Exercise: Checking a Domain's Mail Server with nslookup

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

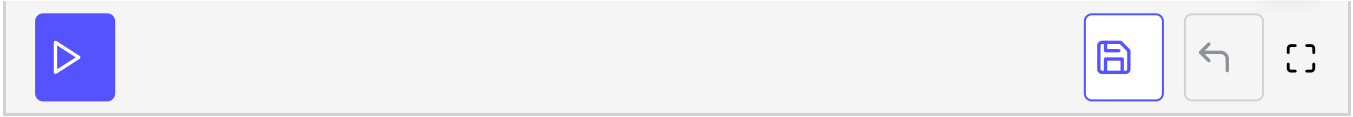
WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING

`nslookup`

`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

```
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.

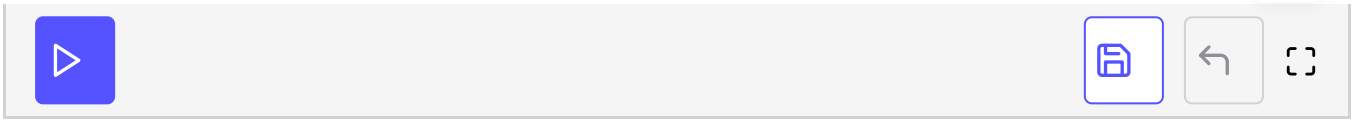
There is a lot more that `nslookup` can be used for. Here's the manpage for `nslookup` if you want to learn more.

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

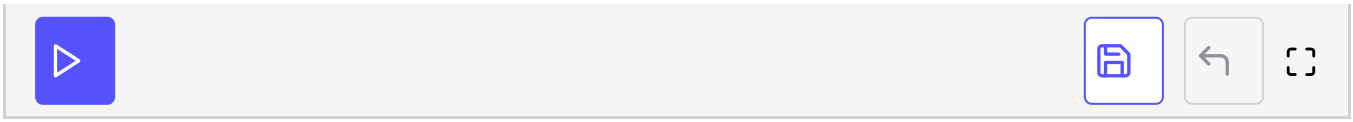
```
nslookup -type=mx gmail.com
```



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

Yahoo!

```
nslookup -type=mx mail.yahoo.com
```



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