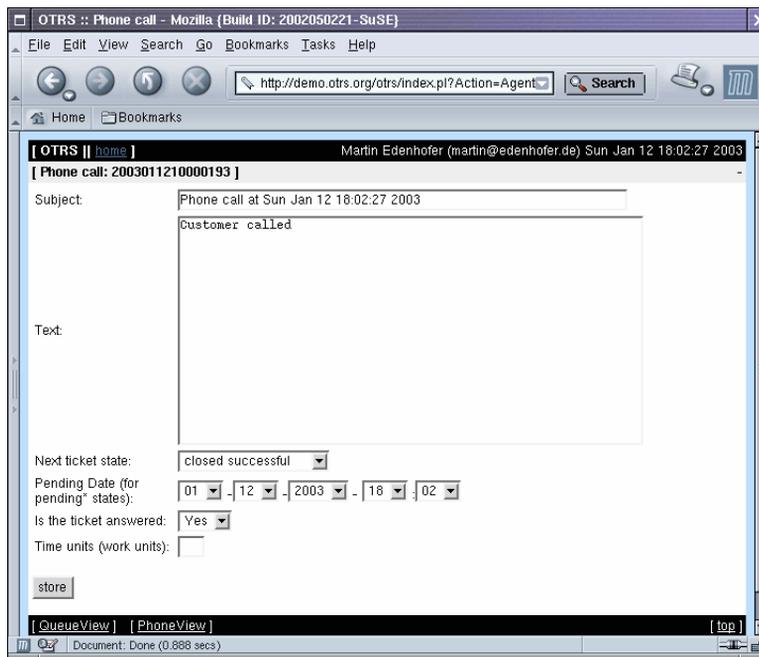
It's quite simply to answer tickets via email. Goto the QueueView or TicketZoom and click on one of the listed items under "Compose Answer (email)". A new screen will be opened, the compose screen. The cool thing is, that the compose screen includes the item-standard answer!



## 4.2. Answer ticket via phone

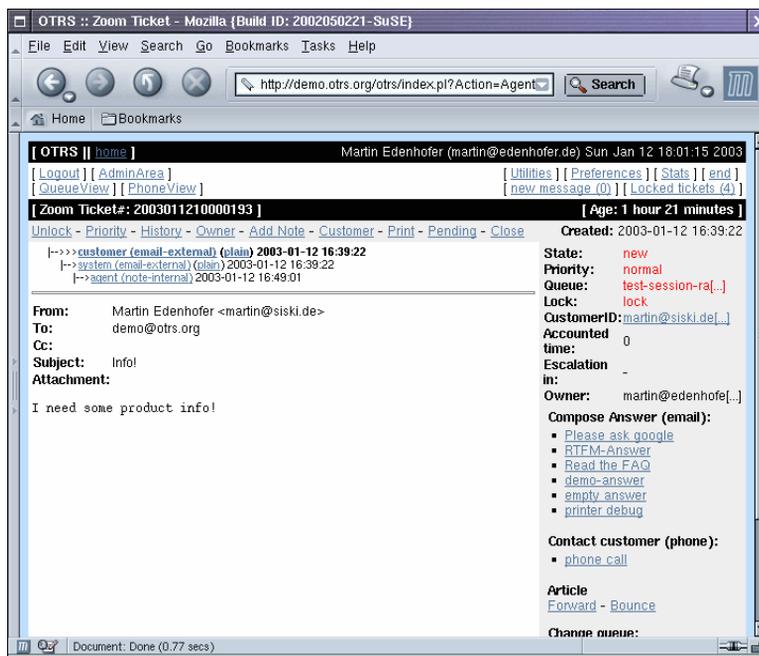
It's quite simply to answer tickets via phone. Just click on "phone call" (near Contact customer (phone)). A new screen will be

opened. Write down the phone notes and select new ticket type (open, closed, ...).



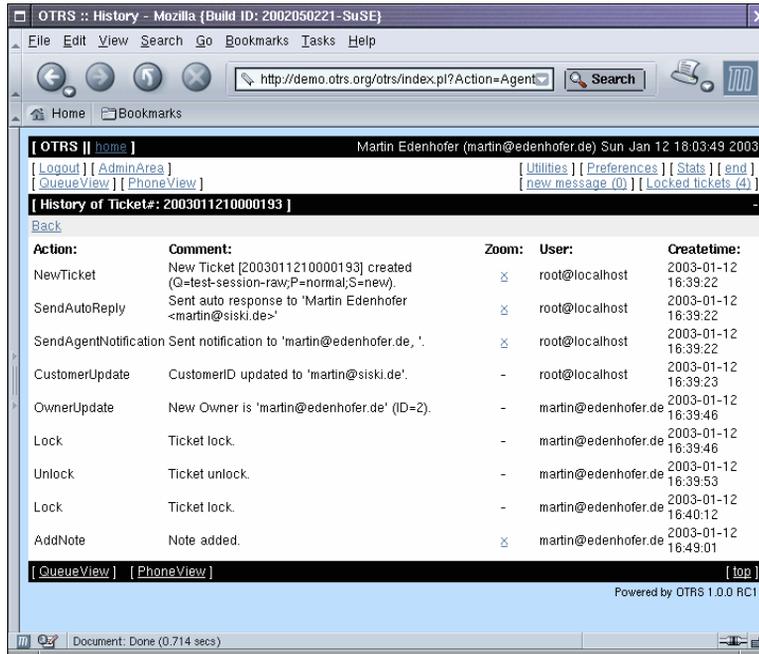
### 4.3. Zoom ticket

Zoom ticket is a detail view of one ticket. The screenshot shows you the ticket data (State, Priority, the Queue of the ticket, the Lock state, Owner and the article tree. Article tree means the whole communication thread.



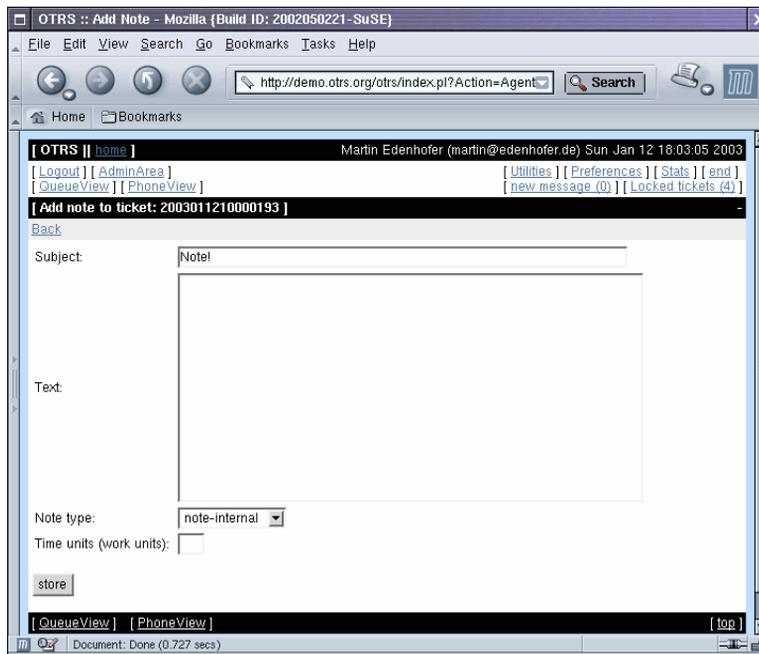
## 4.4. History of ticket

The ticket history shows you all actions on this ticket.



## 4.5. Add note to ticket

Each agent is able to add notes to tickets. Maybe he/she isn't sure to give a qualified answer. And you can select the type of note (internal, external, ...).



## 4.6. Close ticket

Close Tickets.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window titled "OTRS :: Close - Mozilla (Build ID: 2002050221 - SuSE)". The address bar shows the URL "http://demo.otrs.org/otrs/index.pl?Action=Agent". The page content is for "Close ticket: 2003011210000193". The form includes a "Subject" field with the value "Close!", a large "Note Text" text area, a "Note type" dropdown menu set to "note-internal", a "Close type" dropdown menu set to "closed successful", and a "Time units (work units)" input field. A "store" button is located at the bottom of the form. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "Document: Done (0.774 secs)".

## 4.7. Forward ticket

Forward tickets if the email wasn't for your OpenTRS system.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window titled "OTRS :: - Mozilla (Build ID: 2002050221 - SuSE)". The address bar shows the URL "http://demo.otrs.org/otrs/index.pl?Action=Agent". The page content is for "Forward article of ticket: 2003011210000193". The form displays the following fields:

- From:** OTRS Demo System <demo@otrs.org>
- To:** [Empty text box]
- Cc:** [Empty text box]
- Subject:** [Ticket#: 2003011210000193-FW] Info!
- Text:**

```

Your OTRS Test-Session Team
-
Martin Edenhofer
Phone: +49 696 11111 Fax: +49 696 11111
Web: http://www.otrs.org/

----- Forwarded message from Martin Edenhofer <martin@siski.de> -----
Date: 2003-01-12 16:39:22
From: Martin Edenhofer <martin@siski.de>
To: demo@otrs.org
Cc:
Reply-To:
Subject: [Ticket#: 2003011210000193-FW] Info!

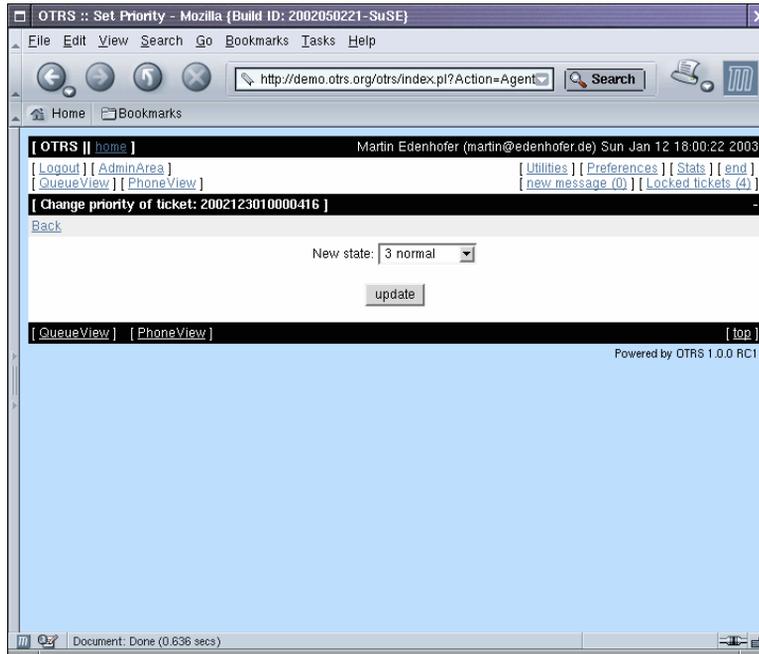
> I need some product info!
>
----- End forwarded message -----

```

The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "Document: Done (0.721 secs)".

