**Configure a central mail server.**

**Prerequisites**

In order to test a central mail server in a standard way using **MX** record, you will need to [set up a master DNS server](https://www.certdepot.net/rhel7-configure-master-name-server/).

It is still possible to avoid setting up a master **DNS** server if you only want to test a **null-client** configuration (**RHCE 7** requirement). In this case, you will have to use the **relayhost = [mail.example.com]** or **relayhost = [ipaddress]** syntax (see [Configure a system to forward all email to a central mail server](https://www.certdepot.net/rhel7-configure-system-forward-email-central-mail-server/)).

Also, you can set the **disable\_dns\_lookups** directive to **yes**, to force **Postfix** to read the local **/etc/hosts** file instead of sending **DNS** requests to get the **MX** records.

**Installation Procedure**

Install the **postfix** package (if it is not already there):

# **yum install -y postfix**

Add a new service to the firewall:

# **firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=smtp**

success

Reload the firewall configuration:

# **firewall-cmd --reload**

success

Activate the **postfix** service at boot:

# **systemctl enable postfix**

Start the **postfix** service:

# **systemctl restart postfix**

Let’s assume that your server is called **mail.example.com** on the **192.168.1.0/24** network.  
Edit the **/etc/postfix/main.cf** file and change the following directives:

**myhostname = mail.example.com**

**mydomain = example.com**

**myorigin = $mydomain**

**inet\_interfaces = all**

**mydestination = $myhostname, localhost.$mydomain, localhost, $mydomain**

**mynetworks = 192.168.1.0/24, 127.0.0.0/8**

Check the syntax:

# **postfix check**

Check the non-default configuration:

# **postconf -n**

Set the **SELinux** **allow\_postfix\_local\_write\_mail\_spool** boolean to ‘**on**‘:

# **setsebool -P allow\_postfix\_local\_write\_mail\_spool on**

Restart the **postfix** configuration:

# **systemctl restart postfix**

Test from a client with the **nmap** command, it should display: “**25/tcp open smtp**“:

# **yum install -y nmap**

# **nmap mail.example.com**

Starting Nmap 6.40 ( http://nmap.org ) at 2014-08-05 23:41 CEST

Nmap scan report for mail.example.com (192.168.1.24)

Host is up (0.00076s latency).

Not shown: 998 filtered ports

PORT   STATE SERVICE

22/tcp open  ssh

25/tcp open  smtp

MAC Address: 52:54:00:44:23:51 (QEMU Virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 6.16 seconds

**Alternatively**, test from a client with the **telnet** command:

# **yum install -y telnet**

# **telnet mail.example.com 25**

Trying 192.168.1.24...

Connected to mail.example.com.

Escape character is '^]'.

220 mail.example.com ESMTP Postfix

**HELO client**

250 mail.example.com

**quit**

221 2.0.0 Bye

Connection closed by foreign host.

On the central mail server, create a user called **me**:

# **adduser me**

Then, send a mail to **me**:

# **echo "This is a test." | mail -s "Test" me@example.com**

Note: The **echo** command introduces the content of the mail. The **-s** option specifies the mail subject followed by the recipient.

Finally,  check the user gets his mail:

# **su - me**

**$ mail**

Heirloom Mail version 12.5 7/5/10.  Type ? for help.

"/var/spool/mail/me": 1 message 1 new

>N  1 root                  Tue Aug  5 23:47  21/785   "Test"