

Validate an Email Address with PHP



/ By Amit Agarwal / Published on 2017-12-14

PUBLISHED IN: **PHP**

Before sending email via SMTP, the client computer initiates a transaction with the SMTP email server that is listening for commands on TCP port 25. The SMTP command HELO initiates a transaction with the mail server and identifies itself, MAIL FROM and RCTP specify the sender and recipients respectively while QUIT will close the conversation. If the mail server returns the status as 250, that means the email address is validate and exists.

@hbattat has written a wrapper PHP library that can be used to determine if an email address is real or not. You specify the sender's email, the recipient's email and connect to the mail server to know whether that email exists on the domain or not. [Email verification](#) can be done using Windows Telnet as well.



1. Click "Login Now"
2. Free Access - No Sign Up!
3. Access Email Faster

```
/* Credit: https://github.com/hbattat/verifyEmail */

function verifyEmail($toemail, $fromemail, $getdetails = false)
{
    // Get the domain of the email recipient
    $email_arr = explode('@', $toemail);
    $domain = array_slice($email_arr, -1);
    $domain = $domain[0];

    // Trim [ and ] from beginning and end of domain string, respectively
    $domain = ltrim($domain, '[');
    $domain = rtrim($domain, ']');

    if ('IPv6:' == substr($domain, 0, strlen('IPv6:'))) {
        $domain = substr($domain, strlen('IPv6') + 1);
    }
}
```

```

    }

    $mxhosts = array();
    // Check if the domain has an IP address assigned to it
    if (filter_var($domain, FILTER_VALIDATE_IP)) {
        $mx_ip = $domain;
    } else {
        // If no IP assigned, get the MX records for the host name
        getmxrr($domain, $mxhosts, $mxweight);
    }

    if (!empty($mxhosts)) {
        $mx_ip = $mxhosts[array_search(min($mxweight), $mxhosts)];
    } else {
        // If MX records not found, get the A DNS records for the host
        if (filter_var($domain, FILTER_VALIDATE_IP, FILTER_FLAG_IPV4)) {
            $record_a = dns_get_record($domain, DNS_A);
            // else get the AAAA IPv6 address record
        } elseif (filter_var($domain, FILTER_VALIDATE_IP, FILTER_FLAG_IPV6)) {
            $record_a = dns_get_record($domain, DNS_AAAA);
        }

        if (!empty($record_a)) {
            $mx_ip = $record_a[0]['ip'];
        } else {
            // Exit the program if no MX records are found for the domain host
            $result = 'invalid';
            $details .= 'No suitable MX records found.';

            return ((true == $getdetails) ? array($result, $details) : $result);
        }
    }

    // Open a socket connection with the hostname, smtp port 25
    $connect = @fsockopen($mx_ip, 25);

    if ($connect) {

        // Initiate the Mail Sending SMTP transaction
        if (preg_match('/^220/i', $out = fgets($connect, 1024))) {

            // Send the HELO command to the SMTP server
            fputs($connect, "HELO $mx_ip\r\n");
            $out = fgets($connect, 1024);
            $details .= $out."n";

            // Send an SMTP Mail command from the sender's email address
            fputs($connect, "MAIL FROM: <$fromemail>\r\n");
            $from = fgets($connect, 1024);
            $details .= $from."n";

            // Send the SCPT command with the receipient's email address
            fputs($connect, "RCPT TO: <$toemail>\r\n");
            $to = fgets($connect, 1024);
            $details .= $to."n";
        }
    }

```

```

        // Close the socket connection with QUIT command to the SMTP server
        fputs($connect, 'QUIT');
        fclose($connect);

        // The expected response is 250 if the email is valid
        if (!preg_match('/^250/i', $from) || !preg_match('/^250/i', $to)) {
            $result = 'invalid';
        } else {
            $result = 'valid';
        }
    }
} else {
    $result = 'invalid';
    $details .= 'Could not connect to server';
}
if ($getdetails) {
    return array($result, $details);
} else {
    return $result;
}
}

```

SMTP also provides the VRFY command to query when the specified user exists on the host or not but it is often ignored by mail servers.

Also see: [Find Person by Email Address](#)

PUBLISHED IN: **PHP**

SHARE ON:    



Print In As Fast As 5 Days

Ad BookBaby

Find the Person Behind an Email Address

labnol.org

.KE domain Ksh 650 Kenya - Affordable web hosting.

Ad transworldafrica.co.ke

How to Check if an Email Address is Valid and Exists

labnol.org

Maria will predict your Future

Ad Medium Maria

How to Verify an Email Address

labnol.org

How to Find the Email Address of a Person

labnol.org

The 10 Use Networkir Command

labnol.org

You'll also like:

- [Using Google Text to Speech API - PHP](#)
- [Send Base64 Encoded Email with PHP](#)
- [Create RSS Feeds from Amazon Listings](#)
- [Google Sitemap Generator with PHP](#)
- [404 Page for WordPress with Suggestions](#)
- [Simple PHP Templates with Placeholders in Curly Braces](#)
- [Blogger to WordPress Redirection](#)
- [Parsing the Twitter Trends API](#)
- [Google OAuth 2.0 Service account with PHP and Google APIs](#)
- [Import iTunes JSON into WordPress](#)

Looking for something? Find here!

SEARCH

Meet the Author

Web Geek, Tech Columnist



[Amit Agarwal](#) is a Google Developer Expert in GSuite and Google Apps Script. He holds an engineering degree in Computer Science (I.I.T.) and is the first professional blogger in India. Read more on [Lifehacker](#) and [YourStory](#).

Get in touch

- Send an email at amit@labnol.org
- Follow on [@twitter](#) and [@youtube](#).
- Subscribe to our [email newsletter](#) and never miss an update.

OVERVIEW

Digital Inspiration®, established in 2004, helps businesses automate processes and improve productivity with GSuite, Apps Script, and Google Cloud.

© 2004 — 2020 Amit Agarwal. All rights reserved.

RESOURCES

- [About Us](#)
- [Products](#)
- [Code Snippets, Topics](#)
- [Tech Support](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

CONTACT

Amit Agarwal
email: amit@labnol.org



digital inspiration