How to Test SMTP AUTH using Telnet

Below are instructions on how to test SMTP () AUTH against a mail server using Telnet and entering the commands by hand.

The first thing you need to do is get a base64 encoding of your username and password. There are a couple ways to do this, the example below uses Perl ():

```
1  perl -MMIME::Base64 -e 'print encode_base64("username");'
2  perl -MMIME::Base64 -e 'print encode_base64("password");'
```

What will be returned from each command is a base64 encoding of the username and password; save these as you will need them later. Now connect to the mail server using Telnet:

```
1  telnet mailserver.com 25
```

Greet the mail server:

```
1  EHLO mailserver.com
```

Tell the server you want to authenticate with it:

```
1  AUTH LOGIN
```

The server should have returned `334 VXNlcm5hbWU6;` this is a base64 encoded string asking you for your username, paste the base64 encoded username you created earlier, example:

```
1  dXNlcm5hbWUuY29t
```

Now the server should have returned `334 UGFzc3dvcmQ6;` . Again this is a base64 encoded string now asking for your password, paste the base64 encoded password you created, example:

```
1  bXlwYXNzd29yZA==
```

Now you should have received a message telling you that you successfully authenticated. If it failed your user/pass may have been wrong or your mailserver is broken.

Below is a log of a real successful SMTP () AUTH connection over Telnet:

```
1   user@localhost [~]# telnet exampledomain.com 25
2   Trying 1.1.1.1...
3   Connected to exampledomain.com (1.1.1.1).
4   Escape character is '^]'.
5   220-server1.exampledomain.com ESMTP Exim 4.66 #1 Wed, 09 May 2007 23:55:12 +0200
6   220-We do not authorize the use of this system to transport unsolicited,
7   220 and/or bulk e-mail.
8   EHLO exampledomain.com
9   250-server1.exampledomain.com Hello  [1.1.1.2]
10  250-SIZE 52428800
11  250-PIPELINING
12  250-AUTH PLAIN LOGIN
13  250-STARTTLS
14  250 HELP
15  AUTH LOGIN
16  334 VXNlcm5hbWU6
17  dXNlcm5hbWUuY29t
18  334 UGFzc3dvcmQ6
19  bXlwYXNzd29yZA==
20
21  235 Authentication succeeded
```

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