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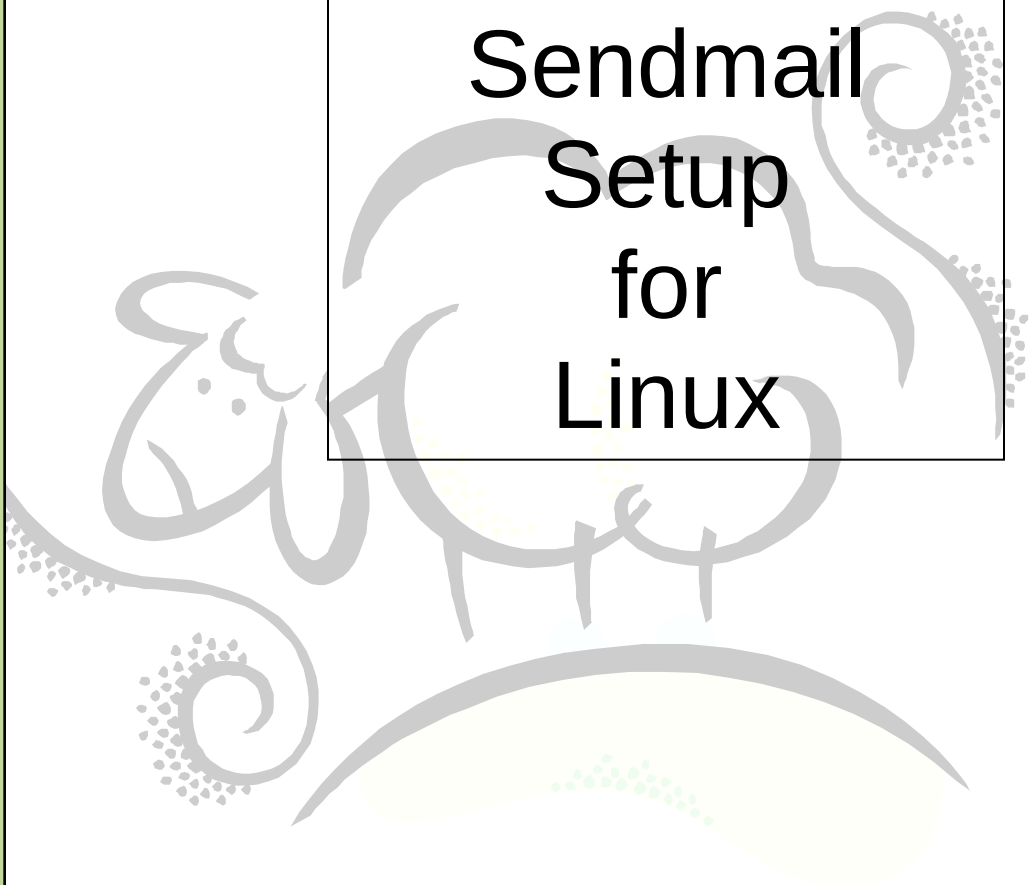
Sendmail Setup for Linux



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Introduction

This document guides you in setting up sendmail on your Linux box. Unfortunately, I was not able to send e-mail **out** of an organization. The sending and receiving of mail within an organization works fine. To alleviate this teensy-weensy problem, you can set up a mail distribution list on your Microsoft Exchange server and send all of your mail to the *internal* e-mail address of the distribution list; if you have any outside addresses, they will be forwarded by the Exchange Server to your *external* recipient automatically.

