

# **SkyFile Mail API functions**

## **User Manual**

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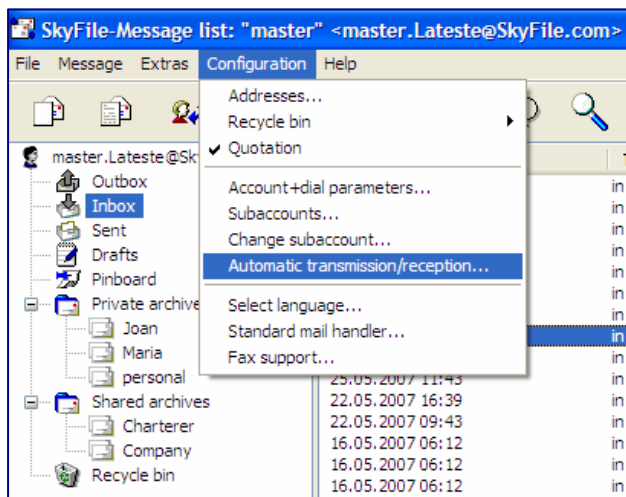
## **1. General description**

SkyFile Mail messaging software is employed in many fields of mobile satellite communications. With regard to the use of modern Ship Management Systems onboard, SkyFile Mail provides the possibility to exchange data-files between Ship Management Systems onboard and on the land-side, thanks to its API function. Although SkyFile Mail provides a range of interfaces for the synchronisation of processes in both directions (ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship), the most convenient and flexible tool is the Application Programmer Interface (API).

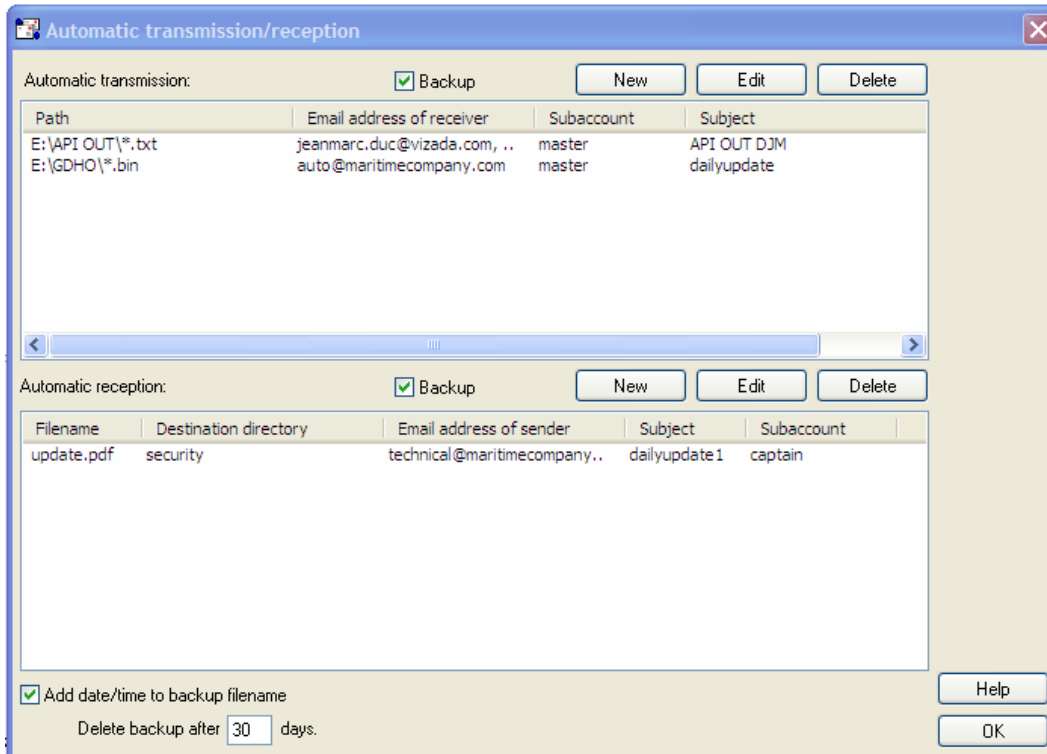
## **2. Usage of API function within SkyFile Mail**

The API (Application Programmer Interface) is a very convenient and flexible interface for exchanging files ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship. API is the most used "mechanism" within major shipping companies. The user has to configure and set up his interface according to his individual internal process flow.

