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Adding Users and Aliases for Postfix

By Joe Brockmeier (Send Email)

Posted Nov 8, 2010

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More on **Postfix**

Postfix is a great mailer, but if you're new to administering Postfix, finding your way around can be difficult. For example, just finding information on adding users to a Postfix system can be quite a trial.

Postfix is a great mailer, but if you're new to administering it, finding your way around can be difficult. Here's how to get started.

In part, this is because Postfix can be set up in a number of ways. Some installations use Postfix alone, others use Postfix in conjunction with other apps and store user information in MySQL. You can have users who have actual accounts on a system, or you can have users on virtual domains that don't have a login but still receive mail. Or you might want aliases that include several users, so everybody on the "marketing" list gets mail or all folks in sales, legal or development can receive messages.

For this tip, I'll assume that you've inherited a Postfix domain and want a way to add users or aliases quickly.

Adding Users

The simple way to add a user is to simply add a new account on the system. Postfix will handle the rest. For example, on my server running Ubuntu, I'd just use `adduser username`, and Postfix would just *do the right thing* with regard to sending mail to that user, delivered locally.

But what if you don't want to create a system account for the user? You should have a virtual domain set up that *is not* configured as a `mydestination` domain. For more on this, be sure to read the Postfix guide on virtual domain hosting.

Users are then added in the form `user@domain` and then either the mailbox on the system or handed off to Courier or another mail delivery program in the `/etc/postfix/vmailbox` file.

However, if you don't have a `/etc/postfix/vmailbox` file, odds are your system was configured to deliver to local accounts. You should check `/etc/postfix/main.cf` and look for the line `mydestination`. If it includes the domain you're adding users for, then they're being added as regular users.

Otherwise, in `/etc/postfix/vmailbox`, add a line like:

```
 jzb@mydomain.net mydomain.net/jzb
```

You should see some examples already. This will deliver mail to a mailbox called jzb in /var/mail/vhosts/mydomain.net -- assuming your system is set up to deliver mail there. Note, you can store mail in an mdir format instead by adding a slash after the username.

Next, run `postmap` against the file (`/etc/postfix/vmailbox`) and `postfix reload`.

To add an alias, go to `/etc/aliases` and add the alias like so:

```
alias: localuser # For a local user mapping
alias2: user@remote.com # For a remote user mapping
```

The first example adds an alias to a local user; the second will deliver mail to another domain. For example, if I want to send mail intended for "sales@" my domain to a Gmail address, I can just add my Gmail account after the alias.

If you're new to Postfix, I strongly recommend making backups of your configuration files and settin up a test system in a virtual machine before making changes on a live mail server. Postfix isn't too hard to use, but it can be confusing if you're new -- and a slight error can stop mail delivery to one or more users far too easily.

Joe 'Zonker' Brockmeier is a freelance writer and editor with more than 10 years covering IT. Formerly the openSUSE Community Manager for Novell, Brockmeier has written for Linux Magazine, Sys Admin, Linux Pro Magazine, IBM developerWorks, Linux.com, CIO.com, Linux Weekly News, ZDNet, and many other publications. You can reach Zonker at jzb@zonker.net and follow him on Twitter.

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Tags: open source server, tip of the trade, mail server, postfix, mailing list server

3 Comments (click to add your comment)

By **Banner**   April 19 2017 13:02 PDT
Okay, here is how you do it. Go to /etc/postfix edit file: local_recipients add a line: OK save the file enter command> postmap local_recipients enter command> postfix reload Now you can send email to the new user.

Reply to this comment

By **Banner**   April 19 2017 12:52 PDT
This is WRONG. Adding a new user does NOT add them to postfix, you have to do it separately. And sadly because everyone points to this wrong answer, I'm having a hell of a hard time finding out how to do it.

Reply to this comment

By **Phillip**   July 01 2016 01:53 PDT
Thanks for the post but i cant adduser on the domain. Is there need of adding their email corresponding with their names?

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11045 **boiardo**

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