Table Of Contents

Postfix Configure Client SMTP Authentication (Smarthost Authentication)

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

My ISP requires that mail from my dynamic IP to our small business email addresses uses their outgoing SMTP servers. This is probably done to reduce abuse and spam but now I'm not able to send email and local Postfix log file displays authentication failure message. How do I relay mail through my mail ISP servers using Postfix SMTP under Linux / UNIX like operating systems?

[1]

Postfix has a method of authentication using SASL. It can use a text file or MySQL table as a special password database.

Configure SMTP AUTH for mail servers

Create a text file as follows:

```
# P=/etc/postfix/password
# vi $P
```

The format of the client password file is as follows:

```
#smtp.isp.com        username:password
smtp.vsnl.in          vivek@vsnl.in:mySecretePassword
```

Save and close the file. Set permissions:

```
# chown root:root $P
# chmod 0600 $P
# postmap hash:$P
```

Enable SMTP AUTH

Open main.cf file, enter:

```
# vi /etc/postfix/main.cf
```

Append following config directives:

```
 relayhost = smtp.vsnl.in
smtp_sasl_auth_enable = yes
smtp_sasl_password_maps = hash:/etc/postfix/password
smtp_sasl_security_options =
```

Where,

- **relayhost = smtp.vsnl.in** : Rely all mail via smtp.vsnl.in ISP mail server.
- **smtp_sasl_auth_enable = yes** : Cyrus-SASL support for authentication of mail servers.
- **smtp_sasl_password_maps = hash:/etc/postfix/password** : Set path to sasl_passwd.
- **smtp_sasl_security_options =** : Finally, allow Postfix to use anonymous and plaintext authentication by leaving it empty.

Save and close the file. Restart Postfix:

```
# /etc/init.d/postfix reload
```

Test your setup by sending a text email:

```
$ echo 'This is a test.' > /tmp/test
```

```
$ mail -s 'Test' you@example.com < /tmp/test
# tail -f /var/log/maillog
# rm /tmp/test
```

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/postfix-smtp-authentication-for-mail-servers/**

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/email-servers/**