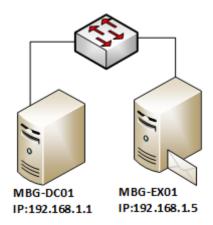
## Install Exchange Server 2013 SP1 in Windows Server 2012 R2

Microsoft released **Exchange Server 2013 SP1** on Feb 25, 2014. With the release of Edge Transport server role, Exchange 2013 is finally a complete product. Exchange 2013 now has total of three roles, **Mailbox** server role, **Client Access** server role and **Edge Transport** server role. Exchange 2013 SP 1 also introduced many **new features**. In this post, I will show steps to install Exchange Server 2013 SP1 in Windows Server 2012 R2.

#### Install Exchange Server 2013 SP1 in Windows Server 2012 R2

Here, I will install Mailbox server role and Client Access server role on same server. There are different set of **prerequisites you must follow** depending upon your scenario before you can install Exchange 2013 SP1, so make sure you follow them. This scenario is pretty straight forward with single **Domain Controller** (MBG-DC01) and single **Exchange Server** (MBG-EX01) as shown in the diagram below.



Prerequisites of this type of installation are: -

- 1. The Active Directory forest functional level must be at least Server 2003.
- 2. The Active Directory site must contain at least one Global Catalog server and a writable domain controller.
- 3. Exchange Server must be member of Domain Controller.
- 4. Perform Windows Update and reboot the Mail Server.
- 5. Install .NET Framework 4.5 and Windows Management Framework 4.0 in Mail Server. In most cases, this feature is installed by default.
- 6. Install Remote Server Administration ToolKit in Mail Server. Use PowerShell cmdlet, *Install-WindowsFeature RSAT-ADDS*.

7. Run the following command in Windows PowerShell to install other required components.

Install-WindowsFeature AS-HTTP-Activation, Desktop-Experience, NET-Framework-45-Features, RPC-over-HTTP-proxy, RSAT-Clustering, RSAT-Clustering-CmdInterface, RSAT-Clustering-Mgmt, RSAT-Clustering-PowerShell, Web-Mgmt-Console, WAS-Process-Model, Web-Asp-Net45, Web-Basic-Auth, Web-Client-Auth, Web-Digest-Auth, Web-Dir-Browsing, Web-Dyn-Compression, Web-Http-Errors, Web-Http-Logging, Web-Http-Redirect, Web-Http-Tracing, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Filter, Web-Lgcy-Mgmt-Console, Web-Metabase, Web-Mgmt-Console, Web-Mgmt-Service, Web-Net-Ext45, Web-Request-Monitor, Web-Server, Web-Stat-Compression, Web-Static-Content, Web-Windows-Auth, Web-WMI, Windows-Identity-Foundation

8. **Download** and install Microsoft Unified Communications Managed API 4.0, Core Runtime 64-bit in Mail Server.

Before beginning the installation of **Exchange 2013 SP1**, let's install some pre-requisites. At first, install the remote server administration toolkit and other required components in mail server.

```
Mindows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Users\Administrator.MUSTBEGEEK>
Install-WindowsFeature RSAT-ADDS

Success Restart Needed Exit Code Feature Result

True No Success {Remote Server Administration Tools, Activ...
WARNING: Windows automatic updating is not enabled. To ensure that your newly-installed role or feature is automatically updated, turn on Windows Update.

PS C:\Users\Administrator.MUSTBEGEEK> Install-WindowsFeature AS-HTTP-Activation, Desktop-Experience, NET-Framework-45-Fe atures, RPC-over-HTTP-proxy, RSAT-Clustering, RSAT-Clustering-CmdInterface, RSAT-Clustering-Momt, RSAT-Clustering-PowerS hell, Web-Mgmt-Console, WAS-Process-Model, Web-Asp-Net45, Web-Basic-Auth, Web-Client-Auth, Web-Digest-Auth, Web-Dir-Brow Sing, Web-Dyn-Compression, Web-Http-Frors, Web-Http-Redirect, Web-Http-Tracing, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-ISAPI-Ext, Web-Server, Web-Stat-Compression, Web-Static-Content, Web-Windows-Auth, Web-WMI, Windows-Identity-Foundation

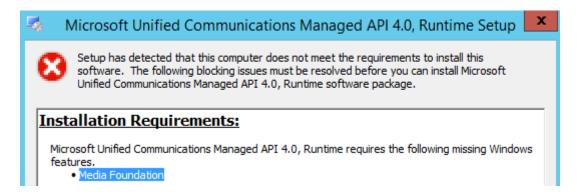
Success Restart Needed Exit Code Feature Result

True Yes SuccessRest... {Application Server, HTTP Activation, .NET...

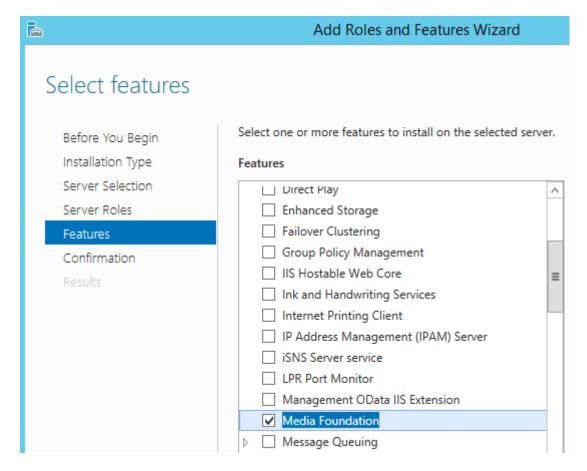
WARNING: You must restart this server to finish the installation process.

WARNING: Windows automatic updating is not enabled. To ensure that your newly-installed role or feature is automatically updated, turn on Windows Update.
```

Then install Microsoft Unified Communications Managed API 4.0. I got an error when I tried to install this application.



To fix this error, install media foundation feature from Server Manager.



Now try installing Microsoft Unified Communications Managed API 4.0 again. After installing all the prequisites, let's begin the installation of Exchange 2013 SP1.

#### **Exchange 2013 SP1 Installation Steps**

Don't check for updates right now

MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2013 SERVICE PACK 1 SETUP

Now run the Exchange 2013 SP1 installer. The setup will try to get Exchange updates, you can check and download the updates. But here, I will ignore and click **Next**.

? X

Check for Updates?

You can have Setup download Exchange Server 2013 updates from the Internet before you install Exchange. If updates are available, they'll be downloaded and used by Setup. By downloading updates now, you'll have the latest security and product updates. If you don't want to check for updates right now, or if you don't have access to the Internet, skip this step. If you skip this step, be sure to download and install any available updates after you've completed Setup.

Select one of the following options:

The setup will now take some time to copy the installation files and following Introduction page will appear. Read the page and click **Next**.

## Introduction

Welcome to Microsoft Exchange Server 2013!

Exchange Server is designed to help you increase user productivity, keep your data safe, and provide you with the control you need. You can tailor your solution to your unique needs with flexible deployment options, including hybrid deployments that enable you to take advantage of both on-premises and online solutions. You can use compliance management features to protect against the loss of sensitive information and help with internal and regulatory compliance efforts. And, of course, your users will be able to access their email, calendar, and voice mail on virtually any device and from any location. This wizard will guide you through the installation of Exchange Server 2013.

Plan your Exchange Server 2013 deployment:

Read about Microsoft Exchange Server 2013

Read about supported languages

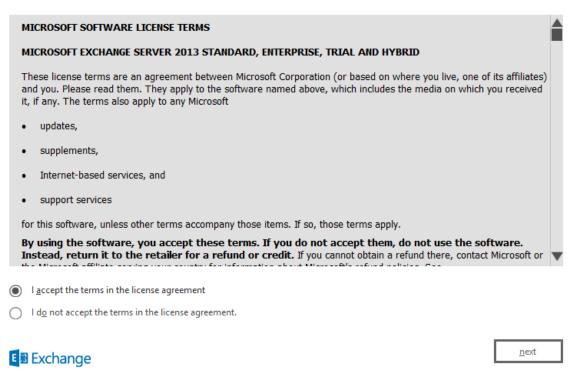
Use the Exchange Server 2013 Deployment Assistant

Now you are asked to accept license agreement. Choose I accept and click Next.



## License Agreement

Please read and accept the Exchange Server 2013 license agreement.



Here, do not choose the recommended settings and click **Next**.

MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2013 SERVICE PACK 1 SETUP

? X

## Recommended Settings

<u>U</u>se recommended settings

Exchange server will automatically check online for solutions when encountering errors and provide usage feedback to Microsoft to help improve future Exchange features.

Don't use recommended settings

Manually configure these settings after installation is complete (see help for more information).

Read more about providing usage feedback to Microsoft

Read more about checking for error solutions online

Choose Exchange Server roles and click **Next**. Here, I will choose Mailbox server role and Client Access server role.

