



**MailScanner**  
**5.1.1-1**

**Milter Configuration Guide**  
**1.0**

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**Shawn Iverson**  
**shawniverson@efa-project.org**

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Edition 1.0. This guide is based on the implementation of MailScanner as at Version 5.1.1.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge all the support and assistance provided by the following organizations:

MAILBORDER



 MailWatch

This guide is dedicated to the continuing persistence and dedication of all people who fight bad email day in and day out.

# Introduction

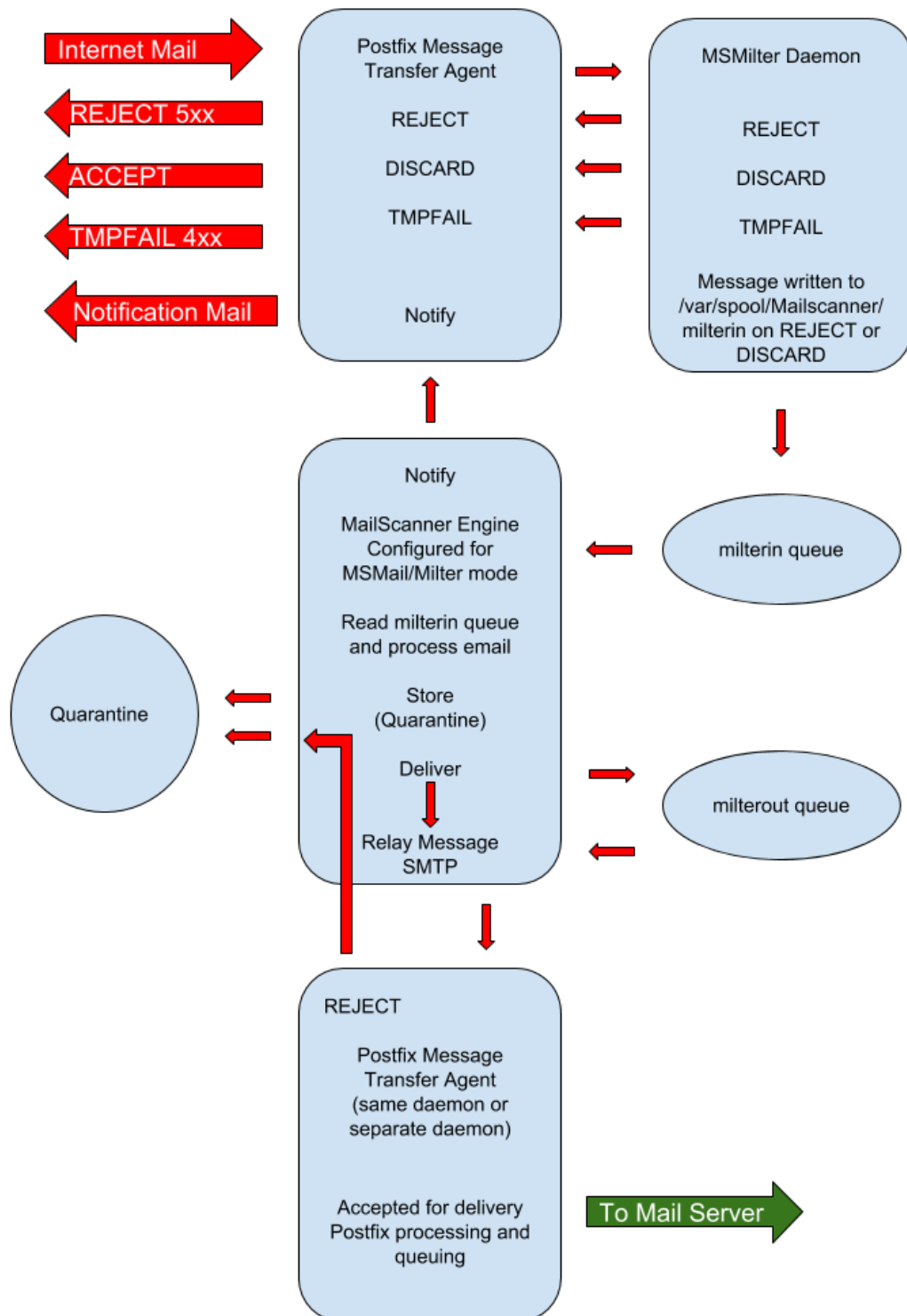
## How the MailScanner Milter Works

Unlike previous versions of MailScanner, MailScanner 5.1.1 introduces a milter daemon for postfix.

MailScanner still functions normally for all Message Transfer Agents (MTAs) and can run as it always has prior to this version. This optional functionality for MailScanner provides a Postfix compatible interface with MailScanner to process and scan email, and it will likely evolve with additional functionality in the future. Use of the milter decouples MailScanner from Postfix, so the Postfix queues are untouched, and MailScanner can operate independently with its own milter queues.

This is MailScanner Milter version 1.0, initial release. Use of the MailScanner Milter is experimental for the time being, as bugs may be discovered after this initial release, and additional features will likely be added. This documentation will be updated to reflect the current status of the MailScanner Milter. As always, test it out before putting it into production.

