

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 ^

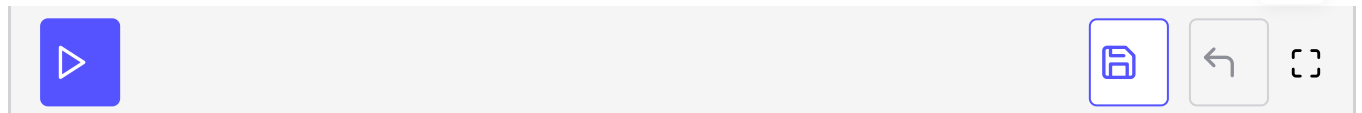
- **nslookup**
 - Outlook
 - Gmail
 - Yahoo!

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

```
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
```

A terminal window with a dark background. The command 'nslookup -type=mx gmail.com' is entered. Below the command bar is a light gray area with a blue play button on the left and three icons on the right: a blue square with a white floppy disk, a gray square with a white left arrow, and a gray square with a white dashed border.

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

Yahoo!

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

A terminal window with a dark background. The command 'nslookup -type=mx mail.yahoo.com' is entered. Below the command bar is a light gray area with a blue play button on the left and three icons on the right: a blue square with a white floppy disk, a gray square with a white left arrow, and a gray square with a white dashed border.

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