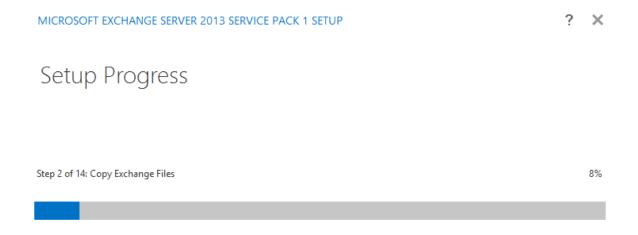
MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2013 SERVICE PACK 1 SETUP	?	×
Server Role Selection		
Select the Exchange server roles you want to install on this computer:  Mailbox role		
Client Access role		
Management tools		
<u>E</u> dge Transport role		
Automatically install <u>W</u> indows Server roles and features that are required to install Exchange Server		
Point the installation location and click <b>Next</b> . Choose other than C: drive. But here, I with the default.	ll cl	noose
MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2013 SERVICE PACK 1 SETUP	?	×
Installation Space and Location		
Disk space required: 8013 MB		
Disk space available: 83148.2 MB		
Specify the path for the Exchange Server installation:		
C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15 browse		
Type the name for this Exchange organization. This could be your organization name type MustBeGeek and click <b>Next</b> . Choose not to disable malware protection and click		
MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2013 SERVICE PACK 1 SETUP	?	×
Malware Protection Settings		
Malware scanning helps protect your messaging environment by detecting messages that may contain viruses or spyware. It contains of turned off, replaced, or paired with other premium services for layered protection.	an be	
Malware scanning is enabled by default. However, you can disable it if you're using another product for malware scanning. If y choose to disable malware scanning now, you can enable it at any point after you've installed Exchange.	ou	

Disable malware scanning.

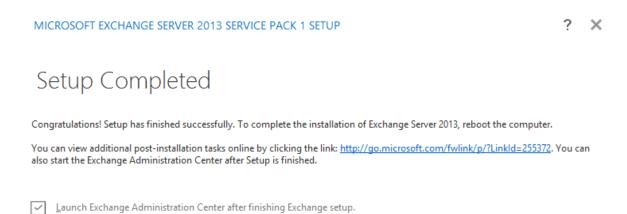
Internet access is required to download the latest anti-malware engine and definition updates.

YesNo

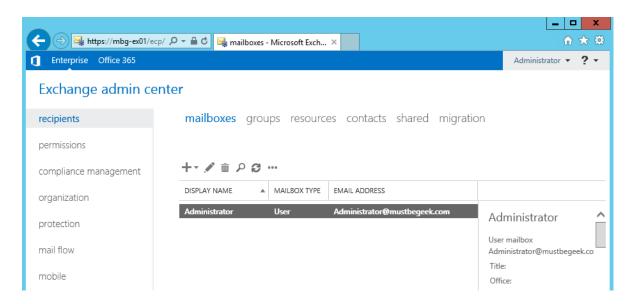
The server will now perform some prerequisite checks and if all good you can hit the install button. The setup will now start.



The setup will take some time to complete the installation.



Check **launch EAC** and click **Finish**. Enter administrator credentials and login. You can also open the Exchange Admin Center by browsing the link, *https://localhost/ecp* in the browser of the Exchange Server itself.



You have successfully installed Exchange 2013 SP1. Don't forget to **check the latest updates** and service packs. You can now **create mailboxes**. In addition, setup **external and internal urls** to use mailboxes using different client applications. Also, **configure URL redirections**. Then **configure send connectors** to send and receive emails from the Internet.

To check your current build of Exchange 2013 type following cmdlet in Exchange Management Shell.

#### [PS] C:\Windows\System32>Get-ExchangeServer | fl name,edition,admindisplayversion

```
Machine: MBG-EX01.mustbegeek.com

[PS] C:\Windows\system32>
[PS] C:\Windows\system32>Get-ExchangeServer | fl name,edition,admindisplayversion

Name : MBG-EX01
Edition : StandardEvaluation
AdminDisplayVersion : Version 15.0 (Build 847.32)
```

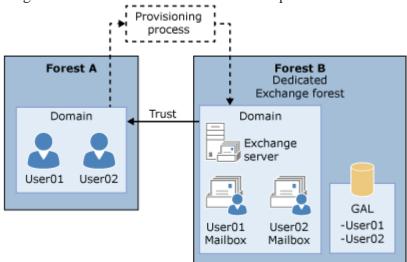
In this way you can install Exchange Server 2013 SP1 in Windows Server 2012 R2.

# Configure User Mailbox in Exchange Server 2013

After **installing** and **configuring Exchange 2013** you have to create recipients to be able to send and receive emails. There are different types of recipients in Exchange 2013. Different type of recipients are created and used for different purpose. A recipient is any mail-enabled object in Active Directory. It is important to understand different types of recipient before you configure user mailbox in Exchange Server 2013. In this post, I will create user mailbox of existing user account of active directory.

Following are different types of recipient in Exchange 2013,

Mailbox: Mailbox recipient can be user mailbox or linked mailbox. User mailbox is associated with active directory user account. In this post, we will create a user mailbox. Linked mailbox is associated with user account residing in separate trusted forest. The diagram below shows components of linked mailbox.



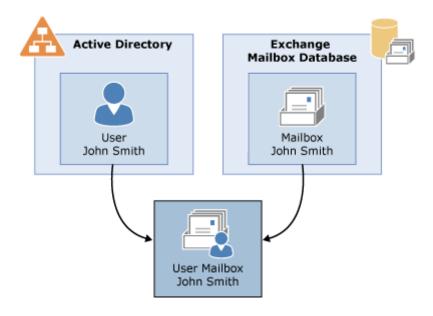
**Image Source: Microsoft** 

- 2. **Groups:** Groups can be **distribution group**, **security group** and **dynamic distribution group**.
- 3. **Resources:** Resources recipient can be **equipment mailbox** or **room mailbox**. These are mostly used for scheduling purpose of the company assets like meeting room, projectors, etc.
- 4. **Contacts:** Contact recipients can be **mail contact** or **mail user**. **Mail contact** is a active directory contact that is mail enabled. **Mail user** is an active directory user that can log into active directory domain but has an external email address.
- 5. **Shared:** With shared recipient, single mailbox can be used by multiple users. This type of recipient can be very handy for accounts like, **info@mustbegeek.com**, **contact@mustbegeek.com**, and so on.

## **Configure User Mailbox in Exchange Server 2013**

While creating new mailbox for the existing active directory user, various mail attributes are added to user's object in Active Directory. The diagram below shows components of Mailbox. If you delete a mailbox from Exchange server, the user associated with the mailbox is also

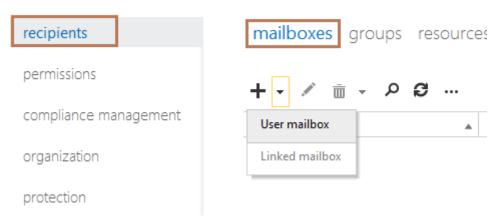
deleted from active directory. To delete only the mailbox and retain user account, just disable the particular mailbox in Exchange server.



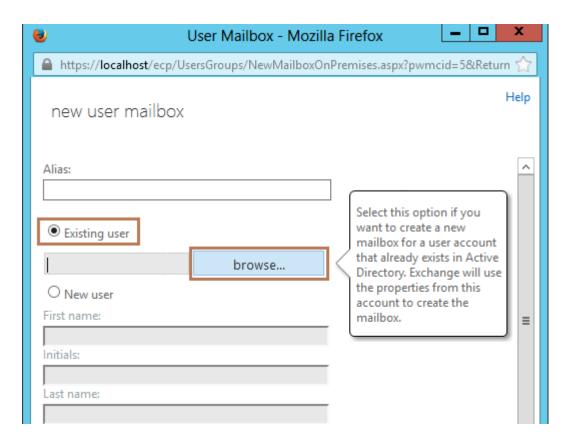
**Image Source: Microsoft** 

Enough with the information. Let's create some mailboxes now. Open the Exchange Admin center.

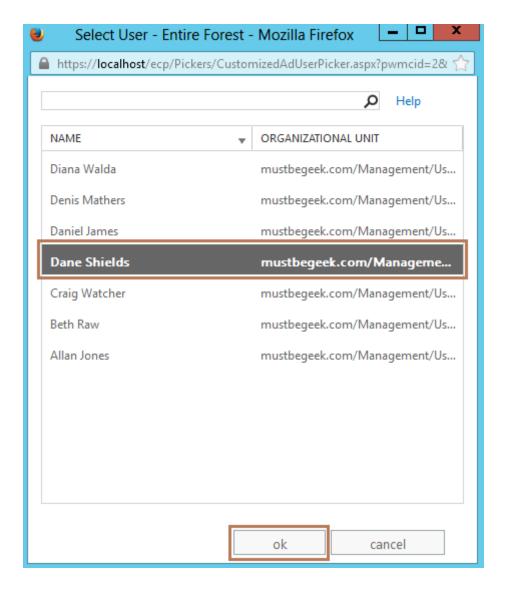
## Exchange admin center



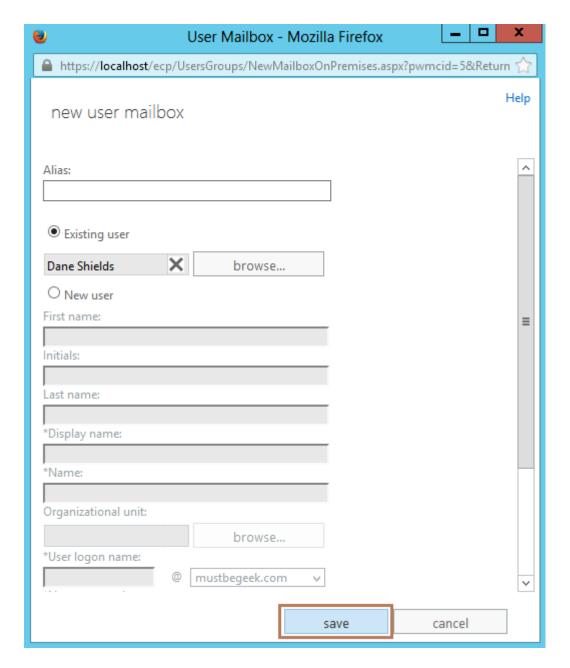
Select **recipient** in features pane. Click **mailboxes** tab. Click **add** and select **user mailbox** option.