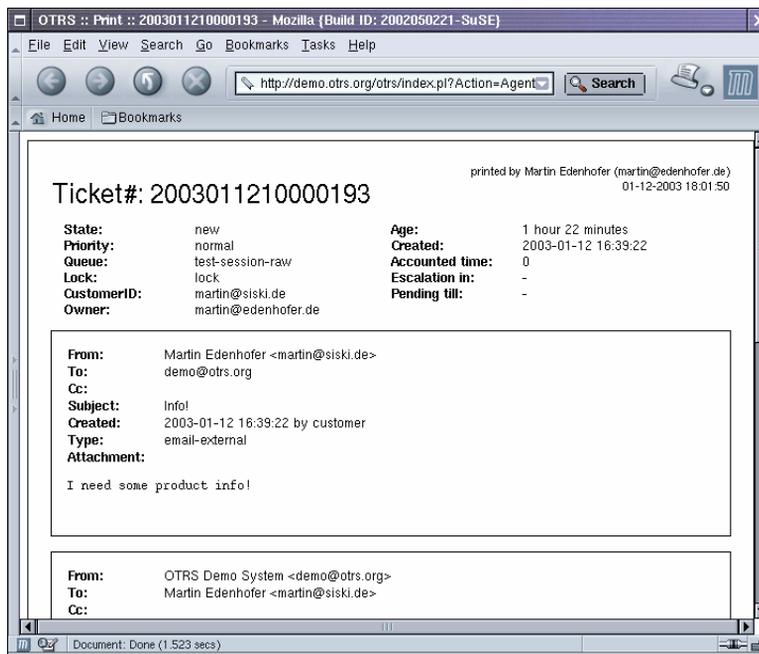
## 4.8. Ticket priority

Set the ticket priority if necessary.



## 4.9. Ticket print view

The ticket print view.

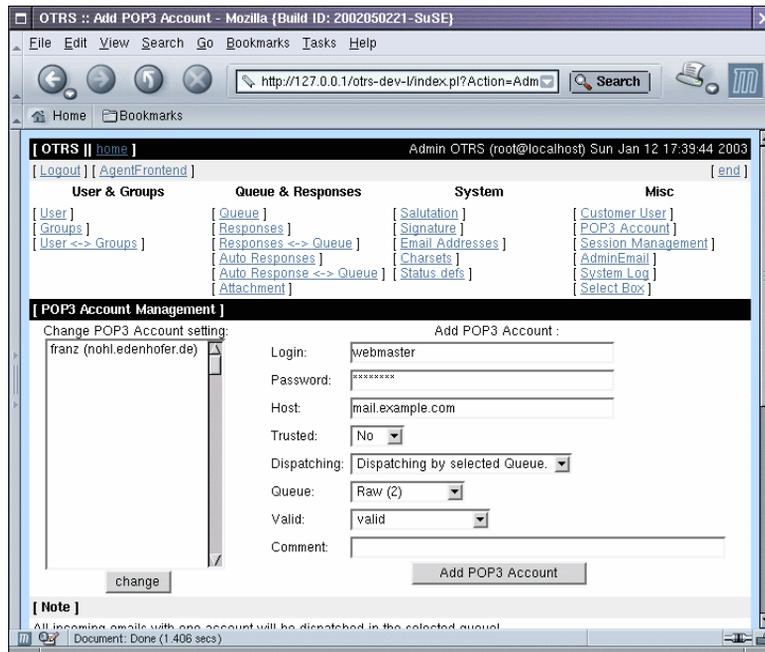


# Chapter 5. Receiving emails

## 5.1. Via POP3 account

OTRS is able to receive emails from POP3 accounts.

Configure your POP3 accounts via the admin interface (POP3 Account).



Execute `bin/PostMasterPOP3.pl` and all emails will be fetched to your OTRS system.

There is also an example cronjob (`var/cron/postmaster_pop3.dist`) which execute your `bin/PostMasterPOP3.pl` every 10 minutes (see also chapter cronjobs).

## 5.2. Via command line program and e. g. procmail

OTRS is able to receive emails via a command line programm (`bin/PostMaster.pl`).

That means emails will be shown in your OTRS system if the MDA (mail delivery agent, e. g. procmail) pipes the emails into `bin/PostMaster.pl`.

To test the `bin/PostMaster.pl` on your command line (without MDA) use:

```
shell:~ # cat /opt/otrs/doc/test-email-1.box | /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl
shell:~ #
```

If the email is shown in the QueueView then your setup works fine.

Procmail is a very common e-mail filter in the Linux environment. It will be probably installed on your system. If not have a look at the *procmail homepage* (<http://www.procmail.org/>).

To configure procmail for that (requires a procmail configured MTA (e. g. sendmail, postfix, exim or qmail)) use the `~otrs/.procmailrc` and modify/add the following.

```
SYS_HOME=$HOME
PATH=/bin:/usr/bin:/usr/local/bin
# --
# Pipe all email into the PostMaster process.
# --
:0 :
| $SYS_HOME/bin/PostMaster.pl
```

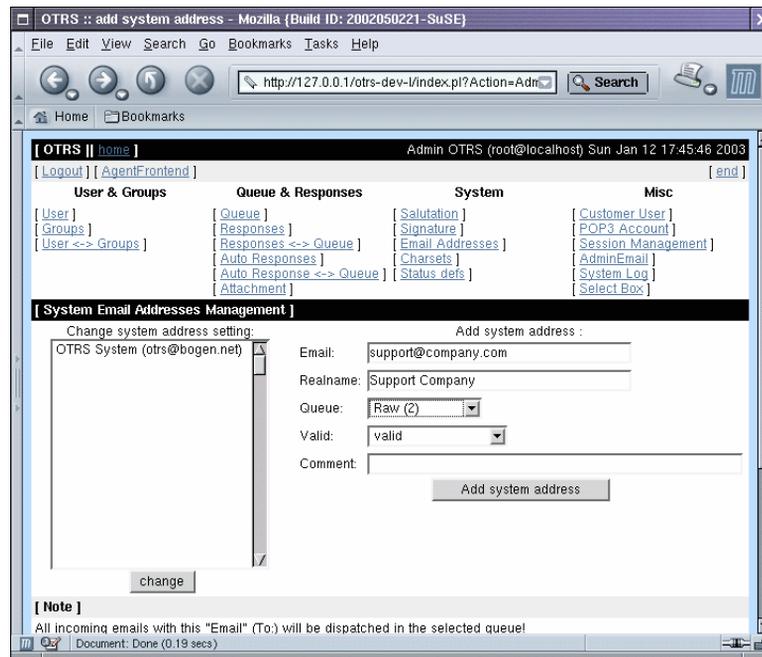
All emails sent to the local otrs user will be piped into bin/PostMaster.pl and then shown in your QueueView.

### 5.2.1. Queue dispatching with OTRS

OTRS is able to dispatch incoming emails via "To" address. Configurable via admin interface.

#### Example

Add a new system email address (AdminArea -->> System Email Addresses).



In this case, all incoming emails (with To: support@company.com) will be dispatched to the TEST1 queue.

### 5.2.2. Queue dispatching with procmail (for more complex dispatching)

#### The X-OTRS-Queue Mail-Header

The X-OTRS-Queue Mail-Header is parsed by OTRS and OTRS will pipe these e-mails direct in this queue. Procmail and fromail can be used to create a powerful dispatcher tool.

#### Examples

The following examples are copied from the procmailx man-page. Feel free to have a look into it (actually it is quite a good idea). Of course we changed the wording a bit (to fit into the queueing idea).

Sort out all mail coming from the scuba-dive mailing list into the scuba queue.

```
:0 fhw :
* ^TOscuba
| formail -I "X-OTRS-Queue: scuba"
```

Forward all mail from peter about compilers into the william queue.

```
:0 fhw :
* ^From.*peter
* ^Subject:.*compilers
| formail -I "X-OTRS-Queue: william"
```

And here a last example, the whole .procmailrc.

**Example 5-1. .procmailrc**

```

# --
# .procmailrc - procmailrc of the OTRS user
# Copyright (C) 2001-2002 Martin Edenhofer (martin+code at otrs.org)
# --
# $Id: receiving_email.sgml,v 1.2 2003/01/18 12:30:46 stefan Exp $
# --
# This software comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY. For details, see
# the enclosed file COPYING for license information (GPL). If you
# did not receive this file, see http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt.
# --

SYS_HOME=$HOME

PATH=/bin:/usr/bin:/usr/local/bin
MONTHFOLDER='date +%Y-%m'
YEARFOLDER='date +%Y'
LOGFILE=$SYS_HOME/var/log/procmail-$MONTHFOLDER.log
VERBOSE=on

# --
# Remove all X-OTRS Header (allow this only for trusted email)
# e. g. from *@example.com
# --
:0 fhw :
* !^From.*@example.com
| grep -vi '^X-OTRS-'

# --
# Examples for queue presorting.
# --

:0 fhw :
* ^List-Id:.*OpenAntiVirus
| formail -I "X-OTRS-Queue: OpenAntiVirus"

:0 fhw :
* ^Sender:.*example.com
| formail -I "X-OTRS-Queue: example"

:0 fhw :
* TO:.*BUGTRAQ
| formail -I "X-OTRS-Queue: BUGTRAQ"

# --
# Backup of all incoming emails.
# It's always better to have a backup of all incoming emails!
# --
:0 c :
$SYS_HOME/var/INBOX.Backup.$MONTHFOLDER

# --
# Pipe all email into the PostMaster process.
# --
:0 :
| $SYS_HOME/bin/PostMaster.pl

# --
# spool all the rest (which the PostMaster.pl can't process!)
# If the database is down or the PostMaster.pl exit was not '0'!
# --
:0 :
$SYS_HOME/var/spool/.

# --
# end of .procmailrc
# --

```

Please have a look into the procmailex man-page for more examples.

