

Exercise: Checking a Domain's Mail Server with nslookup

In this lesson, we'll use nslookup to look up a domain's mail server.

We'll cover the following ^

- nslookup
 - Outlook
 - Gmail
 - Yahoo!

nslookup

`nslookup`, or **name server lookup**, is a command-line tool that can be used to find the name and IP address of the SMTP server for a domain like [live.com](#) or [gmail.com](#). Have a look at the following command.

Outlook

```
1 nslookup -type=mx https://outlook.live.com
```

The `mx` in the `-type=mx` flag stands for **Mail Exchanger** record, which essentially means the SMTP server.

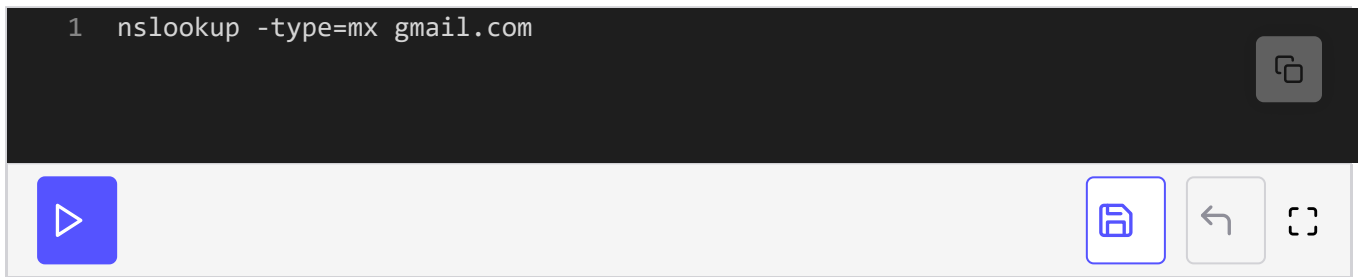
There is a lot more that `nslookup` can be used for. Here's the [manpage](#) for `nslookup` if you want to learn more.

Ignore what authoritative and non-authoritative mean for now. You'll understand them when we get to [DNS](#).

Try any other domain of your choice! Here are a couple of very popular ones.

Gmail

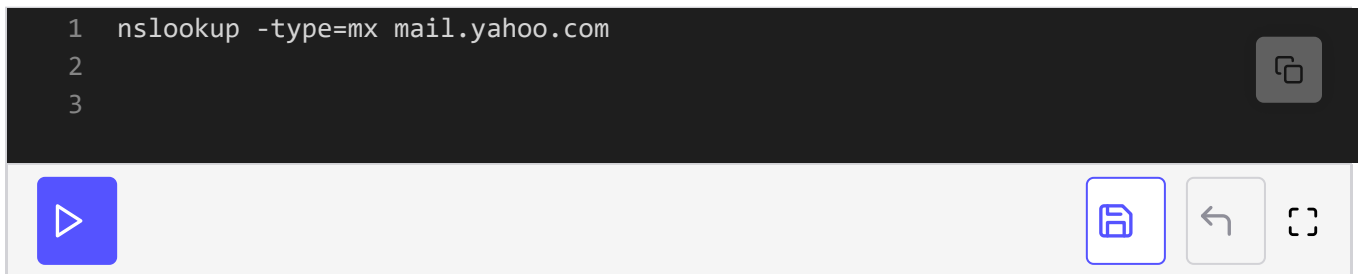
```
1 nslookup -type=mx gmail.com
```

A terminal window with a dark background. The command '1 nslookup -type=mx gmail.com' is entered. Below the command bar is a light gray bar with a blue play button on the left and three icons (save, back, and full screen) on the right.

In this case, one of the SMTP servers for Gmail is `alt1.gmail-smtp-in.1.google.com`.

Yahoo!

```
1 nslookup -type=mx mail.yahoo.com
2
3
```

A terminal window with a dark background. The command '1 nslookup -type=mx mail.yahoo.com' is entered, followed by two empty lines. Below the command bar is a light gray bar with a blue play button on the left and three icons (save, back, and full screen) on the right.

Let's study pull protocols like POP and IMAP in some detail in the next lesson.