Choose **Existing user** option and click **browse**. This means, mailbox will be created for user account which is already in active directory. If you want to create mailbox for user account that is not in active directory then, choose new user and start filling all the boxes. This process will create user account in active directory. So it's the same thing either way.

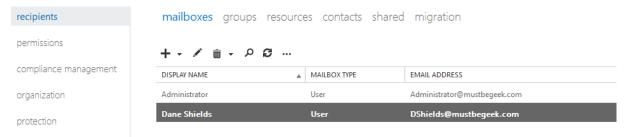


Select the user for whom you want to create mailbox. Click **OK**. As you can see above, the organization unit is also shown where this user reside. It is under Management OU> **Users OU**.



If you want different alias or different SMTP name for this mailbox, then you can configure it here on **alias section**. If left blank, the SMTP name will be the **user logon name** as explained in my **earlier article**. Click **save** to create the mailbox.

#### Exchange admin center

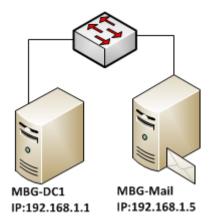


You can now see the mailbox. The SMTP name is *DShields@mustbegeek.com* which is also the user logon name. In this way you can create mailbox for active directory user. The user can

log in to https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa as I have already created CNAME record for mail.mustbegeek.com in my internal DNS server. Now **configure external and internal URLs** for various services to be able to access emails properly. But to be able to send and receive emails you have to **configure send and receive connectors**.

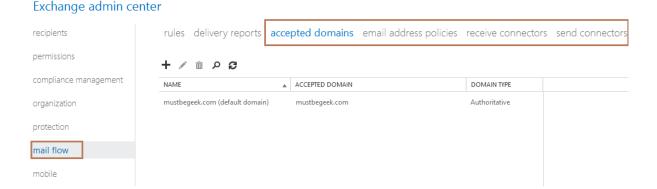
## Configure Exchange Server 2013 to Send and Receive Outside Email

After successfully **installing Exchange Server 2013**, you can now configure the server to send and receive outside Email. To configure **Exchange Server 2013** to send and receive outside email, you need to configure, accepted domains, email address policies, send connector and receive connector. We have been working on simple scenario shown below,



### Configure Exchange Server 2013 to Send and Receive Outside Email

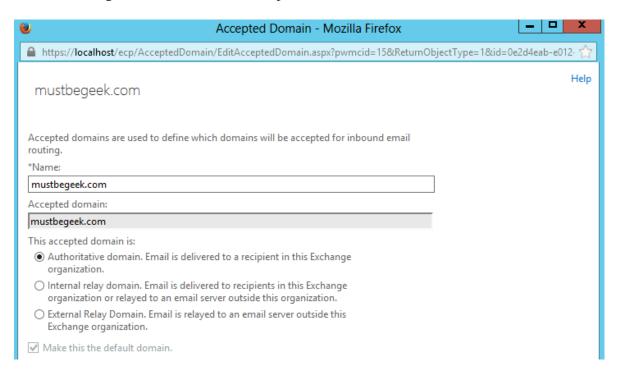
At first, log in to Exchange Admin Center. Click the Mail Flow feature, in the features pane. This is where all the email send and receive configuration is typically done. The picture shown below shows admin console. In Exchange 2013, lot of settings are configured automatically by the Exchange installation. But it is good idea to explore all the settings individually.



#### **Step 1: Accepted Domains**

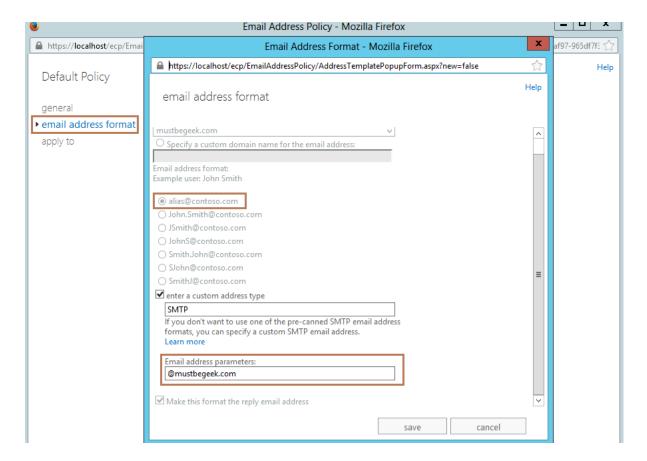
As you can see in the above snapshot, mustbegeek.com is a default authoritative domain for this Exchange server. This domain is created automatically since this domain is the forest root domain. Now, this configuration means that, if somebody sends mail to **xyz@mustbegeek.com** then, the email comes to this server. **Note:-** The MX record of the public domain, mustbegeek.com must point to this server. You might not have same scenario. If your public SMTP name is different then click the '+' symbol to add. For example, if you organization have mailboxes with SMTP name of abc.com then abc.com must be added here.

In my case, the default domain listed is **OK**. You can view the default domain settings, by double clicking the domain name in accepted domains tab.



**Step 2: Email Address Policies** 

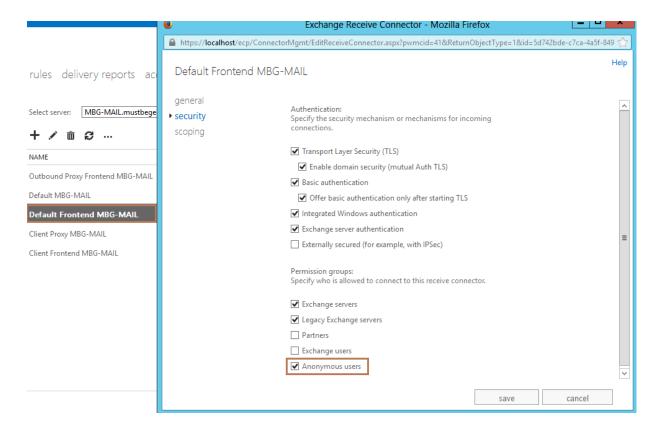
Select **email address policies tab** to configure email address policies. Email address policies define the style of email IDs that the mailboxes will have. Policy named **Default Policy** is created by default. By default, the user alias will be set as email address format. This means that if the user has logon name of **bgiri@mustbegeek.com** then, the email ID will also be **bgiri@mustbegeek.com**.



If you want different format for user email address then you can define it here. Since default policy is mostly **OK**. I will leave the default.

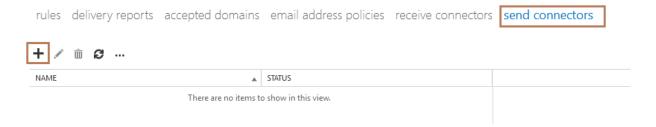
#### **Step 3: Receive Connector**

Receive connector allows all email to be received by the Mail server. By default, several receive connectors are created. **Default frontend connector** allows all users from the Internet to send email to this Mail server.

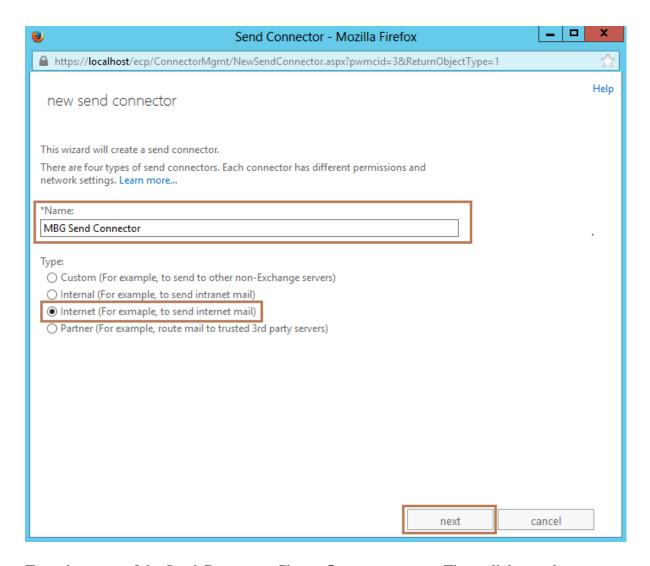


**Step 4: Send Connector** 

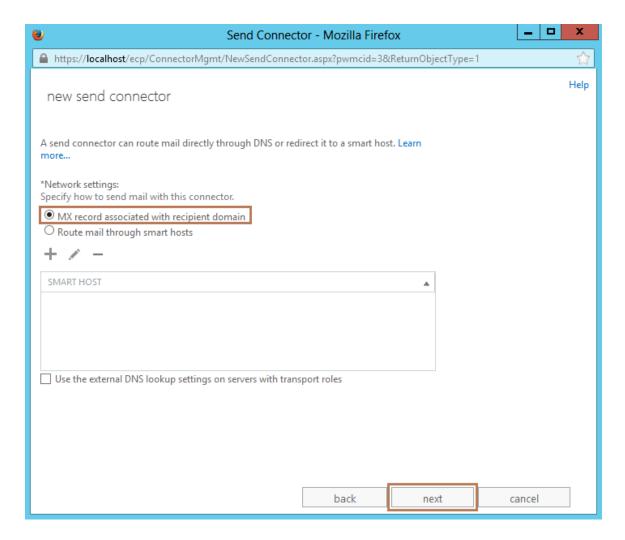
Send connector allows emails to be delivered from internal network to the Internet to other domain mailboxes, like gmail, hotmail, etc. By default, no send connectors are configured. So, to configure send connector click **send connector** tab.