On the next page you will find a diagram that demonstrates the mail flow in the MailScanner Milter in conjunction with MailScanner itself.



MailScanner Milter Process Diagram Fig. 1.

The milter interfaces with Postfix to capture the incoming email conversation and either REJECT, DISCARD, TMPFAIL, or ACCEPT. A REJECT can occur if the Milter Scanner is enabled and an email is blacklisted. TMPFAIL may occur if the milter cannot write to the disk (such as out of disk space or an access denied). ACCEPT is fired upon a localhost connection relaying email. A DISCARD, the most common response, tells Postfix to ACCEPT but silently drop the message. At the same time, the milter has written the message to */var/spool/MailScanner/milterin*.

The DISCARD technique supports large volumes of email for bulk scanning, but it neglects to send any sort of REJECT back along the pipeline as well as TMPFAIL in the event that the internal destination is unavailable. A future version of the milter may support “Full Milter Scanner” mode in which traditional MailScanner is turned off and the Milter does all scanning, returning REJECTS and TMPFAILS at the expense of sacrificing bulk scanning for those who need this functionality and have lighter workloads.

# Installation and Configuration

## Installing MailScanner

To obtain MailScanner Milter support, ensure your system meets the minimum system requirements and that the following is true:

MailScanner >= version 5.1.1-1

Postfix >= 2.3

Sendmail::PMilter perl module (compiled automatically from CPAN if not installed)

## Configuring MailScanner for Milter Mode

To enable milter mode, edit */etc/MailScanner/MailScanner.conf* and change the following:

```
Incoming Queue Dir = /var/spool/MailScanner/milterin
Outgoing Queue Dir = /var/spool/MailScanner/milterout
MTA = msmtp
MSMail Queue Type = short | long
Milter Scanner = yes | no
```

Use the queue type that matches postfix and choose whether the Milter Scanner is enabled (REJECT blacklisted emails).



Ensure that the */var/spool/MailScanner/milterin* and */var/spool/MailScanner/milterout* directories are present and are owned by postfix (MailScanner Run As user).

```
# mkdir -p /var/spool/MailScanner/milterin
# mkdir -p /var/spool/MailScanner/milterout
# chown postfix:mtagroup /var/spool/MailScanner/milterin
# chown postfix:mtagroup /var/spool/MailScanner/milterout
```

## Configuring Postfix for Milter Mode

If */etc/postfix/header\_checks* contains the following line, remove it:

```
/^Received: / HOLD
```

Add the following to */etc/postfix/header\_checks* to remove the localhost received header (recommended)

```
/^Received:. *\ (localhost\ |[127.0.0.1/ IGNORE
```

Once modified, run postmap:

```
# postmap /etc/postfix/header_checks
```

Add the following to */etc/postfix/main.cf*:

```
smtpd_milters = inet:127.0.0.1:33333
```

Enable and restart everything.

(systemd)

```
# systemctl enable postfix  
# systemctl restart postfix  
# systemctl enable mailscanner  
# systemctl restart mailscanner  
# systemctl enable msmlter  
# systemctl restart msmlter
```

(init)

```
# chkconfig postfix on  
# service postfix restart  
# chkconfig mailscanner on  
# service mailscanner restart  
# chkconfig msmlter on  
# service msmlter restart
```

# Troubleshooting

## **Services are running, but incoming mail receives a TMPFAIL.**

Observe the maillog for incoming mail to see why the TMPFAIL is occurring. Most likely causes are the following:

- */var/spool/MailScanner/milterin* is not writable
- selinux or apparmor is enabled and not configured properly to allow access to milterin
- Missing configuration parameters in MailScanner.conf
- Postfix misconfiguration

## **Services won't start.**

Examine the logs to determine the cause of failure. Most common causes include:

- Missing required perl modules
- Typo or misconfiguration in MailScanner.conf
- */etc/MailScanner/defaults* not configured and `run_mailscanner=1` not set

## ***/var/spool/MailScanner/milterin* is filling up, MailScanner not processing the email.**

Common causes:

- MailScanner is not running or misconfigured
- selinux or apparmor aren't allowing MailScanner to read files

- Partial messages are being written to milterin (examine a message file for completeness of headers and body)
  - MailScanner will report INVALID messages found if this is occurring in the maillog.
  - Firewall or IDS upstream is ending the email conversation prematurely and/or mangling the messages

### ***/var/spool/MailScanner/milterout* is filling up but is not being delivered**

Again, examine the maillog for cause of failure. Ensure that postfix is running, listening, and accepting messages (default port is 25 on localhost). Ensure that MailScanner can read and access the milterout directory.

### **Debugging the Milter**

To enable debug mode, edit  
*/etc/MailScanner/MailScanner.conf*:

```
debug = yes
```

Restart msmilter for debug mode to turn on and received detailed milter logging to the mail log. Remember to set debug = no when done and restart msmilter again.

### **Debugging the MSMail MailScanner Processor**

After enabling debug mode, stop mailscanner, and run */usr/sbin/MailScanner* as root. MailScanner will process a message and exit, writing detailed logging to the mail log.

Remember to set debug = no before starting the mailscanner daemon again.