

Introduction

Today, each company uses e-mail for business communication. A prerequisite for the effective use of e-mail is the availability of a special application – a mail server. Creating corporate mailboxes with the help of Internet public services has long been considered a bad idea. In addition, such approach is quite dangerous and difficult to manage.

Using your own corporate mail server has several benefits:

- possibility to create an unlimited number of e-mail domains (for different companies, legal entities, business units, divisions) on one server;
- the ability to create an unlimited number of mailboxes for different mail domains;
- the ability to control incoming and outgoing mail;
- Create mailboxes of unlimited size (the limit is determined solely by the technical characteristics of the server)
- support for encryption mail protocols;
- centralized mail storage on the server;
- Antivirus protection for incoming/outgoing mail;
- spam protection;
- Web interface with encrypted e-mail access.

Mail server a.k.a. email server, or MTA (mail transfer/transport agent), is an application that handles and delivers e-mail messages

In Linux systems the applications for sending and receiving messages are implemented separately, and the administrator connects them together. The most popular combination is Postfix and Dovecot.

What is Postfix

Postfix — this is a mail transfer agent (MTA).

Postfix is a free software.

Postfix was created as an alternative to Sendmail. Postfix is believed to work faster, easier to administer, more secure and, importantly, is compatible with Sendmail.

Originally, Postfix was developed by Wates Venema while he worked at IBM's Thomas Watson Research Center. The first versions of the program became available in mid-1999.

Postfix features a well-designed modular architecture that allows you to create a very reliable and fast mail system. For example, root privileges are required only to open port 25, and daemons that perform basic work can run as an unprivileged process in an isolated environment, which has a very positive effect on security.

The Postfix architecture was created after the UNIX style - where simple programs perform a minimal set of functions, but perform them fast and securely. Unnecessary daemons can stop running, thus freeing up memory, and if necessary, be restarted by the master-daemon.

Also worth noting is a simpler and more understandable configuration compared to Sendmail and lesser resource-intensiveness, especially when the mail system is idle.

Postfix compatible with BSD, HP-UX, IRIX, GNU/Linux, Mac OS X, and Solaris can actually be assembled on any Unix-like operating system that supports POSIX and has a C compiler.

What is Dovecot

Dovecot is a free IMAP- and POP3-server, developed with the expectation of security, flexibility and high performance. The first release took place in 2002.

Dovecot supports MBox and Maildir mailbox formats, as well as its own DBox and Cydir formats.

Dovecot features:

- High performance due to indexing content of the mailboxes.
- A large number of supported mechanisms for storing authentication information (including LDAP) and authentication itself (SSL supported).
- Its own implementation of SASL. Postfix 2.3+ and Exim 4.64+ can be authenticated directly through Dovecot.
- Ability to expand the functionality using plugins.
- Ability to modify indexes from multiple computers - allowing it to work with NFS and cluster file systems.
- Support for different types of quotas
- Support for various operating systems: Linux, Solaris, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, NetBSD and Mac OS X
- Easy to set up.
- Strict adherence to standards - Dovecot is one of the few applications that pass the test for compliance with all IMAP standards. By the way, please note that Microsoft Exchange does not pass this test.