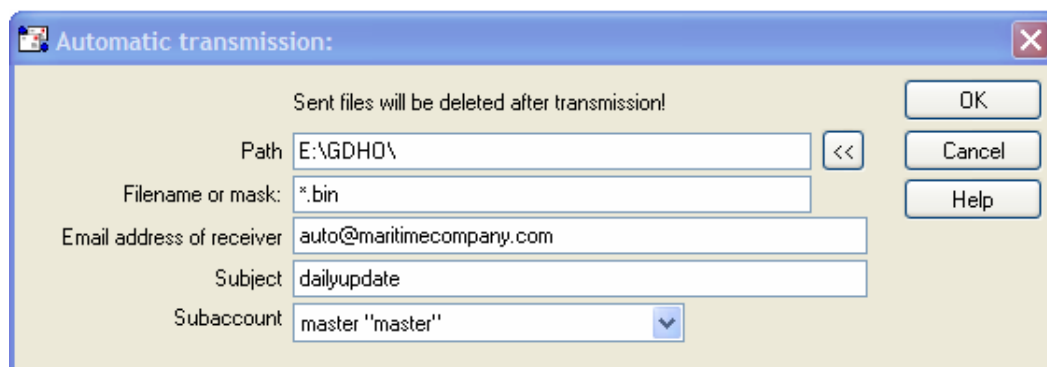
To enter the API-dialog, please click on "Configuration"->"Automatic transmission/reception..."



In case you have installed sub-accounts, you need to enter Master-Username/Master-Password for authentication. Then the following API-window will pop up which allows you to easily access the API-setup.



## 2.1 Ship-to-shore direction



**Path and filename:** Please enter path and filename of the files, which should automatically be sent via the API function. The filename may include wildcards.

The wildcards could be:

\*.bin or \*.zip

Or \*.b?? or \*.z??


This function allows sending files with different extensions like .zip, .z01, .z02 etc.

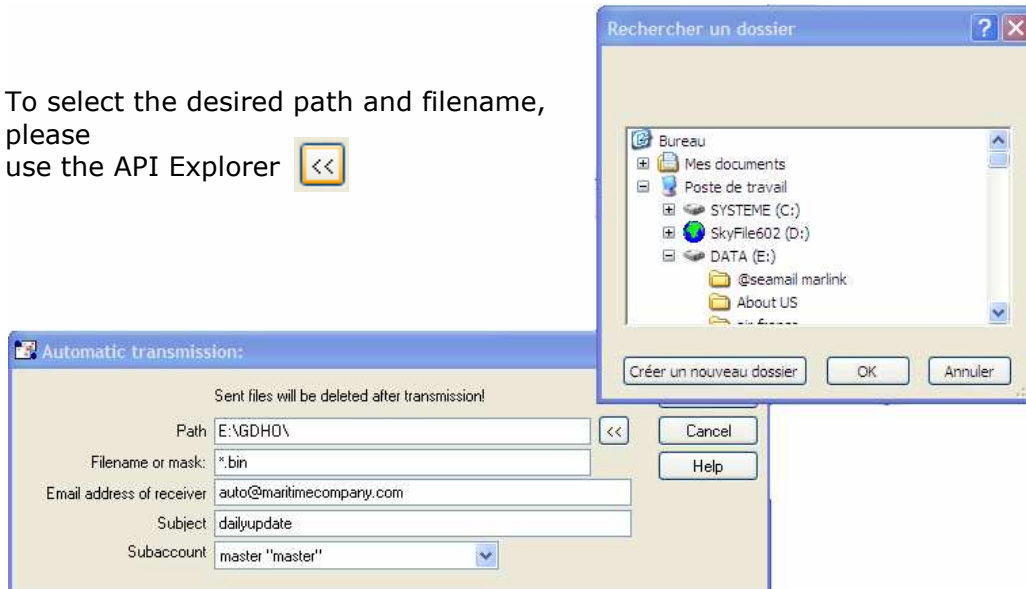
**E-mail address of receiver:** Please enter the recipient's email address.