### 5.2.3. Example with procmail and a webform

This is an example for a webform to generate an email for OTRS. You will find this perl script in `SOTRS_HOME/scripts/webform.pl`

You have a Topic, From, Email, Subject and Message field.

Change the config settings for the webform:

```
# --
# web form options
# --
my $Ident = 'ahfiw2Fw32r230ddd12foeo3r';
# sendmail location and options
my $Sendmail = '/usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i -f ';
# email where the emails of the form will send to
my $OTRSEmail = 'otrs-system@example.com';
# topics and dest. queues
my %Topics = (
    # topic => OTRS queue
    'Info' => 'info',
    'Support' => 'support',
    'Bugs' => 'bugs',
    'Sales' => 'sales',
    'Billing' => 'billing',
    'Webmaster' => 'webmaster',
);
```

Take care, that your used `$OTRSEmail` and the used OTRS queues exists in your OTRS system.

Now, change the OTRS `.procmailrc` from:

```
# --
# Remove all X-OTRS Header (allow this only for trusted email)
# e. g. from *@example.com
# --
:0 fhw :
* !^From.*@example.com
| grep -vi '^X-OTRS-'

to:

# --
# Remove all X-OTRS Header (allow this only for trusted email)
# just not emails with "X-OTRS-Ident: ahfiw2Fw32r230ddd12foeo3r" header!
# --
:0 fhw :
* !^X-OTRS-Ident: ahfiw2Fw32r230ddd12foeo3r
| grep -vi '^X-OTRS-'
```

If a email is generated by the webform.pl and sent to the `$OTRSEmail` it will be dispatched to the `topic=>queue`.

### 5.2.4. Fetching emails via POP3 or IMAP and fetchmail

In order to get e-mails from your mail server via a POP3 or IMAP mailbox to the **OTRS machine/local otrs account and to procmail** use `fetchmail`(<http://www.tuxedo.org/~csr/fetchmail/>). Note: A working SMTP configuration on the OTRS machine is condition.

#### Example 5-2. `.fetchmailrc`

```
#poll (mailserver) protocol POP3 user (user) password (password) is (localuser)
poll mail.example.com protocol POP3 user joe password mama is otrs
```

Don't forget to set the `.fetchmailrc` to 710 ("chmod 710 `.fetchmailrc`")!

So if "`fetchmail -a`" is executed (maybe via cron), all e-mails will be forwarded to the local otrs account.

# Chapter 6. Config File

OTRS got a lot of config options. There are two config files. Kernel/Config.pm and Kernel/Config/Defaults.pm.

Kernel/Config/Defaults.pm is the default config file which should not be changed. You will find all possible config option in this file. Is quite simple to read.

Kernel/Config.pm.dist is the example file for Kernel/Config.pm (custom config file) which must be copied (cp Kernel/Config.pm.dist Kernel/Config.pm).

How it works! The Kernel/Config/Defaults.pm (default config settings) is loaded at first, then the Kernel/Config.pm (custom config file). So if you want to change the default config settings, copy (copy and paste) the needed options from Kernel/Config/Defaults.pm into Kernel/Config.pm and change the values like you want.

Now we will describe some config features in this chapter.

## 6.1. TicketHook

Your can configure the value of the TicketHook which is the first part of the subject of each e-mail (e.g. [MyTicket: 007]).

### Example 6-1. Kernel/Config.pm - TicketHook

```
[...]
# TicketHook
# (To set the Ticket identifier. Some people want to
# set this to e. g. 'Call#', 'MyTicket#' or 'Ticket#'.)
$self->{TicketHook} = 'Ticket#',
[...]
```

Note: Don't use 'TN', because MS Outlook is replacing "TN: 54968797" with "RE: 54968797" and then you will run in trouble.

## 6.2. FQDN

The OTRS full qualified domain name. Will be used for email messages id's.

### Example 6-2. Kernel/Config.pm - FQDN

```
[...]
# FQDN
# (Full qualified domain name of your system.)
$self->{FQDN} = 'yourhost.example.com';
[...]
```

## 6.3. Log

The OTRS log method.

### Example 6-3. Kernel/Config.pm - LogModule

```
[...]
# -----#
# log settings                                     #
# -----#

# LogModule
# (log backend module)
$self->{LogModule} = 'Kernel::System::Log::SysLog';
#   $self->{LogModule} = 'Kernel::System::Log::File';

# param for LogModule Kernel::System::Log::File (required!)
#   $self->{'LogModule::LogFile'} = '/tmp/otrs.log';
[...]
```

## 6.4. User Authentication

The OTRS user authentication method.

### Example 6-4. Kernel/Config.pm - AuthModule

```
[...]
# -----#
# authentication settings                                #
# (enable what you need, auth against otrs db or         #
# against a LDAP directory)                             #
# -----#

# This is the auth. module against the otrs db
$Self->{'AuthModule'} = 'Kernel::System::Auth::DB';

# This is an example configuration for an LDAP auth. backend.
# (take care that Net::LDAP is installed!)
$Self->{'AuthModule'} = 'Kernel::System::Auth::LDAP';
# $Self->{'AuthModule::LDAP::Host'} = 'ldap.example.com';
# $Self->{'AuthModule::LDAP::BaseDN'} = 'dc=example,dc=com';
# $Self->{'AuthModule::LDAP::UID'} = 'uid';
# The following is valid but would only be necessary if the
# anonymous user do NOT have permission to read from the LDAP tree
# $Self->{'AuthModule::LDAP::SearchUserDN'} = "";
# $Self->{'AuthModule::LDAP::SearchUserPw'} = "";
[...]
```

## 6.5. Max. Postmaster email

OTRS is able to send automatically email replay. So it's possible to create an email loop (of course we check bulk headers but other some strange systems not!).

### Example 6-5. Kernel/Config.pm - PostmasterMaxEmails

```
[...]
# PostmasterMaxEmails
# (Max post master daemon email to own email-address a day.
# Loop-Protection!) [default: 40]
$Self->{PostmasterMaxEmails} = 40;
[...]
```

## 6.6. Ticket number format

You can choose between four different OTRS formats. AutoIncrement is default.

### Example 6-6. Kernel/Config.pm - TicketNumberGenerator

```
[...]
# TicketNumberGenerator
#
# Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::AutoIncrement (default) --> auto increment
#   ticket numbers "SystemID.Counter" like 1010138 and 1010139.
#
# Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::Date --> ticket numbers with date
#   "Year.Month.Day.SystemID.Counter" like 200206231010138 and 200206231010139.
#
# Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::DateChecksum --> ticket numbers with date and
#   check sum the counter will be rotated daily (my favorite)
#   "Year.Month.Day.SystemID.Counter.CheckSum" like 2002070110101520 and 2002070110101535.
#
# Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::Random -->
#   random ticket numbers "SystemID.Random" like 100057866352 and 103745394596.

$Self->{TicketNumberGenerator} = 'Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::AutoIncrement';
[...]
```

You can also create a new (your own) module. The module needs just two functions (the whole abstraction). "CreateTicketNr()" to generate a new ticket number and "GetTNByString()" to get a ticket number by string.

A nice example is the Kernel::System::Ticket::Number::Random(<http://otrs.org/cgi-bin/cvsweb.cgi/otrs/Kernel/System/Ticket/Number/Random.pm>) module.

## 6.7. Database settings

### Example 6-7. Kernel/Config.pm - Database settings

```
[...]
# DatabaseHost
# (The database host.)
$self->{DatabaseHost} = 'localhost';

# Database
# (The database name.)
$self->{Database} = 'otrs';

# DatabaseUser
# (The database user.)
$self->{DatabaseUser} = 'otrs';

# DatabasePw
# (The password of database user.)
$self->{DatabasePw} = 'some-pass';

# DatabaseDSN
# (The database DSN for MySQL ==> more: "man DBD::mysql")
$self->{DatabaseDSN} = "DBI:mysql:database=$self->{Database};host=$self->{DatabaseHost}";

# (The database DSN for PostgreSQL ==> more: "man DBD::Pg")
$self->{DatabaseDSN} = "DBI:Pg:dbname=$self->{Database}";
[...]
```

## 6.8. ASP (Application Service Provider) options

Should the agent be able to move tickets into queue which it isn't member of the group (Helpfully if you use OTRS in ASP (Application Service Provider) mode).

### Example 6-8. Kernel/Config.pm - MoveInToAllQueues

```
[...]
# MoveInToAllQueues
# (Possible to move in all queue? Not only queue which
# the own groups) [1|0]
$self->{MoveInToAllQueues} = 1;
[...]
```

Should the agent be able to change the ticket owner to everyone? (Helpfully if you use OTRS in ASP (Application Service Provider) mode).

### Example 6-9. Kernel/Config.pm - ChangeOwnerToEveryone

```
[...]
# ChangeOwnerToEveryone -> useful for ASP
# (Possible to change owner of ticket ot everyone) [0|1]
$self->{ChangeOwnerToEveryone} = 0;
[...]
```

## 6.9. Custom Queue

Some people want to set the "Custom Queue" name (The queue of your favorite queues).

### Example 6-10. Kernel/Config.pm - Custom Queue

```
[...]
# CustomQueue
# (The name of custom queue.)
$self->{CustomQueue} = 'PersonalQueue';
[...]
```

## 6.10. Agent notification

If there is a new ticket or a follow up for a ticket, OTRS will inform the agent(s).

### Example 6-11. Kernel/Config.pm - Agent notification

```
[...]
# -----#
# notification stuff #
# -----#
# notification sender
$self->{NotificationSenderName} = 'OTRS Notification Master';
$self->{NotificationSenderEmail} = 'otrs@'.$self->{FQDN};

# new ticket
$self->{NotificationSubjectNewTicket} = 'New ticket notification! (<OTRS_CUSTOMER_SUBJECT[10]>);
$self->{NotificationBodyNewTicket} = "
Hi,

there is a new ticket!

<snip>
<OTRS_CUSTOMER_EMAIL[6]>
<snip>

http://$self->{FQDN}/otrs/index.pl?Action=AgentZoom&TicketID=<OTRS_TICKET_ID>

Your OTRS Notification Master

";

# follow up
$self->{NotificationSubjectFollowUp} = 'You got follow up! (<OTRS_CUSTOMER_SUBJECT[10]>);
$self->{NotificationBodyFollowUp} = "
Hi <OTRS_USER_FIRSTNAME>,

you got a follow up!

<snip>
<OTRS_CUSTOMER_EMAIL[6]>
<snip>

http://$self->{FQDN}/otrs/index.pl?Action=AgentZoom&TicketID=<OTRS_TICKET_ID>

Your OTRS Notification Master

";
[...]
```

## 6.11. Session management

The OTRS session management.