Click **add** symbol to add new send connector.



Type the name of the Send Connector. Choose **Internet** on type. Then, click **next** button.



Choose **MX record associated with recipient domain** and click **next** button. This means that, email messages will route via public DNS servers.

#### new send connector

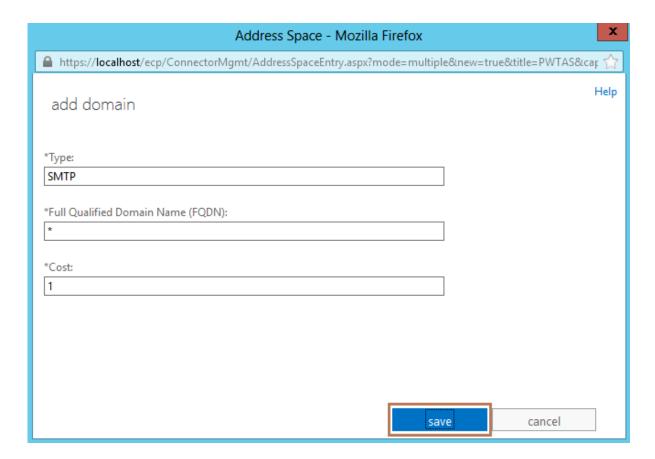
A send connector routes mail to a specified list of domains. These domains can be SMTP address space or a custom type. Learn more...

#### \*Address space:

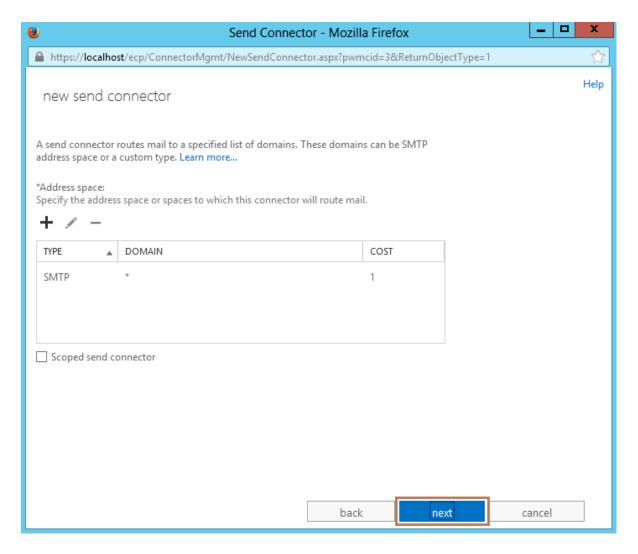
Specify the address space or spaces to which this connector will route mail.



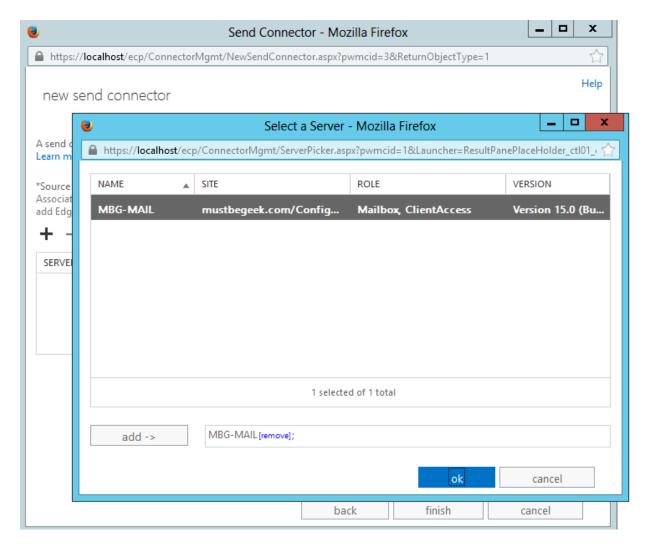
Click add symbol to add domains that this server will be able to send emails to.



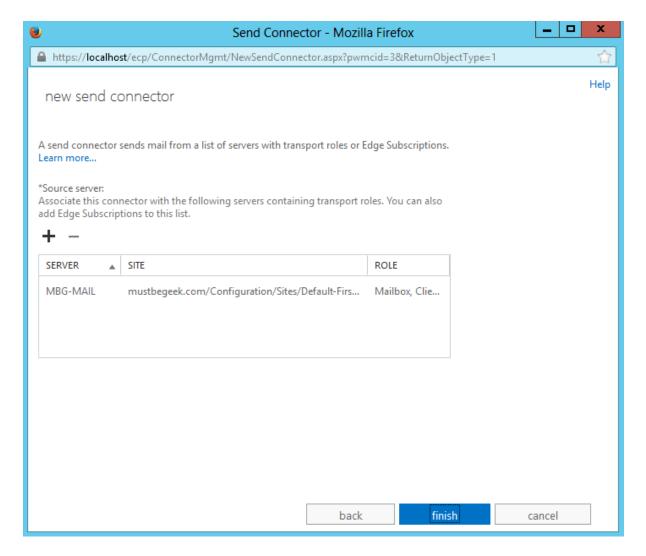
In FQDN, type asterisk (\*). This means that, this email server will be able to send email messages to all recipients out on the Internet. Click save to save the settings.



Review the settings and click **next** button.



Now add the server that will be used to send email messages. Since we only have one server in our case, I will add it and click  $\mathbf{OK}$ .



Review the settings and click **finish** button. Now you will be able to send email messages out on the Internet. But before sending emails, you need to **configure user mailboxes** and **various service URLs.** 

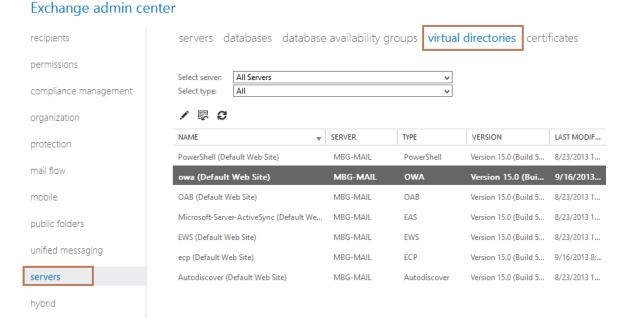
# Configure External and Internal URL in Exchange 2013

To be able to receive emails from users out on the Internet, various URLs must be properly configured in the **Exchange server 2013**. URL for **outlook web access**, **ActiveSync**, **autodiscover** and **outlook anywhere** virtual directories are the most important ones. In this post I will show how to configure External and Internal URL in Exchange 2013 for various virtual directories of Exchange Server 2013. After **installing**, **configuring** and **creating user mailboxes** in Exchange server, this is another very important task that must be done.

#### Configure External and Internal URL in Exchange 2013

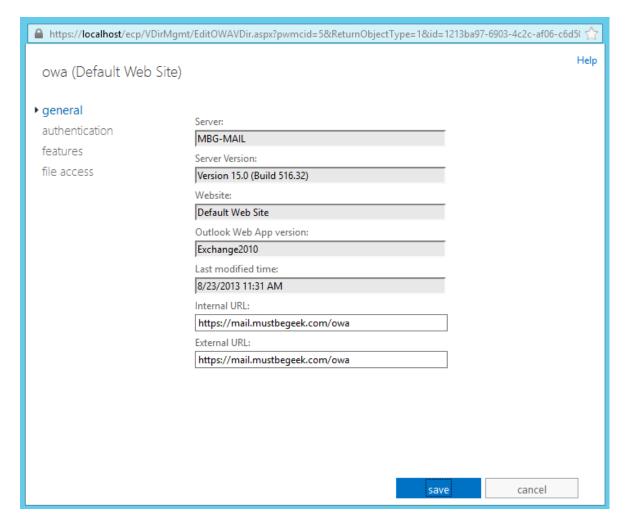
Before configuring the URLs, we need to plan the domain names that will be used to access the mail server. https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ is the domain name that will used from both internal and external network in our case. Similarly, https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp/ is the domain name that will be used by administrators to access EAC console. The mail.mustbegeek.com CNAME recored is added in both internal DNS server and public DNS server as well. It's easier for users if external and internal URL is same because they don't have to remember multiple domain names for same purpose. But you can also configure different internal and external URLs. Let's configure URLs for each services step by step.

Open Exchange Admin Center. Click servers on the features pane. Click virtual directories tab. This is where you configure most of the URL's of the virtual directories.



#### Step 1: Outlook Web Access

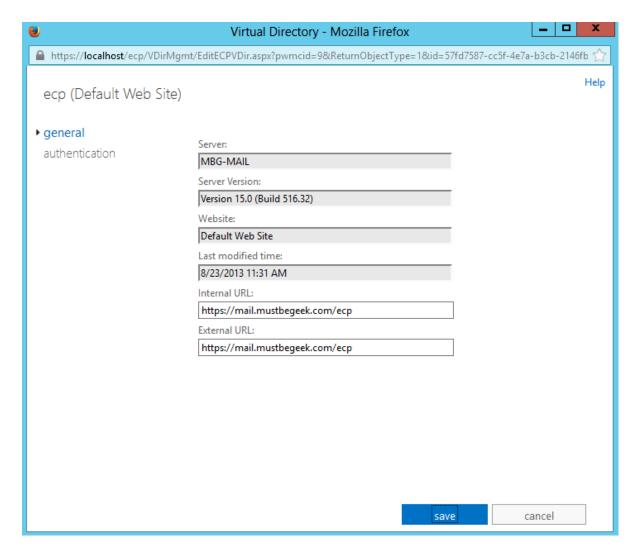
Outlook web access virtual directory is the directory that users access while logging into their mailboxes. Double-click owa (Default Web Site) and change the URLs.



