

Working With Linux e-Mail – Getting Started

This lesson is meant to give you an overview of Linux email systems and what is available on the Linux server. This covers the topics required by Linux exam 102 and is required knowledge for any Linux systems engineer.

Available MTA programs (Mail Transfer Agents)

- Sendmail
- qMail
- Postfix
- Exim

SMTP – Simple Mail Protocol

POP -

Open relay configuration on your mail server will allow anybody to send mail through your server without authentication. Spammers will identify this in a matter of hours of your server becoming live and you will be black listed. Most MTA's no longer have this option on as default as the sendmail MTA did.

Mail Spools

/var/mail/spool holds mail for users

/var/mail/spool/root holds mail for root user.

Create e-mail aliases

Configure e-mail forwarding

~/forward - Put in the server name, username, or email address that you would like the mail from the account forwarded to. This is located inside of the users home directory.

newaliases - Use this command when your done editing the /etc/aliases file. It will compile the aliases file into a binary for the mail server to read more efficiently.

mailq - Mail is first sent and stored inside of the mail queue. The Mail queue will attempt to send the mail and if unsuccessful it will hold onto it and try again after a set amount of time. **Mailq** program will show you all the mail messages waiting to be sent in your mail queue. **Sendmail -q/postqueue/runq (depending on your mail system)** command on the command line will attempt to tell the mail server to retry sending all the mail messages in the mail queue.

sendmail emulation layer commands - Is a postfix interface to sendmail commands purely for the sake of compatibility between programs.

- **Mailq**
- **Newaliases**

mail – A basic command line utility installed on almost all Linux distributions which allows you to send mail from the command line. Best used for systems scripts that need to mail information and notices.

Send email from the command line

`mail [-v] [-s subject] [c cc-address] [-b bcc-address] to-address`

example: `mail -s "this is the subject" Anthony@linuxacademy.com`

*This will cause standard input to appear. Once your done typing the body of the email you hit **ctrl+d** to end and send.*

Example: `mail -s "this is the subject" < /tmp/body.txt Anthony@linuxacademy.com`

This example will use the text inside of body.txt to create the body of the email. This is the format or method you will use when using the mail command inside of scripts.

Read email from the command line

`mail [-f name (or)] -u username`

- `f` is the name of the mail spool file in `/var/log`
- `u` is the username of the user you want to read the mail for.
- Type number of mail to read the message
- Type **d** to delete the message after you open it for reading
- Type **r** to reply to the message after you open it for reading.