**Example 6-12. Kernel/Config.pm - Session management**

```
[...]
# -----#
# session settings                               #
# -----#

# SessionModule (replace old SessionDriver!!!)
# (How should be the session-data stored?
# Advantage of DB is that you can split the
# Frontendserver from the DB-Server. fs is faster.)
$Self->{SessionModule} = 'Kernel::System::AuthSession::DB';
#   $Self->{SessionModule} = 'Kernel::System::AuthSession::FS';
#   $Self->{SessionModule} = 'Kernel::System::AuthSession::IPC';

# SessionCheckRemoteIP
# (If the application is used via a proxy-farm then the
# remote ip address is mostly different. In this case,
# turn of the CheckRemoteID. ) [1|0]
$Self->{SessionCheckRemoteIP} = 1;

# SessionDeleteIfNotRemoteID
# (Delete session if the session id is used with an
# invalied remote IP?) [0|1]
$Self->{SessionDeleteIfNotRemoteID} = 1;

# SessionMaxTime
# (Max valid time of one session id in second (8h = 28800).)
$Self->{SessionMaxTime} = 28800;

# SessionDeleteIfTimeToOld
# (Delete session's witch are requested and to old?) [0|1]
$Self->{SessionDeleteIfTimeToOld} = 1;

# SessionUseCookie
# (Should the session management use html cookies?
# It's more comfortable to send links ==> if you have a valid
# session, you don't have to login again.) [0|1]
# Note: If the client browser disabled html cookies, the system
# will work as usual, append SessionID to links!
$Self->{SessionUseCookie} = 1;
[...]
```

## 6.12. URL login and logout settings

**Example 6-13. Kernel/Config.pm - URL login and logout settings**

```
[...]
# -----#
# URL login and logout settings                 #
# -----#

# LoginURL
# (If this is anything other than "", then it is assumed to be the
# URL of an alternate login screen which will be used in place of
# the default one.)
$Self->{LoginURL} = "";
#   $Self->{LoginURL} = 'http://host.example.com/cgi-bin/login.pl';

# LogoutURL
# (If this is anything other than "", it is assumed to be the URL
# of an alternate logout page which users will be sent to when they
# logout.)
$Self->{LogoutURL} = "";
#   $Self->{LogoutURL} = 'http://host.example.com/cgi-bin/login.pl';
[...]
```

## 6.13. agent area default settings

**Example 6-14. Kernel/Config.pm - agent area default settings**

```
[...]
# -----#
# agent area default settings                                #
# -----#

# ViewableTickets
# (The default viewable tickets a page.)
$self->{ViewableTickets} = 25;

# ViewableTicketLines
# (Max viewable ticket lines in the QueueView.)
$self->{ViewableTicketLines} = 18;

# ViewableTicketLinesZoom
# (Max viewable ticket lines in the QueueZoom.)
$self->{ViewableTicketLinesZoom} = 6000;

# MaxLimit
# (Max viewable tickets a page.)
$self->{MaxLimit} = 150;

# RefreshOptions
# (Refresh option list for preferences)
$self->{RefreshOptions} = {
    " => 'off',
    2 => ' 2 minutes',
    5 => ' 5 minutes',
    7 => ' 7 minutes',
    10 => '10 minutes',
    15 => '15 minutes',
};

# Highlight*
# (Set the age and the color for highlighting of old queue
# in the QueueView.)
# highlight age1 in min
$self->{HighlightAge1} = 1440;
$self->{HighlightColor1} = 'orange';
# highlight age2 in min
$self->{HighlightAge2} = 2880;
$self->{HighlightColor2} = 'red';

# -----#
# AgentUtil                                                #
# -----#

# default limit for Tn search
$self->{SearchLimitTn} = 20;

# default limit for Txt search
$self->{SearchLimitTxt} = 20;

# viewable ticket lines by search util
$self->{ViewableTicketLinesBySearch} = 15;

# -----#
# Ticket stuff                                            #
# (Viewable tickets in queue view)                        #
# -----#
# ViewableLocks
# default: ["'unlock'", "'tmp_lock'"]
$self->{ViewableLocks} = ["'unlock'", "'tmp_lock'"];

# ViewableStats
# default: ["'open'", "'new'"]
$self->{ViewableStats} = ["'open'", "'new'"];
```

```
# ViewableSenderTypes
# default: ['customer']
$self->{ViewableSenderTypes} = ['customer'];
[...]
```

# Chapter 7. Language translations

The OTRS webfrontend supports different frontend languages. The language translation files are located under Kernel/Language/\*.pm.

## 7.1. New translation files

If you want to translate OpenTRS in a new language, you have to do five steps:

- Take the current German translation (Kernel/Language/de.pm) from CVS (<http://cvs.otrs.org/>).
- Change the package name (z. g. "package Kernel::Language::de;" to "package Kernel::Language::fr;") and translate each word/sentence.
- Add the new language translation to the system via adding "\$Self->{DefaultUsedLanguages}->{fr} = 'French';" to your Kernel/Config.pm.
- If you use mod\_perl, restart your webserver and you will have the new language.
- Send the new translation file to feedback at [otrs.org](mailto:otrs.org) - Thanks!

Now you can select the new language in your preferences screen.

### Example 7-1. Kernel/Language/de.pm - Old file

```
# --
# Kernel/Language/de.pm - provides de language translation
# Copyright (C) 2002-2003 Martin Edenhofer xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
# --
# $Id: language-translation.sgml,v 1.8 2003/01/18 12:30:46 stefan Exp $
# --
# This software comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY. For details, see
# the enclosed file COPYING for license information (GPL). If you
# did not receive this file, see http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt.
# --
package Kernel::Language::de;

use strict;

use vars qw($VERSION);
$VERSION = '$Revision: 1.8 $';
$VERSION =~ s/^\.*:\s(\d+\.\d+)\s.*\$/\$1/;

# --
sub Data {
    my $Self = shift;
    my %Param = @_;
    my %Hash = ();

    # $$START$$
    # Last translation Fri Jan 3 20:39:15 2003 by

    # possible charsets
    $Self->{Charset} = ['iso-8859-1', 'iso-8859-15', ];
    # date formats (%A=WeekDay;%B=LongMonth;%T=Time;%D=Day;%M=Month;%Y=Year;)
    $Self->{DateFormat} = '%D.%M.%Y %T';
    $Self->{DateFormatLong} = '%A %D %B %T %Y';
    $Self->{DateInputFormat} = '%D.%M.%Y - %T';

    %Hash = (
    # Template: AAABase
        ' 2 minutes' => ' 2 Minuten',
        ' 5 minutes' => ' 5 Minuten',
        ' 7 minutes' => ' 7 Minuten',
        '10 minutes' => '10 Minuten',
        '15 minutes' => '15 Minuten',
        'AddLink' => 'Link hinzufügen',
        'AdminArea' => 'AdminBereich',
        'all' => 'alle',
```

```

    'All' => 'Alle',
    'Attention' => 'Achtung',
[...]
```

To:

#### Example 7-2. Kernel/Language/fr.pm - New file

```

# --
# Kernel/Language/fr.pm - provides fr language translation
# Copyright (C) 2002 Bernard Choppy xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
# Copyright (C) 2002-2003 Nicolas Goralski xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
# --
# $Id: language-translation.sgml,v 1.8 2003/01/18 12:30:46 stefan Exp $
# --
# This software comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY. For details, see
# the enclosed file COPYING for license information (GPL). If you
# did not receive this file, see http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt.
# --
package Kernel::Language::fr;

use strict;

use vars qw($VERSION);
$VERSION = '$Revision: 1.8 $';
$VERSION =~ s/^\.*:\s(\d+\.\d+)\s.*\$/\$/;
# --
sub Data {
    my $Self = shift;
    my %Param = @_ ;
    my %Hash = ();

    # $$START$$
    # Last translation Fri Jan  3 20:40:04 2003 by

    # possible charsets
    $Self->{Charset} = ['iso-8859-1', 'iso-8859-15', ];
    # date formats (%A=WeekDay;%B=LongMonth;%T=Time;%D=Day;%M=Month;%Y=Year;)
    $Self->{DateFormat} = '%D.%M.%Y %T';
    $Self->{DateFormatLong} = '%A %D %B %T %Y';
    $Self->{DateInputFormat} = '%D.%M.%Y - %T';

    %Hash = (
    # Template: AAABase
    ' 2 minutes' => ' 2 minutes',
    ' 5 minutes' => ' 5 minutes',
    ' 7 minutes' => ' 7 minutes',
    '10 minutes' => '10 minutes',
    '15 minutes' => '15 minutes',
    'AddLink' => 'Ajouter un lien',
    'AdminArea' => 'Zone d\'administration',
    'all' => 'tout',
    'All' => 'Tout',
    'Attention' => 'Attention',
[...]
```

# Chapter 8. Customize the frontend

It's possible to customize the frontend independently from OTRS releases. How? It's quite simply. The magic key is dtl (Dynamic Template Language). All frontend masks are located under `-otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/<THEME>/*.dtl`. Default is the "Standard" Theme.

So you have the power to customize each OTRS side like you want! Or to create new themes.

## 8.1. The dtl syntax

### Comment

Comment is a simple '#'.

```
# --
# this is a comment
# --
```

### Set a variable

```
<dtl set $Data{"Test1"} = "German">
```

Note: `$Data{"xyz"}` exists only the current dtl file and `$Env{"xyz"}` exists the whole dtl files. New: `$Config{"xyz"}` is not read only anymore and exists the whole program! (2002-05-22 / 0.5 BETA5)

### Print a variable

To print a variable on the screen, use simply:

```
$Data{"xyz"} or $Env{"xyz"}
```

### Text translations

```
$Text{"This should be translated"}
```

Take care, that the translation exists in the `"$HOME_OTRS/Kernel/Language/*.pm"` files. If there isn't a translation, the given text will be shown.