Now users will need to type, https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa in their browser to access their mailboxes.

#### Step 2: Exchange Control Panel (ecp) or Exchange Admin Center

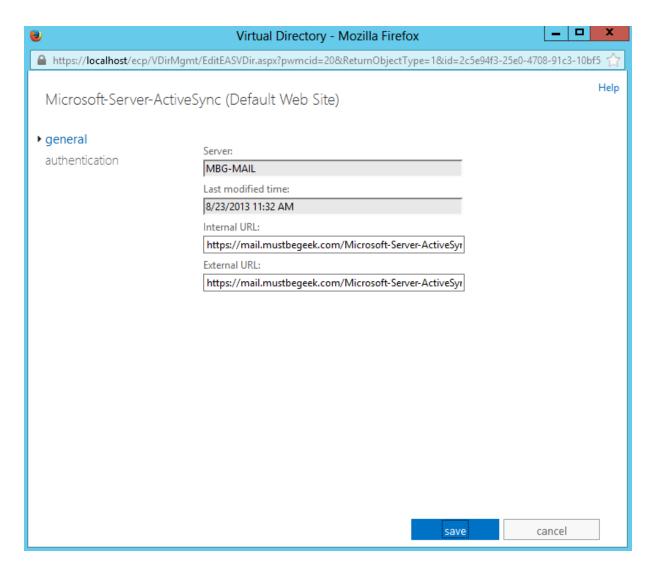
**ECP** virtual directory is accessed by administrators to configure the Exchange server. Double-click **ecp** (**Default Web Site**) and configure the URLs.



Now administrator needs to browse https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp to log in Exchange Admin Center.

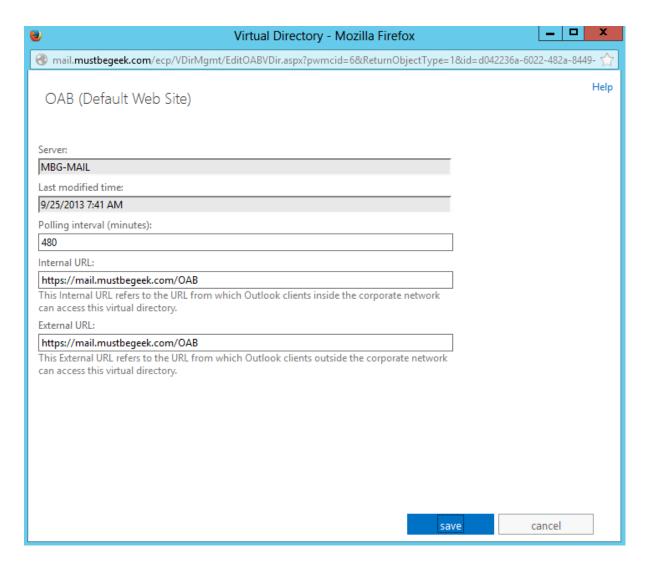
## Step 3: ActiveSync

Exchange ActiveSync is used by mobile clients and devices to synchronize mails, contacts, calendar, etc. Double-click Microsoft-Server-ActiveSync (Default Web Site) and configure the URLs.



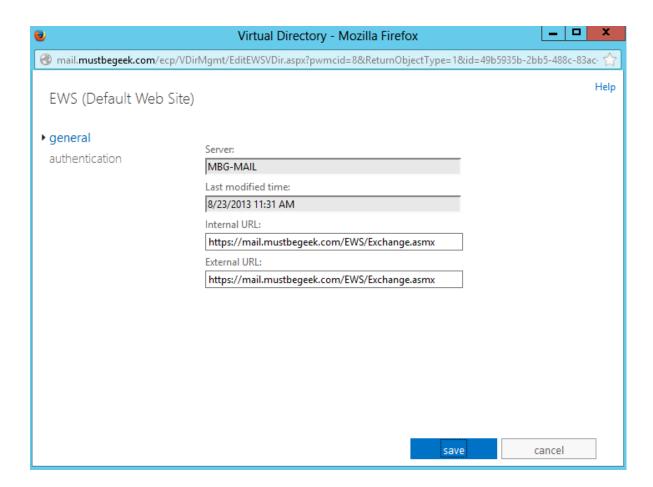
Step 4: Offline Address Book (OAB)

**OAB** virtual directory is used to distribute offline address book for mailbox users. The address book is distributed to user's office outlook application so that users can use the address book even when they are not connected to the Exchange server. Double-click OAB (Default Web Site) and configure the internal and external URLs.



**Step 5: Exchange Web Services (EWS)** 

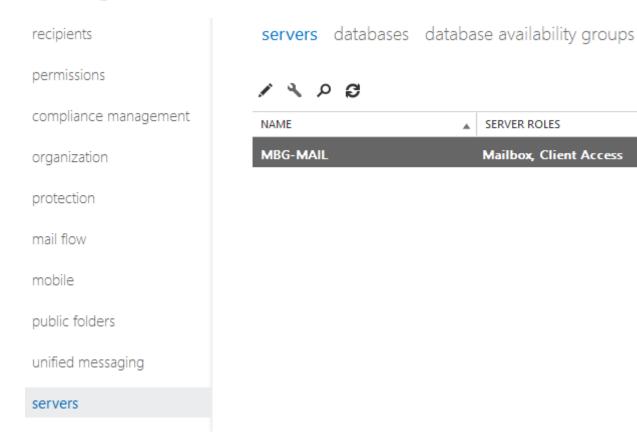
Exchange Web Services allows for calender sharing and other various options provided by Exchange. To configure URLs, double-click EWS (Default Web Site).



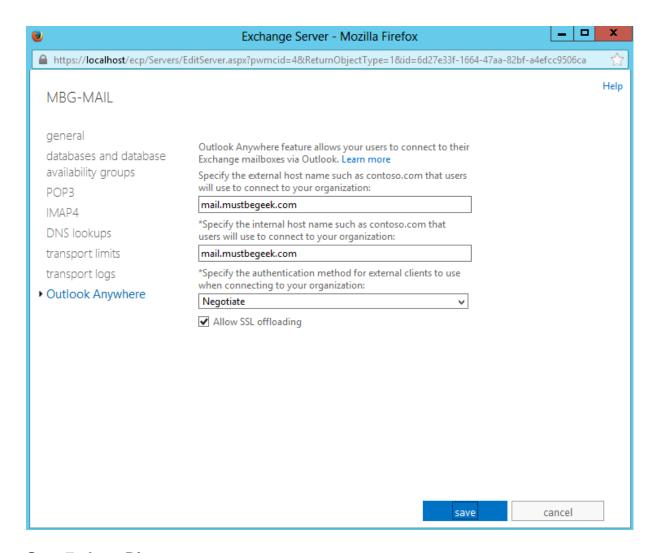
**Step 6: Outlook Anywhere** 

Outlook Anywhere feature lets users out on the Internet to send and receive Exchange emails without requiring a VPN connection to the company network. Office outlook 2007. 2010 and 2013 is used to connect to Exchange server from the Internet. Click **servers** tab. Double-click the server and select outlook **anywhere** tab.

# Exchange admin center



Now configure the URLs as shown below and click save.



#### **Step 7: Auto Discover**

AutoDiscover feature in Exchange 2013 let's client application such as Office Outlook 2007, 2010 and 2013 to connect to Exchange server automatically. AutoDiscover feature automatically discovers the mailbox settings for user profile in Office Outlook application. AutoDiscover also works for supported mobile applications. In Exchange 2013, you must configure URLs for **AutoDiscover** service via Exchange Management Shell. The command below will configure the URL for **AutoDiscover** service.

[PS] c:\windows\system32>Set-ClientAccessServer -Identity MBG-MAIL AutoDiscoverServiceInternalUri
https://autodiscover.mustbegeek.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml

To view the changes type following command in Exchange Management Shell.

[PS] c:\windows\system32>Get-ClientAccessServer | FL AutoDiscoverServiceInternalUriÂ

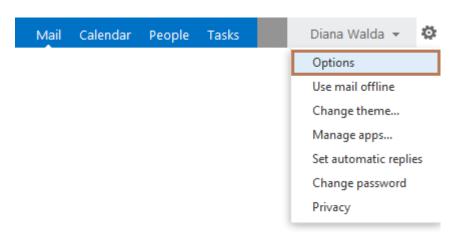
In this way you can configure internal and external URLs in Exchange 2013. Now you can **configure HTTP to HTTPS redirection** for accessing OWA by clients.