Despite the bitter tone of this document, I really was able to get sendmail to work. But, check with your Linux System Administrator since there might be a better and less aggravating way of sending emails from your Linux server. ☺

Steps to Insanity

Let's just face facts: sendmail setup sucks and you will lose your mind in the process. With that said, these are the steps you will follow to get sendmail nearly working in your organization:

1. Admit that you will never get sendmail to work properly and leave it at that!
2. Set up your sendmail pre-configuration file by stealing someone else's pre-configuration file and modifying it to work in your organization. It won't, so just give up now.
3. Create the sendmail configuration file from the pre-configuration file by using the m4 processor. Why this is necessary, or even desirable, cannot be said.
4. Change permissions on `/var/spool/mqueue` to be so wide open that a Mack truck could pass through the firewall, into the server, and complete smoosh all waiting e-mails
5. Change permissions on the `access.db` file to be read for user, group and world. Don't ask what this file does, just change the permissions and be happy you did. ☺

Creating the Pre-Configuration File

Log in as `root` and cd to `/etc/mail`. Open up a new file and call it `mySMTP.mc` and enter the following code:

```
divert(-1)
#
# Copyright (c) 1998, 1999 Sendmail, Inc. and its suppliers.
#       All rights reserved.
# Copyright (c) 1983 Eric P. Allman.  All rights reserved.
# Copyright (c) 1988, 1993
#       The Regents of the University of California.  All rights reserved.
#
# By using this file, you agree to the terms and conditions set
# forth in the LICENSE file which can be found at the top level of
# the sendmail distribution.
#
#


#
#  This is a generic configuration file for Linux.
#  It has support for local and SMTP mail only.  If you want to
#  customize it, copy it to a name appropriate for your environment
#  and do the modifications there.
#

divert(0)dnl
include(`/usr/share/sendmail-cf/m4/cf.m4')dnl
VERSIONID(`setup for Red Hat Linux')dnl
OSTYPE(`linux')dnl
DOMAIN(`generic')dnl
dnl define(`confDOMAIN_NAME',`MYCOMPANY-DOMAIN-NAME.COM')dnl
dnl define(`nodns')dnl
define(`confTO_IDENT',`0s')dnl
define(`SMART_HOST',`SMTP:YOUR-EMAIL-SERVER')dnl
FEATURE(`access_db')dnl
FEATURE(`accept_unresolvable_domains')dnl
FEATURE(`accept_unqualified_senders')dnl
FEATURE(`relay_entire_domain')dnl
dnl FEATURE(`relay_local_from')dnl
dnl FEATURE(`relay_mail_from')dnl
FEATURE(`nocanonify')dnl
EXPOSED_USER(`EXPOSED-USER')dnl
MAILER(smtp)dnl
```

Note that you may need to replace MYCOMPANY-DOMAIN-NAME.COM with your company's domain name as well as replace YOUR-EMAIL_SERVER with the name of your email server. Also, change EXPOSED-USER to the name of the user who will be using sendmail. Save this file and exit out.

Create the Configuration File

As `root`, and while still in `/etc/mail`, enter the following commands at the command prompt:

```
m4 mySMTP.mc > mySMTP.cf
```

This creates the sendmail configuration file `mySMTP.cf`.