### Condition

```
<dtl if ($Text{"Lock"} eq "Lock") { $Data{"FrontendLanguage"} = "English"; }>
```

It's only possible to store things into `$Data{"xyz"}` and `$Env{"xyz"}`.

### Get a config option - \$Config{}

```
$Config{"Sendmail"}
```

### Common environment variables - \$Env{}

```
$Env{"SessionID"} --> the current session id
$Env{"Time"} --> the current time e. g. 'Thu Dec 27 16:00:55 2001'
$Env{"CGIHandle"} --> the current CGI handle e. g. 'index.pl'
$Env{"UserCharset"} --> the current site charset e. g. 'iso-8859-1'
$Env{"Baselink"} --> the baselink --> index.pl?SessionID=...
$Env{"UserFirstname"} --> e. g. Dirk
$Env{"UserLastname"} --> e. g. Hohndel
$Env{"UserLogin"} --> e. g. mgg@x11.org
$Env{"Action"} --> the current action
$Env{"Subaction"} --> the current subaction
```

**System calls**

To get the output of a system command use:

```
# execute system call
<dtl system-call $Data{"uptime"} = "uptime">

# print
$Data{"uptime"}

or

# execute system call
<dtl system-call $Data{"procinfo"} = "procinfo | head -nl ">

# print
$Data{"procinfo"}
```

**Examples**

```
# set variable
<dtl set $Data{"Test1"} = "English">

# print variable
Echo: $Data{"Test1"}

# condition
<dtl if ($Text{"Lock"} ne "Lock") { $Data{"Test2"} = "Not English!"; }>

# print result
Result: $Data{"Test1"}

or

# translation test
Lock: $Text{"Lock"}

# config options
Sendmail: $Config{"Sendmail"}
```

## 8.2. Examples of dtl files

### 8.2.1. Motd.dtl

If you want to customize this file use the `~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/Standard/Motd.dtl` file.

```
<p>
This is the message of the day. You can edit this in Kernel/Output/HTML/Standard/Motd.dtl.
</p>
```

### 8.2.2. Login.dtl

This is a example of the login screen. If you want to customize this screen use the `~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/<THEME>/Login.dtl` file.

```
# --
# http headers
# --
Content-Type: text/html; charset=$Env{"UserCharset"};
X-Powered-By: OTRS - Open Ticket Request System (http://otrs.org)
```

```

# --
# html comment
# --

<!-- OTRS: Copyright 2002, OTRS Project. This Software is under the GPL. -->
<!--      Web: http://otrs.org/ - Lists: http://lists.otrs.org/      -->
<!--      GNU Public License: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt  -->

# --
# set some html variables
# --
<dtl set $Env{"BGCOLOR"} = "#BDDDFD">
<dtl set $Env{"BGTableColor0"} = "#000000">
<dtl set $Env{"BGTableColor1"} = "#FFFFFF">
<dtl set $Env{"BGTableColor2"} = "#EEEEEE">
<dtl set $Env{"FontColor0"} = "#000000">
<dtl set $Env{"FontColor1"} = "#FFFFFF">
<html>
<head>
  <title>OTRS :: $Text{"$Data{"Title"}}</title>
</head>
<!-- end header -->
<body bgcolor="$Env{"BGCOLOR"}" text="$Env{"FontColor0"}">

<center>

<p>
<font color="red">$Data{"Message"}</font>
</p>

<p>
<form action="$Env{"CGIHandle"}" method="post" enctype="application/x-www-form-urlencoded">
<input type="hidden" name="Action" value="Login">

<table border="0" cellspacing="0" cellpadding="3" width="240">
<tr bgcolor="$Env{"BGTableColor0"}">
  <td align="center"><font color="$Env{"FontColor1"}"><b>$Text{"Welcome to OTRS"}</b></font></td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td align="center" bgcolor="$Env{"BGTableColor1"}">
    <table cellspacing="8" cellpadding="2">
      <tr>
        <td>Username:</td>
        <td><input type="text" name="User" value="$Data{"User"}" size="18"></td>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td>Password:</td>
        <td><input type="password" name="Password" size="18"></td>
      </tr>
    </table>
    <input type="submit" value="$Text{"Login"}">
  </td>
</tr>
</table>
</form>
</p>

# --
# Message of the day data!
# --
$Data{"Motd"}

</center>

</body>
</html>

```

### 8.2.3. Header.dtl

This is the default HTML header of each OTRS sides. If you want to customize this screen use the `~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/<THEME>/Login.dtl`

```
# --
# http headers
# --
Content-Type: text/html; charset=${Env{"UserCharset"}};

# --
# html comment
# --

<!-- OTRS: Copyright 2002, OTRS Project. This Software is under the GPL. -->
<!--      Web: http://otrs.org/ - Lists: http://lists.otrs.org/      -->
<!--      GNU Public License: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt  -->
# --
# set some html variables
# --
<dtl set ${Env{"BGCOLOR"}} = "#BDDDFD">
<dtl set ${Env{"BGTableColor0"}} = "#000000">
<dtl set ${Env{"BGTableColor1"}} = "#FFFFFF">
<dtl set ${Env{"BGTableColor2"}} = "#EEEEEE">
<dtl set ${Env{"FontColor0"}} = "#000000">
<dtl set ${Env{"FontColor1"}} = "#FFFFFF">
<dtl set ${Env{"Box0"}} = "[ ">
<dtl set ${Env{"Box1"}} = " ]">
# --
# check refresh
# --
<dtl if (${Data{"Refresh"}} ne "") { ${Data{"MetaHttpEquiv"}} = "<meta http-equiv="refresh" content="<Data{"Refresh"
# --
<html>
<head>
    <title>OTRS :: ${Text{"${Data{"Title"}}"}</title>
</head>
<!-- end header -->
```

## 8.3. Create a new theme

To create a new theme, create a new theme directory (`mkdir ~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/NewTheme/`). Copy an existing theme into the new directors (`cp ~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/Standart/*.dtl ~otrs/Kernel/Output/HTML/NewTheme/`).

Modify the dtl files like you want.

Add a new database entry for this theme. You have to do this via SQL.

```
shell:~> mysql -u root -p some-pass otrs
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 1 to server version: 3.23.48-log

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the buffer.

mysql> INSERT INTO theme
->      (theme, valid_id, create_by, change_by, change_time)
->      VALUES
->      ('NewTheme', 1, 1, 1, current_timestamp);
mysql>
```

Ready. Goto the preferences page and change your theme.

# Chapter 9. Cronjobs

OTRS needs a few system cronjobs to unlock tickets with lock timeouts, send reminder notifications and some other stuff.

## 9.1. How it works - setup

There are several OTRS default cronjobs in `$OTRS_HOME/var/cron/*.dist`. Make copies of all of the default cronjobs:

```
cd var/cron
for foo in *.dist; do cp $foo `basename $foo .dist`; done
```

Or if you are installing OTRS on a Windows system:

```
cd var/cron
copy *.dist *
```

Use `$OTRS_HOME/bin/Cron.sh {start|stop|restart}` to start or stop this cronjobs from `$OTRS_HOME/var/cron/*` (.dist will be ignored).

Note: Install this cronjobs as OTRS user.

## 9.2. Default cronjobs

### 9.2.1. aaa\_base

Defined the email address of the OTRS admin which receive all cron error reports.

```
MAILTO="root@localhost"
```

### 9.2.2. pending\_jobs

Processed every hour all reached "pending auto" tickets.

```
45 * * * * $HOME/bin/PendingJobs.pl >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.3. postmaster

Cleanup at 00:10 of all unprocessed emails which are received via procmail.

```
10 0 * * * $HOME/bin/otrs.cleanup >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.4. postmaster\_pop3

Fetch emails via PostMasterPOP3.pl every 10 minutes.

```
*/10 * * * * $HOME/bin/PostMasterPOP3.pl >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.5. unlock

Unlock every hour old locked tickets.

```
35 * * * * $HOME/bin/UnlockTickets.pl --timeout >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.6. stats

Create every day new graphics (default: not active).

```
50 23 * * * * $HOME/bin/mkStats.pl >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.7. session

Delete every six hours old session ids from database, filesystem or RAM.

```
55 */6 * * * * $HOME/bin/DeleteSessionIDs.pl --expired >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.8. rebuild\_ticket\_index

Rebuild of ticket index every day (needed for Kernel::System::Ticket::IndexAccelerator::StaticDB - see also chapter "Performance Tuning").

```
01 01 * * * * $HOME/bin/RebuildTicketIndex.pl >> /dev/null
```

### 9.2.9. generic\_agent

Execute GenericAgent.pl every 20 minutes (see also chapter "Generic-Agent").

```
*/20 * * * * $HOME/bin/GenericAgent.pl >> /dev/null
```

# Chapter 10. Generic-Agent

The Generic-Agent is an command line program wich can do some actions (like move, add note, set state, set owner) on tickets.

## 10.1. Config File

Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm is the default config file which must be copied (cp Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm.dist Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm).

## 10.2. Examples

Now we want to go through a few examples. There is also a example config file (Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm.examples).

Here all possible options:

```
'name of job' => {
  # get all tickets with this properties
  Queue => 'system queue',
  States => ['new', 'open'],
  Locks => ['unlock'],
  # or escalation tickets
  Escalation => 1,

  # new ticket properties (no option is required, use just the options
  # witch should be changed!)
  New => {
    # new queue
    Queue => 'new system queue',
    # possible states (closed successful|closed unsuccessful|open|new|removed)
    State => 'closed successful',
    # new ticket owner (if needed)
    Owner => 'root@localhost',
    # if you want to add a Note
    Note => {
      From => 'GenericAgent',
      Subject => 'Your subject!',
      Body => 'Some comment!',
      ArticleType => 'note-internal', # note-internal|note-external|note-report
    },
    # your program (/path/to/your/program) will be executed like
    # "/path/to/your/program $TicketNumber $TicketID" ARG[0] will
    # be the ticket number and ARG[1] the ticket id
    CMD => '/path/to/your/program',
    # DELETE ticket from database and filesystem
    Delete => 1,
  },
},
```

### 10.2.1. close spam tickets

If you get spam tickets in your system and you want spend much time on it, create a queue (named spam) and just move the spam tickets into this queue. If the bin/GenericAgent.pl runs, all open tickets in the queue spam will be closed by the bin/GenericAgent.pl.