## Configure Email Forwarding in Exchange 2013 Outlook Web Access

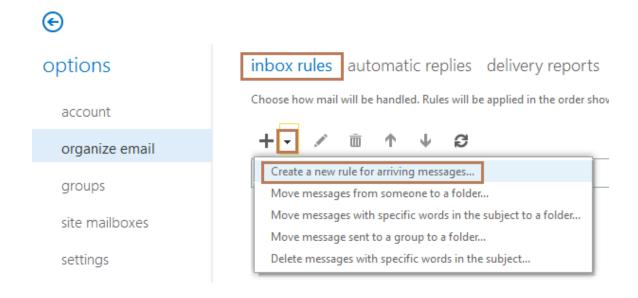
There are different ways to configure email forwarding in Exchange 2013. In Exchange 2013 you can use EAC (Exchange Administration Center) or EMS (Exchange Management Shell) to configure email forwarding. You can also use email client like Office Outlook and Outlook Web Access (OWA)Â to forward emails. Here, I will show steps to configure email forwarding using Exchange 2013 Outlook Web Access console.

### Configure Email Forwarding in Exchange 2013 Outlook Web Access

Log in to the OWA console. Open settings of the mailbox by selecting the settings icon on top-right corner of the OWA page as shown below.



This will open up settings page. Click **Organize email** on the features pane. Then click **inbox rules** tab. Click down arrow and click create new rule for arriving messages option.

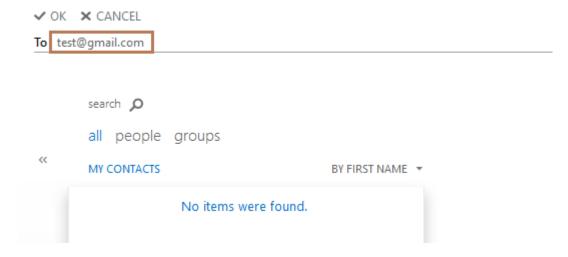


New page will pop which will let you configure inbox rule. Enter name of the rule. For option, when the message arrives and, choose [Apply to all messages]. Similarly, for option, do the following, choose forward the message to option.

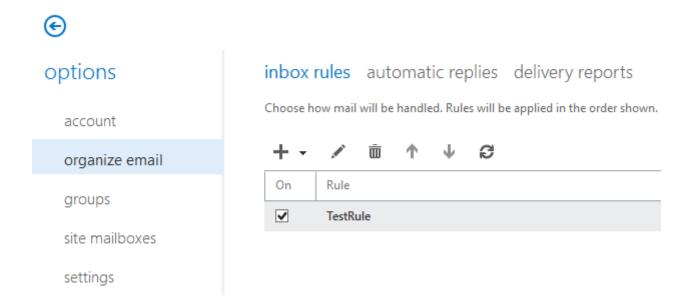
#### new inbox rule

Name:		
TestRule		
When the message arrives, and:		
[Apply to all messages]	▼	
Do the following:		
Redirect the message to	•	*Select people

Now click select people option. New window will open as shown bellow. Type the email address where you want the mails to be forwarded. Click **OK**. Click more to add exception rule.



You can now view the rule in inbox rule tab.



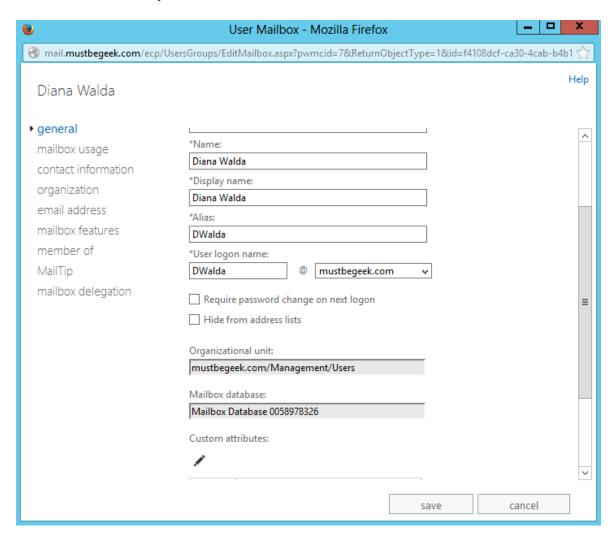
In this way you can configure email forwarding in Exchange 2013 OWA.

# Reset User Password in Exchange 2013

Configuring and changing password is one of the important tasks in securing an IT environment. At times, users do forget their passwords, or maybe the password is not strong enough, or the password is to be changed every month, so a password change is required by the user. Users can easily change password by themselves via OWA settings page. Or, Administrator can also reset user password from **EAC** console. So, you might find it difficult to reset user password in **Exchange 2013** using **EAC** console.

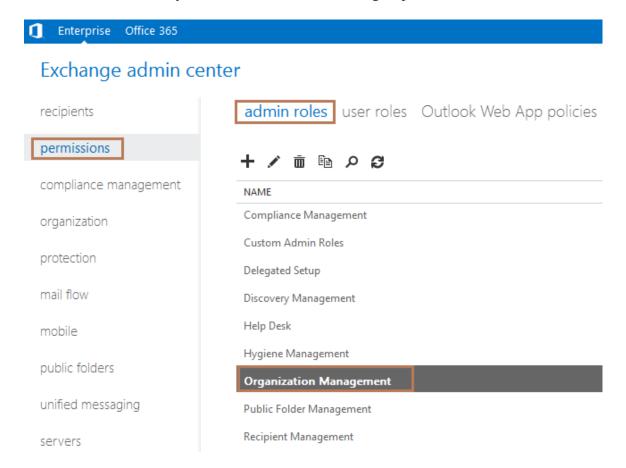
#### **Reset User Password in Exchange 2013**

In Exchange Server 2013, user mailbox password can be changed by user from the user's own **OWA (Outlook Web Access)** settings page or by an administrator from **EAC (Exchange Admin Center)**. Changing password from user's OWA setting is fairly easy. But if you want to reset password of particular user from **EAC** then you may not find the password reset option in the web console as you can see below.

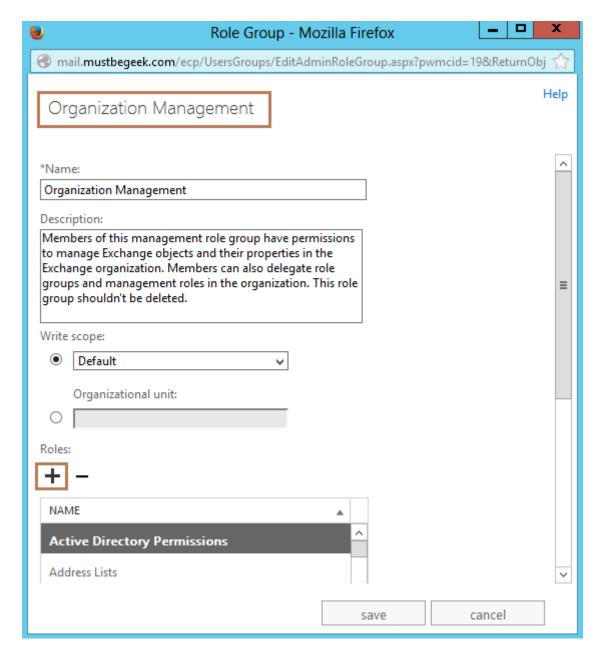


This is because default Administrator user don't have the permission to reset the password of the mailbox user account in default installation of Exchange 2013. Don't know why Microsoft didn't put this option by default. So we have to add the permission manually. To do so, open

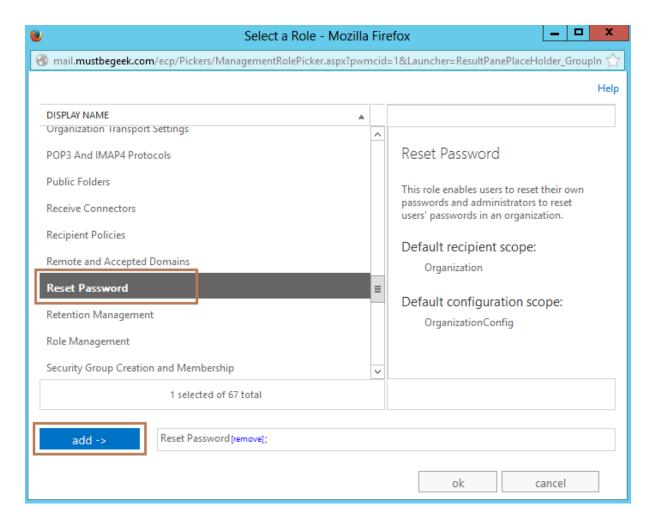
**EAC** and log in with **Administrator** user account. Click **permissions** in feature pane. Click **admin roles** tab. Here, you can see list of default role groups.



The Organization Management role group contains almost all the roles required except the reset password feature. By default, only Administrator is member of this group. So we need to add reset password role to the Organization Management role group. Now double-click Organization Management role group. You will see following page.



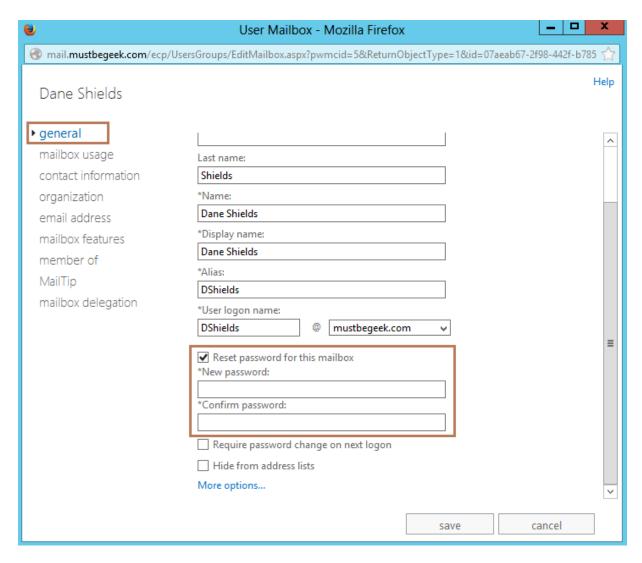
In the above page, click the **Add** button under **Roles**. A new page will pop up showing the list of all the roles available as seen below.



