

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Restart sendmail and secure pop3s/imap 2

How do I generate certificates locally for testing purpose only? 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [EMail Servers](#)

Configure Sendmail SSL encryption for sending and receiving email

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I configure Sendmail email server to use SSL encryption for sending/receiving email? I have already obtained or received the required valid SSL certificate. It is stored in /etc/mail/ssl directory as follows:

SSL Keys and Certification files

=> /etc/mail/ssl/sendmail.pem

=> /etc/mail/ssl/ca-bundle.crt

Now how do I configure sendmail for SSL under Fedora Core or RHEL or Cent OS?

A. Sendmail is a mail transfer agent (MTA) and you need a valid SSL certificate on the server. Sendmail remains the most popular MTA on the Internet, although this is probably fading. Its popularity is due in part to its position as the standard MTA under most variants of the Unix operating system.

Sendmail can be configured to encrypt email via the secure socket layer (SSL) when you want to send and receives emails.

Open sendmail configuration file /etc/mail/sendmail.mc using text editor such as vi:

```
# vi /etc/mail/sendmail.mc
```

Now append/modify following directives:

```
define(`confCACERT_PATH', `/etc/mail/ssl/certs')
define(`confCACERT', `/etc/mail/ssl/ca-bundle.crt')
define(`confSERVER_CERT', `/etc/mail/ssl/sendmail.pem')
define(`confSERVER_KEY', `/etc/mail/ssl/sendmail.pem')
```

And make sure port is set to smtps (secure smtp i.e. port 465):

```
DAEMON_OPTIONS(`Port=smtps, Name=TLSMTA, M=s')dnl
```

Restart sendmail and secure pop3s/imap

Type the following commands to restart sendmail and related services:

```
# /etc/init.d/sendmail restart
# chkconfig pop3s on
# chkconfig imap on
# /etc/init.d/xinetd restart
```

pop3s and imap will start from xinetd

How do I generate certificates locally for testing purpose only?

If you don't have certificates you can generate certificates locally on Cent OS/RHEL/Fedora Core. Type the following commands:

```
# cd /usr/share/ssl/certs
# make sendmail.pem
```

Now open sendmail /etc/mail/sendmail.mc config file and append/modify directives as follows:

```
define(`confCACERT_PATH', `/usr/share/ssl/certs')
define(`confCACERT', `/usr/share/ssl/certs/ca-bundle.crt')
define(`confSERVER_CERT', `/usr/share/ssl/certs/sendmail.pem')
define(`confSERVER_KEY', `/usr/share/ssl/certs/sendmail.pem')
```

```
DAEMON_OPTIONS(`Port=smtps, Name=TLSMTPA, M=s')dnl
```

Restart [sendmail](#) ^[1] as discussed above.

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-configure-sendmail-ssl-certificate-email/>

URLs in this post:

[1] sendmail: [#restartsendmail](#)

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](#). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.