Exampe for Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm

```
[...]
# --
# [name of job] -> close all tickets in queue spam
# --
'close spam' => {
  # get all tickets with this properties
  Queue => 'spam',
  States => ['new', 'open'],
```

```

Locks => ['unlock'],
# new ticket properties (no option is required, use just the options
# witch should be changed!)
New => {
  # new queue
  Queue => 'spam',
  # possible states (closed successful|closed unsuccessful|open|new|removed)
  State => 'closed successful',
  # new ticket owner (if needed)
  Owner => 'root@localhost',
  # if you want to add a Note
  Note => {
    From => 'GenericAgent',
    Subject => 'spam!',
    Body => 'Closed by GenericAgent.pl because it is spam!',
  },
},
},
[...]
```

### 10.2.2. delete tickets

If you want to delete (means delete ticket from database and filesystem) a ticket from a queue use this.

Exampe for Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm

```

[...]
```

```

# --
# [name of job] -> close and delete all tickets in queue delete
# --
'delete' => {
  # get all tickets with this properties
  Queue => 'delete',
  States => ['new', 'open'],
  Locks => ['unlock'],
  # new ticket properties (no option is required, use just the options
  # witch should be changed!)
  New => {
    # DELETE!
    Delete => 1,
  },
},
[...]
```

### 10.2.3. move tickets from tricky to experts

Moved ticket from tricky to experts queue and add note.

Exampe for Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm

```

[...]
```

```

# --
# [name of job] -> move all tickets from tricky to experts
# --
'move tickets from tricky to experts' => {
  # get all tickets with this properties
  Queue => 'tricky',
  States => ['new', 'open'],
  Locks => ['unlock'],
  # new ticket properties
  New => {
    Queue => 'experts',
    Note => {
      From => 'GenericAgent',
      Subject => 'Moved!',
      Body => 'Moved from "tricky" to "experts" because it was not possible to find a sollution!',
    },
  },
},
[...]
```

```

        ArticleType => 'note-internal', # note-internal|note-external|note-report
    },
},
},
[...]
```

### 10.2.4. move escalation ticket to experts and execute CMD

If there is a escalation ticket, move it to experts and execute a command.

Exampe for Kernel/Config/GenericAgent.pm

```

[...]
```

```

# --
# [name of job] -> move all tickets from xyz to experts
# --
'move escalation ticket to experts and execute CMD' => {
    # get all tickets with this properties
    Queue => 'xyz',
    Escalation => 1,
    # new ticket properties
    New => {
        Queue => 'experts',
        # your program (/path/to/your/program) will be executed like
        # "/path/to/your/program $TicketNumber $TicketID" ARG[0] will
        # be the ticket number and ARG[1] the ticket id
        CMD => '/path/to/your/program',
    },
},
[...]
```

# Chapter 11. Multi Hosting

OTRS is able to manage different groups and domains.

## 11.1. Multi Group

This is an example setup for one company with a helpdesk, sales and billing department. Each department should not see tickets of the other department. This means nobody from helpdesk should have access to the billing tickets. Nobody the one department can access to a queue of the others.

Add the following to Kernel/Config.pm

```
# MoveIntoAllQueues -> useful for ASP
# (Possible to move in all queue? Not only queue which
# the own groups) [1|0]
$self->{MoveIntoAllQueues} = 0;

# ChangeOwnerToEveryone -> useful for ASP
# (Possible to change owner of ticket ot everyone) [0|1]
$self->{ChangeOwnerToEveryone} = 0;

# ShowCustomerSelection
# (show customer selection in phone and change customer view
# - disable this for ASP!) [0|1]
$self->{ShowCustomerSelection} = 0;

# PhoneViewASP -> useful for ASP
# (Possible to create in all queue? Not only queue which
# the own groups) [0|1]
$self->{PhoneViewASP} = 1;
```

**System email addresses (1/2):** You need to add new system email addresses for each department (e. g. helpdesk@example.com, sales@example.com and billing@example.com). Note: You can't set the right queue because you need to create the queue at first - this will be done later.

**Groups:** Add a new group for each department. In our case add a group helpdesk, sales and billing.

**Queue:** Add queue for each department (take care of the naming - e. g. group-topic). In our case add queue helpdesk-raw, helpdesk-products, sales-raw, sales-products, billing-raw and billing-claim and set the group of each queue to the right.

**System email addresses (2/2):** Update your new system email addresses (e. g. helpdesk@example.com, sales@example.com and billing@example.com) with the right queue. Note: Of course you need to make sure that the added system email addresses are routed into your system (e. g. via admin interface --> POP3 accounts - see chapter "Receiving emails")

**User:** Add the users and put each user into the wanted group. Means sales users to the sales group, helpdesk users to the helpdesk group and billing users to the billing group.

**Note:** If you add one user of the departments to the admin group, then the user can change all settings of the system. Means the user can also add/modify user/response/... of the other groups. --> Normally this admin changes should be done by an admin.

Your multi group setup is ready.

## 11.2. Multi Setup

If you want a productiv and a test system or you want to host more the one OTRS systems on one machine it's possible to setup more then one OTRS on one machine.

# Chapter 12. Performance Tuning

An exhaustive list of various techniques you might want to use to get the most performance possible out of your OTRS system: configuration, coding, memory use and more.

## 12.1. OTRS

There are several options to improve the performance via OTRS.

### 12.1.1. TicketIndexModule

You have two backend modules for the ticket index.

Kernel/Config.pm

```
[ ... ]
    $Self->{TicketIndexModule} = 'Kernel::System::Ticket::IndexAccelerator::RuntimeDB';
[ ... ]
```

- Kernel::System::Ticket::IndexAccelerator::RuntimeDB (default), generate each queue view on the fly from ticket table. You will not have performance trouble till ~ 50.000 tickets in your system.
- Kernel::System::Ticket::IndexAccelerator::StaticDB, the most powerful module, it should be used over 50.000 tickets in a system - use a extra ticket\_index table, works like a view. Use bin/RebuildTicketIndex.pl for initial index building.

### 12.1.2. TicketStorageModule

You have two backend modules for the ticket/article storage .

Kernel/Config.pm

```
[ ... ]
    $Self->{TicketStorageModule} = 'Kernel::System::Ticket::ArticleStorageDB';
[ ... ]
```

- Kernel::System::Ticket::ArticleStorageDB (default), store attachments and co into the database. Note: Don't use it for larger setups.  
Pro: If your webserver user isn't the otrs user, use this module to have no file permission problems.  
Contra: It's not really nice to store attachments in your database. Take care that your database is able to store large objects. E. g. MySQL (config) "set-variable = max\_allowed\_packet=8M" to store 8 MB objects (default is 2M).
- Kernel::System::Ticket::ArticleStorageFS, store attachments and co in local file system. Note: Use it for larger setups.  
Pro: Faster!  
Contra: Your webserver user should be the otrs user (file system permissions!).

## 12.2. Database

This depends on your used database. If you have trouble, go to read your docu of your used database or ask your database admin.

## 12.3. Webserver

Of course you should use mod\_perl (<http://perl.apache.org/>). It's much faster (~ \* 100) then pure cgi. But needs more RAM. So your httpd with mod\_perl will be about 16 MB (~10MB shared).

And you can have establish datababase connections on process startup (httpd). This saves also time (see README.webserver).

Use the scripts/apache-perl-startup.pl startup script for your mod\_perl webserver to be faster (see README.webserver).

If you have a really large installation (over 1000 new tickets a day and over 40 Agents) is a good idea to read "Choosing the Right Strategy" (<http://perl.apache.org/docs/1.0/guide/strategy.html>).

Anyway, if your bandwidth is a little bit small use mod\_gzip ([http://www.schroepl.net/projekte/mod\\_gzip/](http://www.schroepl.net/projekte/mod_gzip/)). If you have a html page with 45k, mod\_gzip compress it. The page will be about 7k. That's really nice.

# Chapter 13. Troubleshooting

We split this section into different parts per distribution. Of course you can set up your own system with your own linux system. But please understand that we can not provide any support for that. OTRS is much to complicated and has to many links to other components of the system that we are lucky to have access to mechanisms like RPM. We will try to support as many platforms as possilbe but time is a valuable resource. ;-)

## 13.1. General problems with OTRS on SuSE Linux

The very first step should be a visit to <http://www.suse.de/de/support/download/updates/> which is the page where you can find the latest patches and updates for your SuSE Linux. Please check especialy for fixes about Apache, MySQL, Perl and of course OTRS. YaST2 users should be able to use the Yast Online Update mechanism. Otherwise download the rpm files and deinstall the old package with "rpm --nodeps -e otrs" and install them th new with "rpm -i foo.rpm"

The second step should be a visit to the *OTRS Homepage*(<http://www.otrs.org/>). We will provide the very latest fixes and howtos there.

The third step is writing an e-mail to the developer team of OTRS. We will be more than happy to provide you with any support you need.

### 13.1.1. SuSE Linux 8.0

Unfortanely the otrs.rpm which is on the SuSE 8.0 distribution is a buggy one (it was not a SuSE mistake). Please download the newest version from our Homepage(<http://www.otrs.org/>) and install it with YaST or manually by

```
# deinstall old package
shell> rpm --nodeps -e otrs
# install new package
shell> rpm -i new-otrs.rpm
```

### 13.1.2. SuSE Linux and Postfix

Postfix isn't configured with Procmail out of the box. You have to enable Procmail in /etc/postfix/main.cf:

```
[...]
mailbox_command = /usr/bin/procmail
[...]
```

And to restart the Postfix daemon (rcpostfix restart).

## 13.2. General problems with OTRS on other distributions (e.g. Redhat)

Frankly we have not tried to install it on a Redhat yet. It should be a problem but there is no ready to use RPM. We are working on it. Same for other distributions.

## 13.3. Problems with Apache

Most people who have problems with the Apache did build their own very special Apache. Of course you are welcome to do so but in case you run into trouble we suggest to your the vanilla version which is provided by your favorite distribution.

### 13.3.1. Internal Server Error

In this case check the syntax of the index.pl file to find the error:

```
shell:~ # cd ~otrs
```

It's important to be in the \$HOME of the otrs user.

```
shell:/opt/otrs # perl -cw bin/cgi-bin/index.pl
bin/cgi-bin/index.pl syntax OK
shell:/opt/otrs #
```

If you get an error message, in most cases you have to install missing perl modules from CPAN(<http://www.cpan.org/>).