Select **Reset Password** role. You can see the description of this role in the right pane shown above. Click **add** button to add the role and then click **OK**. Now click **save** to save the settings. Log out from administrator user and log back in. If you are successful then read the **next paragraph**. But, if you get error, "You don't have access to create, change, or remove the "Reset Password-Organization Management" management role assignment. You must be assigned a delegating role assignment to the management role or its parent in the hierarchy without a scope restriction". Then type following commands in Exchange Management Shell to re-install the **RBAC** roles. After running the following commands exit EMS and open again. Similarly, log out and log in to EAC as well. Now try adding the reset password role to the role group Organization Management again.

- [PS] C:\Windows\system32> Add-pssnapin microsoft\*
- [PS] C:\Windows\system32> Install-CannedRbacRoles
- [PS] C:\Windows\system32> Install-CannedRbacRoleAssignments

Click the **recipients** feature pane. Click **mailboxes** tab. Double-click the mailbox to open the properties. You can now see reset password option in the **general** tab.



So this is how you give yourself privilege to reset the password of any user mailbox account in your Exchange environment.

# Setup Public Folders in Exchange Server 2013

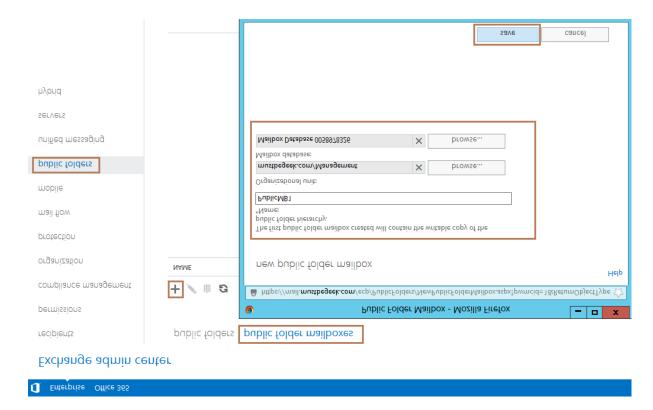
Server 2013. Unlike earlier versions of Exchange, Public Folders in Exchange 2013 are now stored in mailbox called **public folder mailbox**. Folder hierarchy and contents are stored in this public folder mailbox. This mailbox is stored in Exchange database where other mailboxes are also stored. The database that stores public folder mailbox can take part in **DAG** (**Database Availability Group**) and provide high availability for public folders. High availability of public folders in earlier versions of Exchange was a different story. But in Exchange 2013, it's nice and simple. But for now, public folders feature can be accessed by Office Outlook 2007 or later, no **OWA** (**Outlook Web Access**). You can also mail enable the public folder and send emails to public folder SMTP address. Public Folders have always been a collaboration tool in Exchange environment. In this post, I will show steps to setup public folders in Exchange Server 2013.

### **Setup Public Folders in Exchange Server 2013**

Two types of public folder mailboxes exists. First, **Primary hierarchy mailbox** – This is the first public folder mailbox created in Exchange organization and has only writable copy of folder hierarchy. After creating first public folder mailbox you can create public folders. Second, **Secondary hierarchy mailbox** – This public folder mailbox is created when primary public folder mailbox already exists and will contain read-only versions of public folder hierarchy. Folder hierarchy contains information like After creating secondary public folder mailbox, you can create public folders in secondary mailbox as well.

#### **Step 1: Create Public Folder Mailbox**

You can create and configure public folders with **EAC** or **EMS**. Here I will use EAC to setup public folders. At first, log on to EAC. Select **Public Folders** on the features pane. Then select **public folder mailboxes** tab. Cick '+' to add new public folder mailbox. New public folder page will pop up. Type the name for the mailbox. Browse and select OU and database.

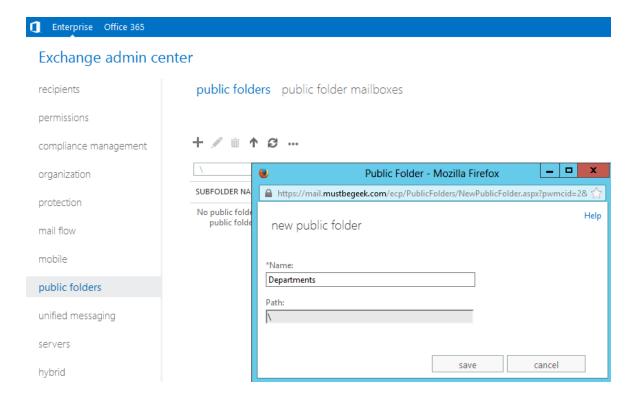


You can now see the mailbox is created with primary hierarchy. It is the only writable hierarchy. If you create other secondary public folder mailboxes, the hierarchy is read only.



**Step 2: Create Public Folders** 

After creating the public folder mailbox, you can now create some folders in it. Here, I will create a folder named **Departments**. Then I will create a sub folder named **Management** under **Departments** folder. To create a folder, select **public folders** tab in same page. Click '+' sign and type the name of the folder as shown below. Notice, the path is root.

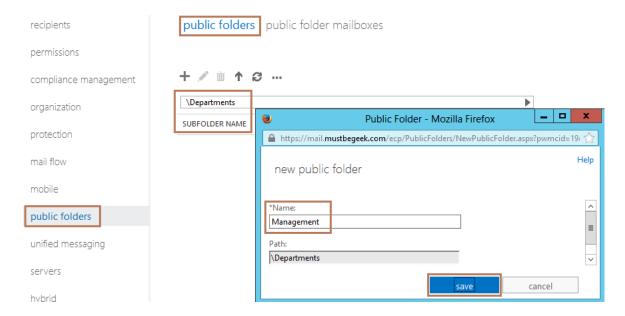


Now click the Departments link.

public folders public folder mailboxes



After clicking the link, you can see the path has changed. Now create sub folder. Click '+' sign and type the name for this sub folder. Then click **Save**.



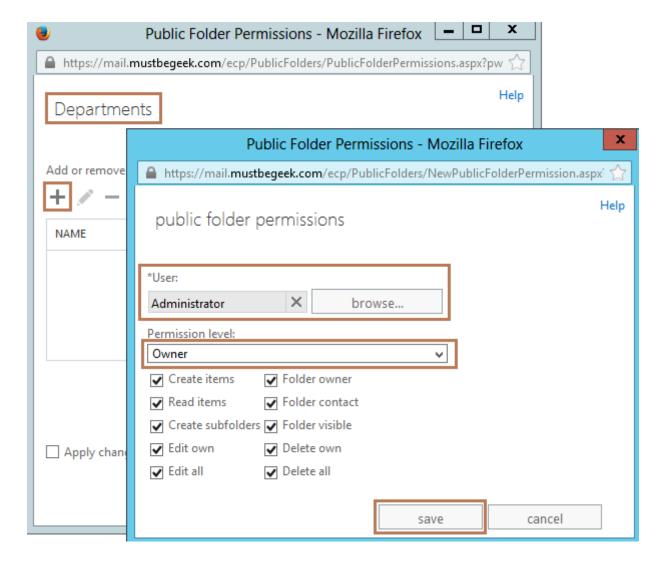
In this way you can create public folder mailboxes in Exchange 2013.

#### **Step 3: Assign Permissions to Public Folder**

You must assign permission to at least one user to manage public folder. Here, I will give permission to Administrator for Departments folder. The permission will inherit to its sub folders. To configure the permission, select the **Departments** folder in public folders tab. In the details pane, click **Manage** under folder permission.



Departments page will open. Click '+' sign to add the public folder permission. Public folder permissions page will open. Click browse to add user. Choose Administrator from the list. Choose the permission level to **owner**. Then click **save**.



Check **apply changes to this public folder and all its sub folders** option and click save again. Now Administrator is owner of this public folder. The administrator can now manage this folder.

You can use following PowerShell cmdlets to monitor Public Folders

Get-PublicFolderItemStatistics -Identity "\Departments\Management"
 Get-PublicFolderStatistics -Identity "\Departments\Management" | Format-List
 Get-PublicFolderMailboxDiagnostics -Identity "PublicMB1"
 Update-PublicFolderMailbox -Identity PublicMB1 -SuppressStatus

# Configure URL Redirection in Exchange 2013

After **installing** and **configuring** the **Exchange 2013** server, managing URLs is another important task. But first, you must **define various external and internal URLs** that will be used to access virtual directories of Exchange Server. IIS manager is used to configure URL redirection in Exchange 2013.

