



## POSTFIX

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# The Postfix Home Page

*All programmers are optimists -- Frederick P. Brooks, Jr.*

First of all, thank you for your interest in the Postfix project.

What is Postfix? It is [Wietse Venema's](#) mail server that started life at [IBM research](#) as an alternative to the widely-used [Sendmail](#) program. Now at Google, Wietse continues to support Postfix.

Postfix attempts to be fast, easy to administer, and secure. The outside has a definite Sendmail-ish flavor, but the inside is completely different.

## Newsflash

A recent twitter post reveals the existence of an exploit for Postfix, in a collection of what appear to be NSA break-in tools.

<https://twitter.com/JulianAssange/status/850870683831648256>

This is an exploit for Postfix 2.0 - 2.2, for a bug that was fixed 11 years ago in Postfix 2.2.11 and later.

There was a memory corruption bug in a Postfix workaround for a Sendmail bug (CERT advisory CA-2003-07, remote buffer overflow in Sendmail when message headers contain lots of comment text before or after an email address).

Technical details: the Postfix `strip_address()` function, which removes large comments from a mail header, called the `printable()` function on a string that wasn't null-terminated. This caused the `printable()` function to scribble past the end of `malloc()`ed memory, corrupting the memory heap.

Running the exploit against Postfix versions less than 11 years old results in odd-looking email messages in the super-user's mailbox, and warning messages in the maillog file (warning: stripping too many comments from address: <long character string>).

## About this website

This website has information about the Postfix source code distribution. Built from source code, Postfix can run on UNIX-like systems including AIX, BSD, HP-UX, Linux, MacOS X, Solaris, and more.

Postfix is also distributed as ready-to-run code by operating system vendors, appliance vendors, and other providers. Their versions may have small differences with the software that is described on this website.