Install CPAN modules via cpan shell:

```
shell:~ # perl -MCPAN -e shell;
-- (may you have to configure cpan first) --

cpan shell -- CPAN exploration and modules installation (v1.59_54)
ReadLine support enabled

cpan> install Digest::MD5
[installing Digest::MD5 module]
cpan>
```

Check the perl syntax again (perl -cw bin/cgi-bin/index.pl) and install further missing modules if necessary.

### 13.3.2. Error: Can't connect to database!

If your browser get the message "Error: Can't connect to database!" after you changed the database settings, restart the webserver. mod\_perl reads the ~otrs/Kernel/Config.pm only on startup.

If the "Error: Can't connect to database!" message is still there, check the error log of your webserver (e. g. /var/log/httpd/error\_log).

### 13.3.3. FreeBSD, PostgreSQL and Apache (install\_driver(Pg) failed)

Everything is working fine just if I want to use the web interface I get always: [...] Software error: install\_driver(Pg) failed: [Thu Sep 19 16:52:18 2002] index.pl: [Thu Sep 19 16:52:18 2002] index.pl: Can't load '/usr/local/lib/perl5/site\_perl/5.005/i386-freebsd/auto/DBD/Pg/Pg.so' for module DBD::Pg: Shared object "libpq.so.2" not found at /usr/libdata/perl/5.00503/DynaLoader.pm line 169. [Thu Sep 19 16:52:18 2002] index.pl: [Thu Sep 19 16:52:18 2002] index.pl: [Thu Sep 19 16:52:18 2002] index.pl: at (eval 124) line 3 Perhaps a required shared library or dll isn't installed where expected at /usr/local/otrs/bin/cgi-bin/../../Kernel/System/DB.pm line 67 [...]

To solve this problem, you can tell the Apache httpd.conf to include the environmental variable LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH=/usr/local/postgresql/lib. Put this line to httpd.conf and then restart "SetEnv LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH /usr/local/postgresql/lib" and then restart (source <http://lists.otrs.org/pipermail/otrs/2002-September/000248.html>).

## 13.4. Problems with MySQL

Please doublecheck all passwords. Mostly people setup the system with a wrong password. In this case it is the easiest way to re-setup the system.

### 13.4.1. Check the database connect

To check the database connect use '~otrs/bin/CheckDB.pl'. Is the output "It looks OK!", you don't have problems with MySQL. If not, read the error message.

### 13.4.2. Access denied for user: 'otrs@localhost'

Check the password in Kernel/Config.pm for the database user. If you don't know the database password for the database otrs user, set it new:

```
shell> mysql -u root -p
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A
```

```
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
```

Your MySQL connection id is 37 to server version: 3.23.48-log

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the buffer.

```
mysql> GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON otrs.* TO otrs@localhost IDENTIFIED BY "yourpw" WITH GRANT OPTION;
mysql>
```

Reload the grant tables of your mysql-daemon:

```
$shell> mysqladmin -u root -p reload
```

(or restart your mysql-daemon) and change the new otrs password in Kernel/Config.pm.

Note: If you use mod\_perl, restart the webserver, because mod\_perl is reading the perlcode (incl. Kernel/Config.pm) on startup.

### 13.4.3. Lost root password of MySQL

Follow: [http://www.mysql.com/documentation/mysql/bychapter/manual\\_Problems.html#Resetting\\_permissions](http://www.mysql.com/documentation/mysql/bychapter/manual_Problems.html#Resetting_permissions)

### 13.4.4. <http://localhost/otrs/installer.pl>

If you want to set up the otrs database again, you can call the setup program by browsing to <http://localhost/otrs/installer.pl>.

Note: Just for SuSE Linux RPMs.

## 13.5. Problems - misc

### 13.5.1. Problems with receiving emails

If everything is working, but you can't see the incoming emails, check if the `~otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl` program is working correctly. Pipe an example email through the `PostMaster.pl`. There are two example emails in the default OTRS package (`~otrs/doc/test-email-*.box` or `/usr/share/doc/packages/otrs/test-email-*.box`).

Example:

```
shell:~ # cat /usr/share/doc/packages/otrs/test-email-1.box | /opt/otrs/bin/PostMaster.pl
shell:~ #
```

May there is an error message, then you have to fix it. If not and you see this email in the postmaster queue, the `procmail` program isn't configured with your MTA (check the MTA log file, e. g. `/var/log/mail`) or the `$HOME` of the otrs user isn't correct (check `$HOME` and `$HOME/.procmailrc`).

### 13.5.2. Lost root password of OTRS

I lost the root password of OTRS ("Login failed! Your username or password was entered incorrectly.").

Reset of the OTRS root password:

```
shell:~ # mysql -u root -p otrs
mysql> UPDATE system_user SET pw='roK20XGbWESM' where login='root@localhost';
mysql>
```

And the password of user 'root@localhost' will be 'root'. The password is crypted like 'man 3 crypt' with `crypt()`.

# Chapter 14. FAQ

**1. I installed the otrs.rpm from SuSE 8.0. But it doesn't work. Why?**

The default SuSE 8.0 rpm is buggy (which is not a SuSE mistake). Please visit our website(<http://www.otrs.org/>) and download the newest rpm. You can install the rpm with YaST or manually

```
rpm -Uvh otrs.rpm
```

**2. What is OTRS?**

OTRS is a Ticket Request System with many features to manage customer telephone calls and e-mails.

**3. What stands OTRS for?**

Open Trouble-Ticket Request System.

**4. What does OTRS cost?**

Nothing, it's GPL(<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.txt>).

**5. This document refers to agents. What is an agent in the context of OTRS?**

An Agent is a human being who works with the system. User would be an alternative term.

Geeks: Of course a script could act like an agent. Feel free to do so!

**6. How can I delete a user, who is no longer needed? (asked by Andreas Haase - Wed, 21 Aug 2002 11:17:01 +0200 (CEST))**

OTRS is working with database id references. If you would delete a user (or queue, ...) from the database, you delete the reference info. Important infos like owner or queue.

Set the data record to invalid and the record is still visible (e. g. for ticket history, ...) but not active for the application.

**7. Can OTRS receive email?**

Yes, (with MIME support).

The \$HOME/bin/PostMaster.pl program receives the emails and sorts the email to the right ticket or queue.

**8. Can OTRS send email?**

Yes. Autoresponders per queue or per X-Header and standard responders via mouse click.

Note: You can add/delete/modify the system email addresses at AdminView::System.

**9. Fulltext Index Searching?**

Yes.

**10. Is OTRS multi user and multi group able?**

Yes, of course.

**11. Is it possible to use different domains?**

Yes, you can use different emails 'support@yourdomain.com', 'sales@yourdomain.com' and different domains 'marketing@clientdomain.com' with one system!

**12. Can I use OTRS only with SuSE Linux?**

No, but we developed it on a SuSE Linux and frankly we did not do much testing on a Redhat, Debian, ...

But we will provide additional installation information on <http://www.otrs.org/>. And we are more than happy to receive some feedback from you about how you installed OTRS on other platforms.

**13. What software will be needed?**

Minimum: Perl5(<http://www.perl.com/>) (with a few CPAN(<http://www.cpan.org/>) modules, more: INSTALL), MySQL(<http://www.mysql.com>) and Apache(<http://www.apache.org>).

But again, your are on the safe side by using SuSE Linux. It will provide you with all the needed stuff.

**14. How stable is OTRS?**

Please be aware of the fact that you are dealing with a beta-version. New versions are announced on <http://www.otrs.org/>. But never the less it is quite a stable system and you shouldn't run in any trouble. But we can not guarentee it!

**15. What hardware do I need?**

We suggest an IBM s390. \*SCNR\* ;-)

Some of our test enviroments are Pentium II 300 with 64 MB RAM and they do a pretty good job. Of course the more RAM and the faster the CPU the better.

**16. How does OTRS scale and how big can it become?**

This is depending on the hardware and the enviroment you are using. At the moment OTRS is a one box system. With little work you can set up a webserver-cluster and you can split the database to a seperate box. We are planing to support some sort of clustering mechanism. But this is not the highest priority for the development.

There are OTRS installations which handle 20,000 tickets (e-mails) a day and don't show any sign of stress.

**17. Can I use my nice Oracle or DB2?**

At the moment we only support MySQL(<http://www.mysql.com>) as the default database. Frankly we do trust in a MySQL(<http://www.mysql.com>) as much as in a DB2 (for this application). Anybody who is willing to spend some time to port it to other databases is more than welcome to the OTRS team!

Note: The code is designed to support different databases!

**18. Which programming language is used?**

Perl(<http://www.perl.com/>) OO, SQL and dtl.

**19. What is the default admin account?**

User: root@localhost Password: root

Of course it is a very good idea to change this default password!

**20. Works OTRS with mod\_perl(<http://perl.apache.org/>)?**

Of course.

**21. Is it possible to customize OTRS?**

Of course. You can customize OTRS like you want. Take advantage of the dtl (dynamic template language) to customize the OTRS frontend release independently (more: README.dtl)!

**22. Can I install OTRS on a Windows box?**

Theoraticly yes, but we are not the big windows gurus and haven't ever tried to set up a Windows box with an Apache(<http://www.apache.org>), Perl(<http://www.perl.com>) and MySQL(<http://www.mysql.com>). In case you tried it send us an e-mail.

**23. How can I become a part of the OTRS developer community?**

Welcome! Anybody who is willing to help us and has the time is more than welcome. Please send us an e-mail.

**24. I do like the OTRS but would feel more comfortable by using a commercial product.**

We can not help you. Sorry.

**25. What browser do I need?**

OTRS is working with the most browser such lynx, w3m, Netscape, Mozilla, Opera, IE and Konqueror (You don't need Java Script or Java Applets!).

**26. Is it possible to generate my own ticket number format?**

Yes it's possible. You can choose between four different OTRS formats. AutoIncrement ("SystemID.Counter" e. g. 1010138 or 1010139), Date ("Year.Month.Day.SystemID.Counter" e. g. 200206231010138 or 200206231010139), Random ("SystemID.Random" e. g. 100057866352 or 103745394596) and my favorite one DateChecksum ("Year.Month.Day.SystemID.Counter.CheckSum" e. g. 2002070110101520 and 2002070110101535).

Further it's possible to create a own ticket number format (like you want). See the OTRS documentation.

**27. Do you support the RFC 1297?**

Yes, OTRS supports this RFC.