**Subject:** Please enter the subject, which should be put in the subject-line of the automatically generated API-email.

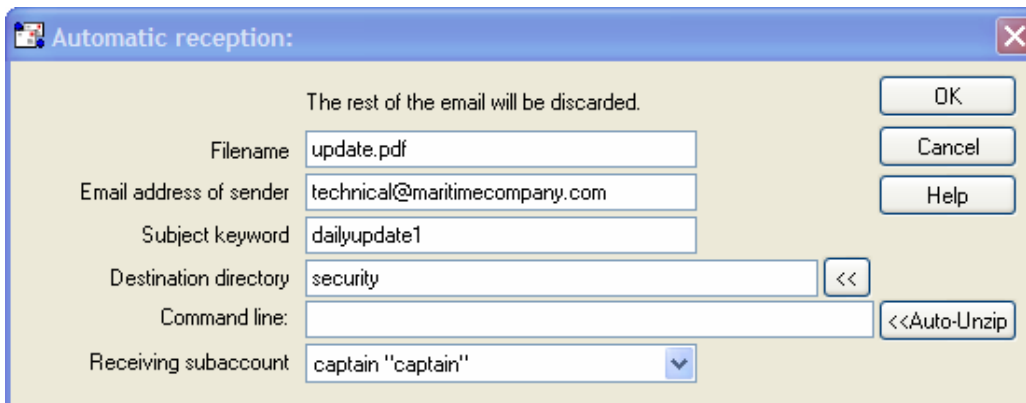
**Sub-account:** In case you have installed sub-accounts, please enter the sub-account, from which the respective data-file shall be sent. If you have not created sub-accounts, this field shows "Gateway" only.

**In general:** If you do not fill out certain fields, these items are not taken as selection criteria.

To select the desired path and filename, please use the API Explorer 



## 2.2 Shore-to-ship direction



**File name:** Please enter filename or file extension of the file, which should be received via the API function.

**Email address of sender:** Please enter the sender's email address, from which the API-files are sent.

**Subject keyword:** Please enter a subject keyword, which need to appear in the subject of the API emails.

**Destination directory:** Please enter the Windows directory, in which the incoming API-files should be stored.

**Command line:** In case certain treatments are needed for the receiving files, you could enter a DOS-command line with the variable %1 for the full received filename and %2 for the previously defined destination directory. If the received files are ZIP-files (filename=.zip), by pressing "**Auto-Unzip**" a command to automatically unzip the files is

inserted. Please read "UNZIP.TXT" in the SkyFile Mail installation directory for further options of the unzip-command.

**Receiving sub-account:** In case you have installed sub-accounts and you are using the Split Billing option of SkyFile Mail, please enter those sub-accounts, to which the costs for the data file transfer will be invoiced. If you do not use the sub-account feature, this field shows "Gateway" only.

**In general:** If you do not fill out certain fields, these items are not taken as selection criteria.

### **3. Backup of transmitted API-files**

In case you want to backup incoming or outgoing API-files, please press the respective click-field "Backup" in the API-overview window (see previous page). If "Backup" has been selected, each attachment will be stored additionally in the following directory:

**ship-shore files:** API-files are stored in C:\SKYFILE\API\_IN.DIR (C:\SKYFILE: SkyFile-installation directory)

**shore-ship files:** API-files are stored in C:\SKYFILE\API\_OUT.DIR

**Add date/time to backup filename:** In case the names of the API-files are always the same, please press this option. In this case the date/time of the creation will be added: ("data.bin" -> "data\_20050218\_1459.bin")

**Delete backup after XX days:** To avoid the overrun of the backup-directory, the API-files will be deleted after a user-defined number of days (default: 30 days).

### **4. API log-file**

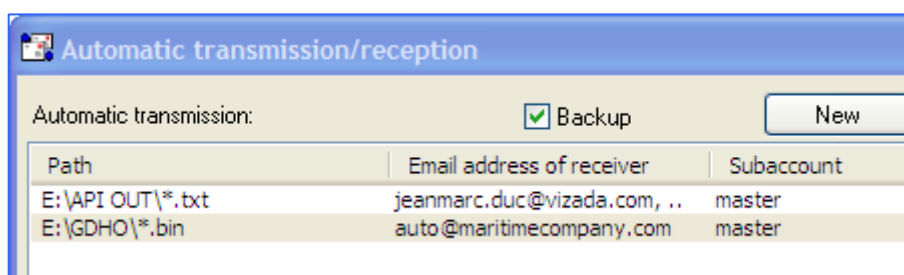
To be able to follow the API-transfers, a log-file will be created for each incoming and outgoing API-file. The API-log has the file-name "API-LOG.TXT" and can be found in the installation-directory of SkyFile Mail (mostly "C:\SKYFILE").

**Example:**

18.02.05,15:20,customer care.eu@vizada.com,out,GATEWAY,11,107520,data3.bin  
 The meaning of the values are: date, time, terrestrial email-address, direction, subaccount("GATEWAY" if non), duration[sec], size[byte], filename.

To be able to retrieve files which have been already transmitted or received, a log-file for incoming and outgoing files will be created. The API files have the file-name "API\_OUT.DIR" and "API\_IN.DIR". They can be found in the installation-directory of SkyFile Mail (Mostly "C:\SKYFILE").

These directories will be created only if the "Back-up" option has been selected in the API main menu.