Change Permissions

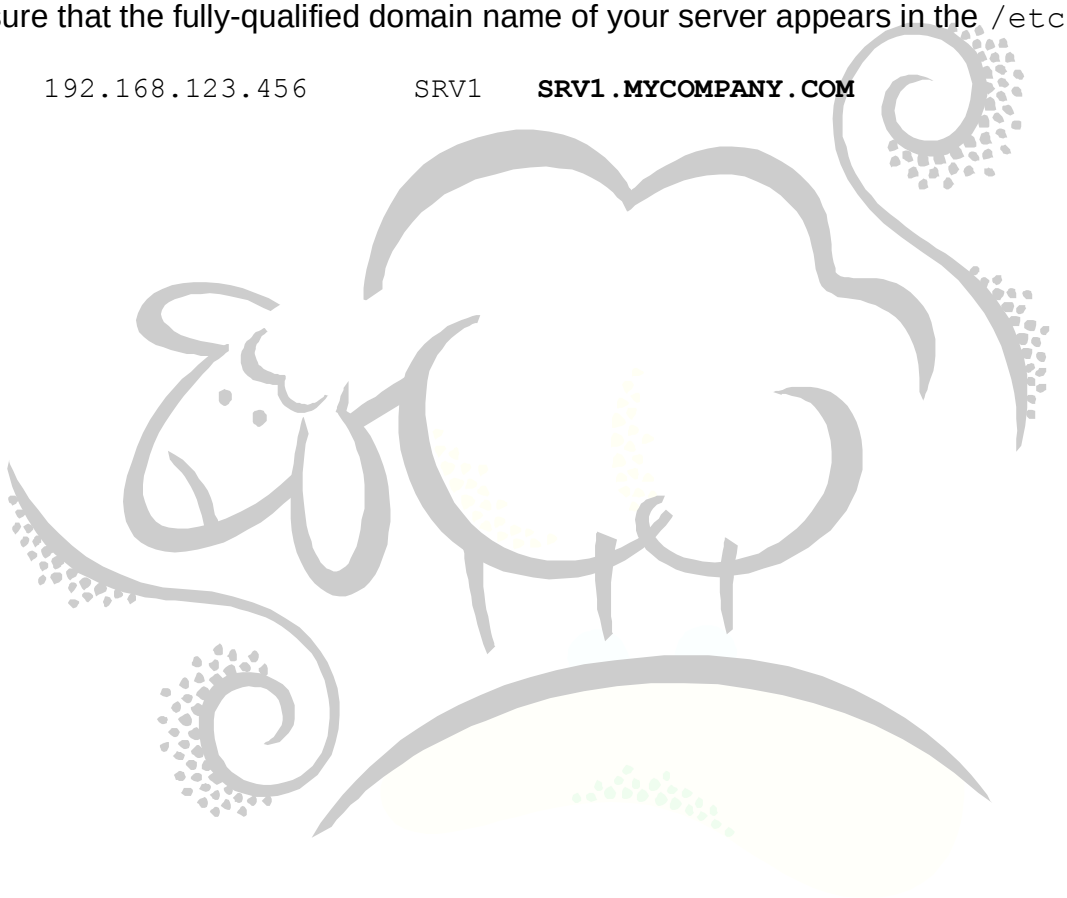
As `root`, enter the following at the command prompt:

```
chmod 644 /etc/mail/access.db
chmod 777 /var/spool/mqueue
chmod 644 /etc/mail/mySMTP.cf
```

Update `/etc/hosts`

Make sure that the fully-qualified domain name of your server appears in the `/etc/hosts` file:

```
192.168.123.456      SRV1    SRV1.MYCOMPANY.COM
```



Sending an E-mail

To send an e-mail using sendmail, enter the following commands at the command prompt:

```
sendmail -bm -v -C /etc/mail/mySMTP.cf bsmith@mycompany.com < final_email
```

where `-v` is verbose mode, `-bm` tells sendmail to act like an e-mail program and send the e-mail, and the `-C` tells sendmail where the configuration file is located. The e-mail address is the address of the recipient and the file `final_email` is the text to place in the body (including an attachment, if desired). The `final_email` file must contain email headers, as shown in the next section, at the top of this file.

Example E-Mail Headers

Here is what the headers look like in an e-mail with an attachment:

```
To: bsmith@mycompany.com
From: bsmith@mycompany.com
Subject: SUBJECT OF EMAIL GOES HER!!!
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; Boundary="sendfile-attachment-boundary"

--sendfile-attachment-boundary
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

BODY OF EMAIL GOES HERE!!!

--sendfile-attachment-boundary
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="filename-of-attachment";
--sendfile-attachment-boundary
```

You may want to change the `Content-Type` and the `Content-Disposition` filename. At this point, you can append your attachment to the e-mail to create the `final_email` file. Note that you do not need to uuencode your attachment.

References

Click the links to get more information on Amazon.com's website.

1. sendmail by Bryan Costales with Eric Allman (ISBN-13: 978-0596510299)
2. sendmail Cookbook by Craig Hunt (ISBN-13: 978-0596004712)

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