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Howto: Linux Dovecot Secure IMAPS / POP3S SSL Server configuration

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Q. How do I configure Dovecot IMAPS and POP3s server using SSL certificate? Can I use SSL [certificates generated for Postfix](#) ^[2] mail server?

A. Dovecot is an IMAP server for Linux/UNIX-like systems, written with security primarily in mind. It also contains a small POP3 server. It supports mail in either of maildir or mbox formats.

You need to enable POP3s and IMAPS. Open default configuration file:

```
# vi /etc/dovecot.conf
```

Make sure POP3S and IMAPS are enabled:

```
protocols = imap pop3s
```

Next you must set PEM encoded X.509 SSL/TLS certificate and private key. They're opened before dropping root privileges, so keep the key file unreadable by anyone but root (see how [create certificate CSR and configure certificates](#) ^[2] for Postfix):

```
ssl_cert_file = /etc/postfix/ssl/smtp.theos.in.crt  
ssl_key_file = /etc/postfix/ssl/smtp.theos.in.key
```

If key file is password protected, give the password using ssl_key_password directive:

```
ssl_key_password = myPassword
```

Save and close the file. Restart Dovecot server:

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

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URLs in this post:

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

[2] certificates generated for Postfix: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/postfix-smtp-ssl-certificate-csr-installation-guide.html>