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## Sendmail blocking spam email id, ips with access database

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Q. How do I block some1@domain.com or IP address for Sendmail spammers?

A. Sendmail offers various options to block an email address, domain name or IP address using access database.

File /etc/mail/access act as an access control for your Sendmail smtp server. With this file you can define:

1. Who we accept mail from
2. Who we accept relaying from
3. Who we will not send to etc

### Configuration

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

Make sure following line exists in your configuration file (otherwise you need to add/append following line):

```
FEATURE(`access_db')dnl
```

Save the file and exit to shell prompt. Now, open /etc/mail/access file:

```
# vi /etc/mail/access
```

To block junk or spam mail use following format

```
spam@domain.com REJECT
192.168.1.100 REJECT
202.54.1.100/255.0.0.0 REJECT
```

Save the file. Once sendmail.mc or access file is modified, you need to regenerate /etc/mail/sendmail.cf or rebuild the access database. Type any one of the following commands:

```
# cd /etc/mail
# make
```

OR

```
# m4 /etc/mail/sendmail.mc > /etc/mail/sendmail.cf
```

Restart the sendmail:

```
# /etc/init.d/sendmail restart
```

### Other options supported by access database

- OK - Accept email FROM: or TO: specified address
- DISCARD - Do not accept email FROM: or TO: specified address
- REJECT - Drop email with an error FROM: or TO: specified address
- HATER - Use check\_mail and check\_realy rules for email
- FRIEND - Do not use check\_mail and check\_realy rules for email
- ERROR:ecode:etext - Drop email with specified error code (ecode) and error text message (etext).

### Examples

```
abc.com ERROR:550:Relay denied
FROM:mail@fack.net REJECT
TO:foo@bar.com REJECT
Spam:abuse@ FRIEND
Connect:202.54.1.1 ERROR:5.7.1:550: Relay denied
```

How do I test access database is working or not?

Use sendmail with -bt option as follows:

```
# sendmail -bt
> check_mail user@abc.com
```

OR use telnet command:

```
# telnet localhost 25
HELO localhost
MAIL FROM:user@abc.com
```

In both case you should get relay denied error.

See also:

- [Test mail server for an open relay](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

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URLs in this post:

[1] Test mail server for an open relay: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/nixcraft/vivek/blogger/2006/04/test-mail-server-for-open-relay.php>

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