## **5. Windows Standards**

SkyFile Mail provides two general Windows standards to send files (only for ship-to-shore direction): MAPI and MAILTO. These standards can be used by ship management systems for the automatic dispatch of emails to terrestrial users. Please be aware that these mechanisms only work one way ship-to-shore.

### **5.1 MAPI (Microsoft Application Programmer Interface)**

If you install SkyFile Mail as your standard mail handler, it allows MAPI-compliant applications like Word, Excel or Acrobat Reader to send emails. Please check the Microsoft documentations for further details.

### **5.2 MAILTO:**

If you install SkyFile Mail as the standard mail handler, you can click on a "mailto" link in the Internet Explorer. SkyFile Mail will be started automatically and the destination mail address is filled in.

Example:

```
mailto:abc@prov.de?SUBJECT=Test&BODY=c:\work\test.txt&FILE=c:\autoexec.bat&AUTO
```

All parameters after the first question mark are optional (so mailto:abc@prov.de could be used, too) and describe the functions:

<i>SUBJECT</i>	the subject of this mail,
<i>BODY</i>	either the text itself, or a pathname to a text file,
<i>FILE</i>	an optional attachment (? and * can be used to send more than one attachment),
<i>AUTO</i>	can be used if this email should be sent without user interaction alternatively,
<i>AUTO=subaccount</i>	can be used in case the email should not be sent with the sub-account name currently configured on this PC.

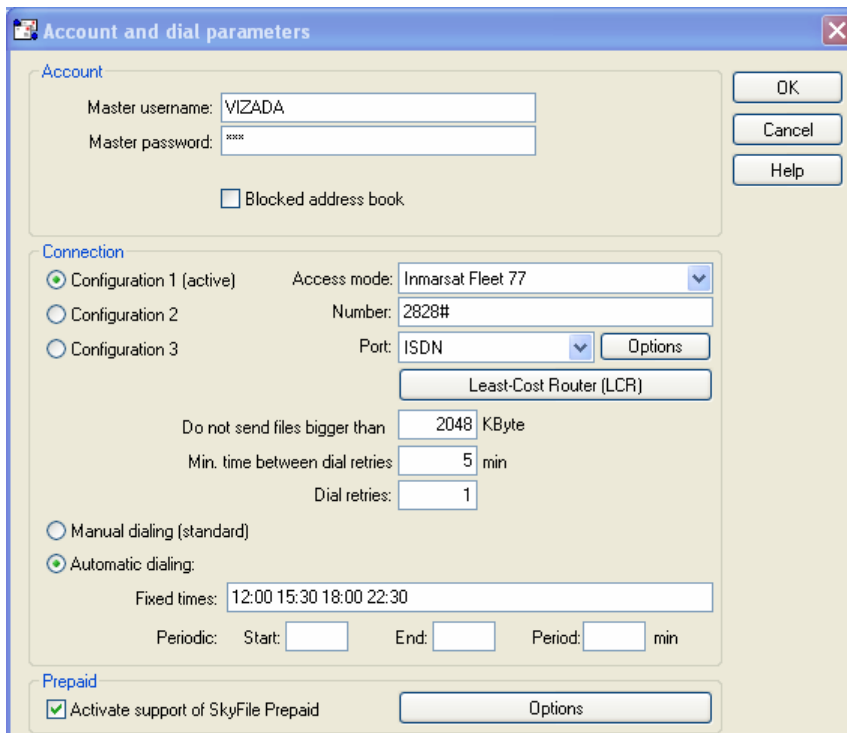
Within these parameters, spaces must be replaced by %20 and question marks by %3F. As a result, Autosync.exe will be called with these parameters in its command line.

## **6. Scheduled automatic dial-in**

SkyFile Mail offers two dial-in options to automatically start the mail-exchange (dial-in) to transmit the data files (as defined in the previous paragraphs.)

### **6.1 Scheduled automatic dial-in at fixed times**

#### **6.1.1 Automatic Dialing at fixed times:**



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Account and dial parameters" with three main sections: "Account", "Connection", and "Prepaid".