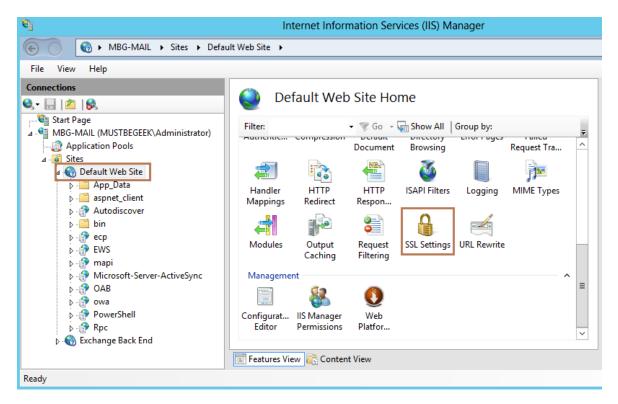
### **Configure URL Redirection in Exchange 2013**

Our Scenario: Redirect HTTP to HTTPS and Redirect domain mail.mustbegeek.com to OWA

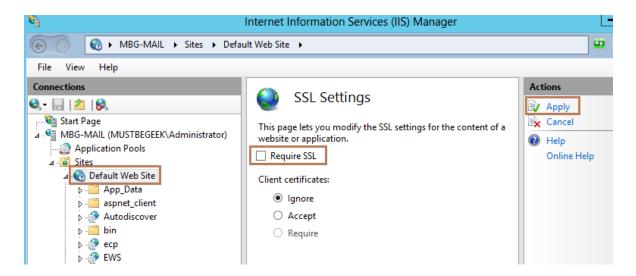
As I've talked in my **earlier article**, we want the domain **mail.mustbegeek.com** to be used by clients to access the Exchange web mail. Similarly, **https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp** will be used by admins to access the EAC console from outside. So we need to redirect the URL, **mail.mustbegeek.com** to **https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa**.

#### Step 1: Redirect HTTP to HTTPS

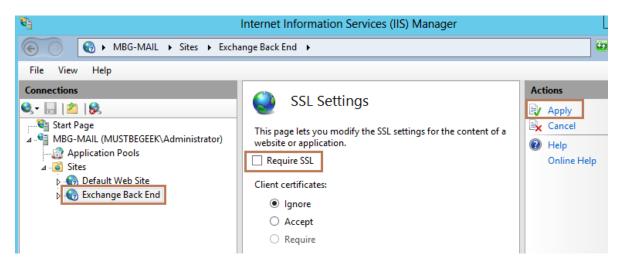
To redirect HTTP request to HTTPS follow these steps. Open IIS manager in Exchange server. Click **Default Web Site** on the left pane and double-click **SSL Settings** in features pane.



Now uncheck the **Require SSL** option and click **Apply** in the actions pane.

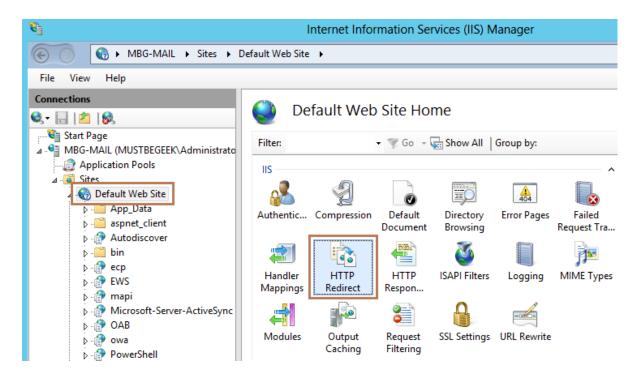


Repeat same steps for **Exchange Back End** website. Remove check mark from **Require SSL** option from **SSL settings**. Click **Apply** to save the settings.

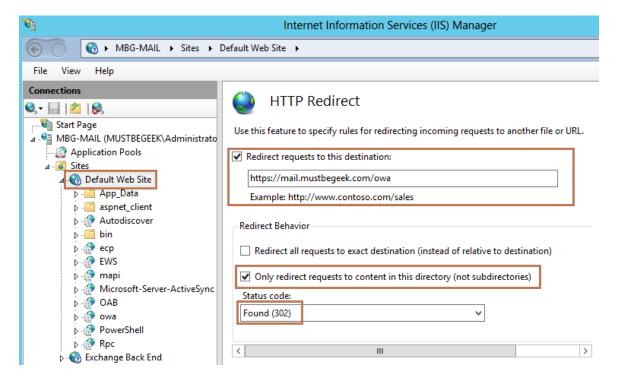


Step 2: Redirect Default Web Site to OWA

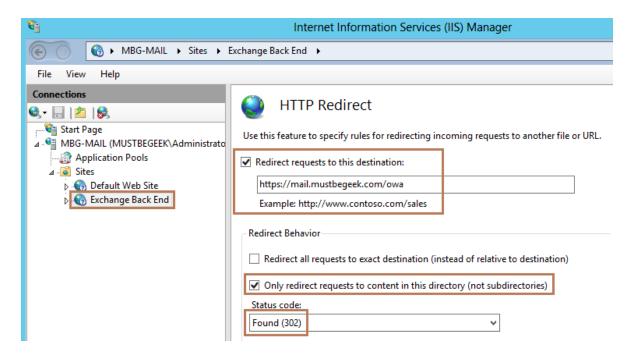
Follow these steps to redirect <a href="http://mail.mustbegeek.com">http://mail.mustbegeek.com</a> to <a href="https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa">https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa</a>. We have already configure HTTP to HTTPS redirection. Now we need to configure redirection for requests that comes into Default Web Site to OWA virtual directory. In the IIS manager, click Default Web Site on the left pane. Double-click HTTP Redirect feature in features pane.



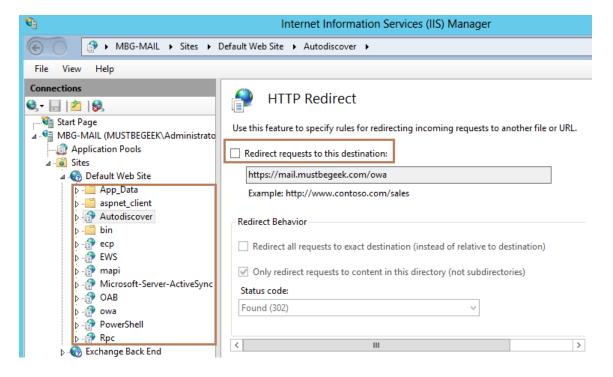
Now check the option, Redirect requests to this destination. Type full path of the URL, i.e. https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa. In the Redirect Behavior option, check the option – Only redirect requests to content in this directory (not subdirectories). Under status code, choose Found (302). Click Apply to save the settings.



Repeat the same steps for **Exchange Back End** website as well. Select Exchange Back End website. Double-click HTTP Redirect option in the features pane. Then configure the following settings as shown below.



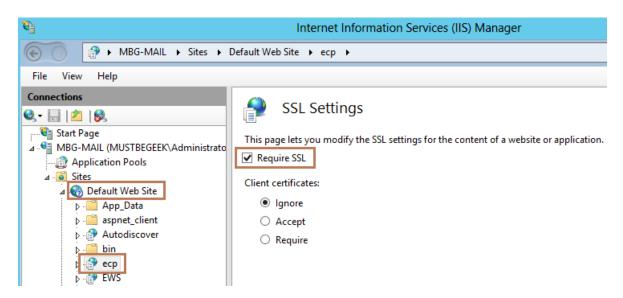
Now remove the HTTP redirect option from sub folders of both websites. We really don't want to redirect sub folders to /owa directory. We only want the default web URL mail.mustbegeek.com to be redirected to https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa. So uncheck the HTTP Redirect option from all the sub directories of both websites i.e. Default Web Site and Exchange Back End.



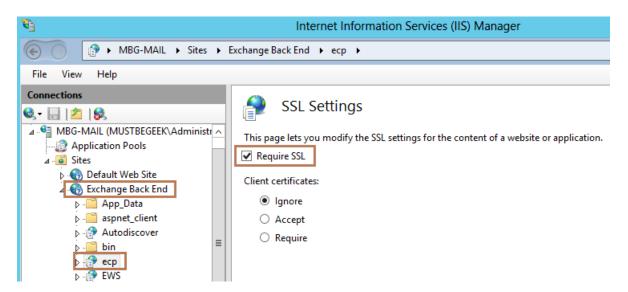
**Step 3: Configure ECP Sub Folder** 

To access the EAC from outside, **ecp** sub directory of the **Default Web Site** and **Exchange Back End** web site will be used. So let's configure **ecp** sub directory. We should only allow SSL connection to this virtual directory so SSL option must be configured first. This means that you must type *https://domain.com/ecp* in the browser to login to EAC console. Expand default

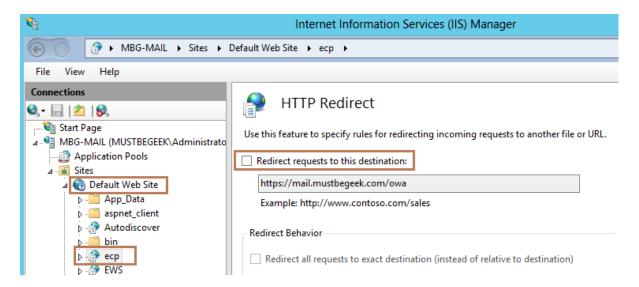
web site and select **ecp** virtual directory. Double click **SSL Settings** from the features pane. **Check** Require SSL option. Click **Apply** to save the settings. So now if you try to access http://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp then you might get *access denied* error. You must use https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp URL to successfully log into EAC console.



Repeat the same steps for Exchange Back End web site.



Now make sure that you don't have any Redirection option enabled on ecp virtual directory for both web sites. As this step is already done in step 2 of this post.



Now restart the IIS server by typing **iisreset** /noforce in the command prompt. You can now access the OWA by typing the URL, mail.mustbegeek.com in the browser which will redirect you to https://mail.mustbegeek.com/owa. Similarly, you can access EAC by typing URL, https://mail.mustbegeek.com/ecp in the browser.