**28. Can I add my own ticket states?**

Yes, but be carefully with the existing states (OTRS needs basic states).

**29. More then one OTRS on one machine?**

Yes, you can do that. Just install the second, third, ... in different paths ( e.g. /opt/otrs01, /opt/otrs02, /opt/otrs03, ...). And configure the webserver like README.webserver.

# Appendix A. Online resources

We try to support you with the very last information about OTRS and give you a good way to provide us with your feedback.

## A.1. Homepage

Our homepage can be found at <http://www.otrs.org/>.



## A.2. Mailinglists

We provide five major mailinglists. You must be subscribed to post to any of them.

The first is <announce at otrs.org>. It is a low traffic list for announcements of new OTRS releases and security issues.

The second mailinglist is <otrs at otrs.org>. It is a medium to high traffic list with all sorts of questions and support to the product.

The third mailinglist is <dev at otrs.org>. It is a medium to high traffic list. The OTRS developers discuss various design and implementation issues here.

The fourth mailinglist is <i18n at otrs.org>. It is a low traffic list for internationalization and localization questions. If you are or want to become a translator of the OTRS project or have any problems with one of our applications in an international environment, this is the right place.

The fifth mailinglist is <cvsv-log at otrs.org>. It is a very high traffic list. CVS commits notifications.

To subscribe visit <http://lists.otrs.org/>.

## A.3. Bugtracking

Real geeks don't need a bugtracking tool! ;-)

Just kidding. To submit bugs visit <http://bugs.otrs.org/>. We know sometimes bugzilla isn't that comfortable but right know it is the best bug tracking system we've found.



By reporting bugs you do help us very much. We appreciate your help!

## Appendix B. The OTRS core team

OTRS was created in the third or fourth quarter of the year 2001 (nobody remembers the exact date). In those glory days the core team consisted of Martin Edenhofer and Stefan Wintermeyer.

### B.1. Martin Edenhofer

E-Mail: <[martin@otrs.org](mailto:martin@otrs.org)>  
Homepage: <http://martin.edenhofer.de/>

Without Martin the otrs wouldn't exist. He is a brilliant coder. We will insert some more information about Martin sometime. He is just to shy. :-)

### B.2. Stefan Wintermeyer

E-Mail: <[stefan@otrs.org](mailto:stefan@otrs.org)>  
Homepage: <http://www.wintermeyer.de/>

Here is his "official" vita (German version only):

Stefan Wintermeyer arbeitet seit dem ersten ZX81 Selbstbausatz mit Computern. 1994 kam seine Leidenschaft für Linux dazu, die ihn schließlich 1998 zur SuSE Linux AG brachte. Als Vice President Support der SuSE Linux AG setzte er sich für eine größere Verbreitung und Benutzerfreundlichkeit von Linux ein und unterstützt konsequent echte Linuxlösungen im unternehmerischen Einsatz. Aus seinem Engagement bei der SuSE Linux AG blieb ihm die Vorliebe für die gleichnamige Distribution. Seit Juni 2001 arbeitet er bei der Lufthansa Systems in Frankfurt und betreut dort den Einsatz von Linux in verschiedenen Projekten. Stefan Wintermeyer setzt sich nachhaltig für die Verwendung offener Standards ein und propagiert Linux als das Betriebssystem für Server und Thin Clients.

### B.3. Sebastian Wormser

E-Mail: <[sibbi@sibbi.com](mailto:sibbi@sibbi.com)>  
Homepage: <http://sibbi.org/>  
joined the team: 01.05.2002

We are very happy that Sebastian Wormser (Sibbi) finally joined our team. We have worked on a commercial trouble ticket system in the past (the stts at SuSE(<http://www.suse.de/>) - IBM Case Study on SuSE(<http://www.ibm.com/software/success/cssdb.nsf/CS/NAVO-56G3KU?OpenDocument>) / German Linux magazin(<http://www.linux-magazin.de/ausgabe/2001/04/stts/stts.html>)). So it is sort of a reunion but for an open source and total new (probably better) version.

## Appendix C. Credits

As most open source projects we have to thank many people for there help. This is a non-complete list of those folks:

Martin Scherbaum, Carsten Gross, Harald Müller, Stefan Schmidt, Milisav Radmanic, Uli Hecht, Norman Walsh, Heiko Baumann, Atif Ghaffar, Pablo Ruiz Garcia, Dan Rau, Christoph Kaulich, Mark Jackson, Diane Shieh, Bernard Choppy, Carl Bailey, Phil Davis, Edwin D. Vinas, Lars Müller, Bryan Fullerton, Vladimir Gerdjikov, Fred van Dijk, Sebastien Guilbaud, Wiktor Wodecki, Arnold Ligtvoet, Antti Kämäräinen, Nicolas Goralski, Robert Kehl

And of course there are allways people who give a very special extra support to the project. Here they are:

- Robert Kehl, who has created the win32 installation section by himself. Thank you Robert!
- The OTRS mailinglists are a great source of ideas and give everybody very good support. Thank you guys for helping us!

### **mirrors**

The project pretty soon reached a point where our ftp server didn't have enough bandwidth to serve the demand. Here is a list of people who rescued us by setting up mirrors. We appreciate your help!

Nils Jeppe (mirror Hamburg), Bryan Fullerton (ftp.samurai.com), Eberhard Moenkeberg (ftp.gwdg.de)

# Appendix D. RFC 1297

Many people do not have an idea what a trouble ticket system is and why you may need one. The *RFC 1297* (<http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1297.html>) is a good start to get an overview.

RFC 1297

## PURPOSES OF A NOC TROUBLE TICKET SYSTEM

A good Network Operations Trouble Ticket System should serve many purposes:

1) **SHORT-TERM MEMORY AND COMMUNICATION ("Hospital Chart").** The primary purpose of the trouble ticket system is to act as short-term memory about specific problems for the NOC as a whole. In a multi-operator or multi-shift NOC, calls and problem updates come in without regard to who worked last on a particular problem. Problems extend over shifts, and problems may be addressed by several different operators on the same shift. The trouble ticket (like a hospital chart) provides a complete history of the problem, so that any operator can come up to speed on a problem and take the next appropriate step without having to consult with other operators who are working on something else, or have gone home, or are on vacation. In single-room NOCs, an operator may ask out loud if someone else knows about or is working on a problem, but the system should allow for more formal communication as well.

2) **SCHEDULING and WORK ASSIGNMENT.** NOCs typically work with many simultaneous problems with different priorities. An on-line trouble ticket system can provide real time (or even constantly displayed and updated) lists of open problems, sorted by priority. This would allow operators to sort their work at the beginning of a shift, and to pick their next task during the shift. It also would allow supervisors and operators to keep track of the current NOC workload, and to call in and assign additional staff as appropriate.

It may be useful to allow current priorities of tickets change according to time of day, or in response to timer alerts.

3) **REFERRALS AND DISPATCHING.** If the trouble ticket system is thoroughly enough integrated with a mail system, or if the system is used by Network Engineers as well as Network Operators, then some problems can be dispatched simply by placing the appropriate Engineer or Operator name in an "assigned to" field of the trouble ticket.

4) **ALARM CLOCK.** Typically, most of the time a trouble ticket is open, it is waiting for something to happen. There should almost always be a timer associated with every wait. If a ticket is referred to a phone company, there will be an escalation time before which the phone company is supposed to call back with an update on the problem. For tickets referred to remote site personnel, there may be other more arbitrary timeouts such as

"Monday morning". Tickets referred to local engineers or programmers should also have timeouts ("Check in a couple of days if you don't hear back from me"). A good trouble ticket system will allow a timeout to be set for each ticket. This alarm will generate an alert for that ticket at the appropriate time. Preferably, the system should allow text to be attached to that timer with a shorthand message about what the alert involves ("Remind Site: TT xxx") (The full story can always be found by checking the trouble ticket). These alerts should feed into the NOC's standard alert system.

The Alarm Clock can also assist (or enforce!) administrative escalation. An escalation timer could automatically be set based on the type of network, severity of the problem, and the time the outage occurred.

5) **OVERSIGHT BY ENGINEERS AND CUSTOMER/SITE REPRESENTATIVES.** NOCs frequently operate more than one network, or at least have people (engineers, customer representatives, etc) who are responsible for subsets of the total network. For these individual representatives, summaries of trouble tickets can be filtered by network or by node, and delivered electronically to the various engineers or site representatives. Each of these reports includes a summary of the previous day's trouble tickets for those sites, a listing of older trouble tickets still open, and a section listing recurrent problems. These reports allow the site reps to keep aware the current outages and trends for their particular sites. The trouble ticket system also allows network access to the details of individual trouble tickets, so those receiving the general reports can get more detail on any of their problems by referencing the trouble ticket number.

6) **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS.** The fixed-form fields of trouble tickets allow categorizations of tickets, which are useful for analyzing equipment and NOC performance. These include, Mean Time Between Failure and Mean Time to Repair reports for specific equipment. The fields may also be of use for generating statistical quality control reports, which allow deteriorating equipment to be detected and serviced before it fails completely. Ticket breakdowns by network a NOC costs to be apportioned appropriately, and help in developing staffing and funding models. A good trouble ticket system should make this statistical information in a format suitable for spreadsheets and graphics programs.

7) **FILTERING CURRENT ALERTS.** It would be possible to use network status information from the trouble ticket system to filter the alerts that are displayed on the alert system. For instance, if node XXX is known to be down because the trouble ticket is currently open on it, the alert display for that node could automatically be acknowledged. Trouble tickets could potentially contain much further information useful for expert system analysis of current network alert information.

8) **ACCOUNTABILITY ("CYA"), FACILITATING CUSTOMER FOLLOW-THROUGH, AND NOC IMAGE.** Keeping user-complaint tickets facilitates the kind of follow through with end-users that generates happy clients (and good NOC image) for normal trouble-fixing situations. But also, by their nature, NOCs deal with crises; they occasionally find themselves with major outages, and angry users or administrators. The trouble ticket system documents the NOC's (and the rest of the organization's) efforts to solve problems in case of complaints.

Of course we added many features to the OTRS which are not mentioned in this RFC. And we will add many features.

Anyhow we are keen on your feedback. Please do not hesitate to send us an e-mail to [feedback@otrs.org](mailto:feedback@otrs.org)

Your OTRS core team

# Appendix E. GNU Free Documentation License

Version 1.1, March 2000

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