- Account:**
  - Master username: VIZADA
  - Master password: \*\*\*\*
  - Blocked address book
- Connection:**
  - Configuration 1 (active) is selected.
  - Access mode: Inmarsat Fleet 77
  - Number: 2828#
  - Port: ISDN
  - Least-Cost Router (LCR) button
  - Do not send files bigger than: 2048 KByte
  - Min. time between dial retries: 5 min
  - Dial retries: 1
  - Automatic dialing is selected.
  - Fixed times: 12:00 15:30 18:00 22:30
  - Periodic: Start: [ ] End: [ ] Period: [ ] min
- Prepaid:**
  - Activate support of SkyFile Prepaid
  - Options button

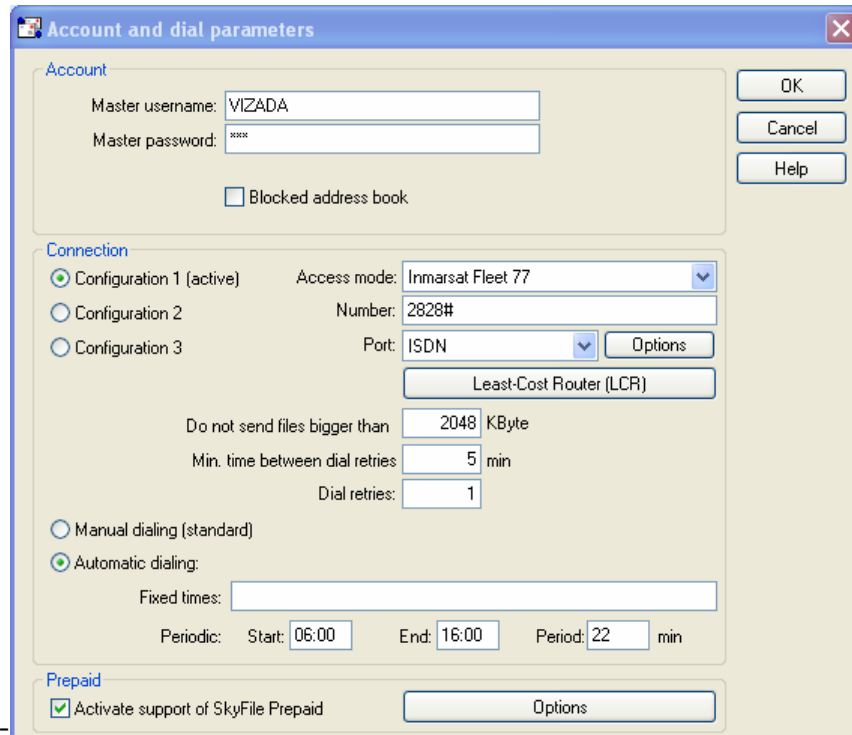
To set your user-defined dial-in times for the automatic mail-exchange via SkyFile Mail, please define the times per day in the entry "Configuration"-> "Account+Dial parameters"-> "Automatic dialling at fixed times".

Please note, that for minutes, only 00, 15, 30 and 45 are accepted and that the real dial-in can be carried out up to 10 minutes later (there is a random-generator). This is to avoid that in a fleet of 50 vessels with the same installation all vessels are dialling-in at the same time.

Please note, that in case of automatic dialling, it makes sense to put a link to the program "host32.exe" from the SkyFile Mail directory into the Windows "Autostart"-folder. This will ensure that the automatic dialling still works after a reboot of the system.



### 6.1.2 Automatic dialing Periodic



Additionally to the Automatic Dialing at fixed times, you can select the “Periodic Automatic dialing”. It enables you to determine a fix time-frame during the day and a connection-time period.

For instance: an automatic connection every 22 minutes between 06:00 in the morning until 06:00 in the afternoon.

## **7. Dial-in executed by the ship management application**

To provide the ship management system with the minimum of reply time of the land-based server, the files from the ship management system should be sent instantly after creation to the land side. And similar the files processed from the land side need to be received instantly by SkyFile Mail.

For this time critical case, the automatic dialling at fixed times might not be sufficient. As an alternative, SkyFile Mail provides a mechanism, where the onboard-application can start the email transfer automatically. Actually, if the onboard application saves a file with the filename "dial.now" into the SkyFile Mai directory (mostly "C:\skyfile\"), the email-transfer is started automatically. The file "dial.now" will be deleted after transmission! This mechanism enables the ship management system to create its own and more appropriate time schedule of dial-ins.



For the described time critical case above, dial-in sequences could be as follows:

- 1) application puts files in API-OUT directory
- 2) application saves a file "dial.now" in the SkyFile Mail directory to send the files instantly to the terrestrial user
- 3) application is waiting for the maximum reply time of the land-based server (e.g. 1 hour)
- 4) application writes a file "dial.now" in the SkyFile Mail directory to receive the files instantly from the terrestrial user

## **8. Any Questions? Need support?**

If you have any questions regarding SkyFile Mail, please visit Vizada web-site [www.vizada.com](http://www.vizada.com) or contact Vizada Customer Care:

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