SMTP Implementation in IBM Sterling B2B Integrator

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Introduction to SMTP

SMTP - Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, is an application layer protocol used for sending e-mail over the Internet. Email is emerging as one of the most valuable service in internet today. Most of the internet systems use SMTP as a method to transfer mail from one user to another.

The email server responsible for sending emails is called the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) server. One SMTP server can pass on the mail to another SMTP server and relay it to the destination through several hops. Each domain name represents a unique Web address, called an Internet protocol (IP) address.

The client who wants to send the mail opens a TCP connection to the SMTP server and then sends the mail across the connection. The SMTP server is always on listening mode. As soon as it listens for a TCP connection from any client, the SMTP process initiates a connection on that port. After successfully establishing the TCP connection the client process sends the mail instantly.

SMTP communication between mail servers uses TCP port 25. Mail clients on the other hand, often submit the outgoing emails to a mail server on port 587 or 465.

SMTP connections are secured by TLS/SSL, can be made using STARTTLS

What are POP and IMAP protocols

POP3

POP3 stands for Post Office Protocol3. It is used to retrieve email messages from a mail server to a mail client. The latest version, which is what's widely used, is version 3 - hence the term "POP3".

The POP3 protocol is simple and does not offer many features except for download. It's design assumes that the email client downloads all available email from the server, deletes them from the server and then disconnects. POP3 normally uses port 110(or 995 for SSL/TLS connections).

In a nut shell, the POP3 client retrieves email in the following manner:

- 1. Connects to the mail server on port 110 (or 995 for SSL/TLS connections)
- 2.Retrieves email messages
- 3.Deletes copies of the messages stored on the server and
- 4.Disconnects from the server

IMAP

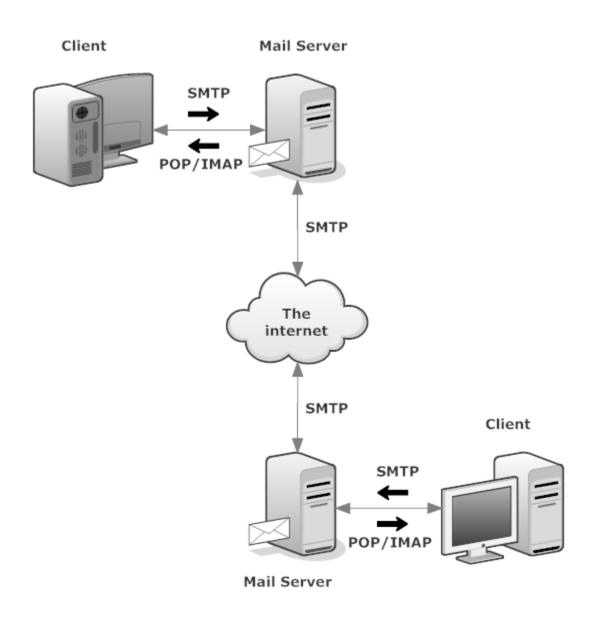
IMAP stands for Internet Message Access Protocol. It is a more sophisticated protocol. It too, is a protocol that an email client can use to download email from an email server. However, IMAP includes many more features than POP3. The IMAP protocol is designed to let users keep their email on the server. It's also equipped with message flags that indicate whether a message has been read, deleted, or replied to. It even allows users to carry out searches against the server mailboxes.

IMAP requires more disk space on the server and more CPU resources than POP3, as all emails are stored on the server. IMAP normally uses port 143.

Here's how IMAP works in a nutshell:

- 1. Connects to the mail server on port 143 (or 993 for SSL/TLS connections).
- 2. Retrieves email messages.
- 3. Stays connected until the mail client is closed and downloads messages on demand.
- 4. Messages will remain on the server.

Pictorial view of how SMTP, POP3 and IMAP protocols are used.



Services/Adapters used in Sterling B2B Integrator to connect to mail servers

1. SMTP Send Adapter

The SBI SMTP Send adapter is used to send documents to any valid email address by using an accessible mail server (usually of the trading partner that is running Sterling B2B Integrator).

The back-end mail server system examines the document and does further processing, including the actual sending of the email.

From the business perspective this adapter is commonly used to send email notification about documents that have been sent or processed or need some action from the recipient.

2. B2B Mail Client Adapter

The SBI B2B Mail client adapter is used to collect mail from an RFC 1725-compliant mail server using the POP3 protocol or an RFC 2060-compliant mail server using the IMAP protocol. Locate an appropriate business process or contract and start a business process with the data appended.

From the business perspective, it polls the mail host at a specific interval to retrieve any mail in the mailbox. If there is no mail, the adapter tries again at the next interval.

It requires an RFC 821-compliant mail server and a mail server that supports POP3 or IMAP. The Mail server should be configured to mark mail as SEEN, ANSWERED, NEW, or DELETED when they are requested from B2B Mail Client adapter.

Configuring an SMTP Send Adapter

- 1. To create SMTP send Adapter, go to Deployment -> services configuration. Select SMTP send adapter as the service type and create new adapter.
- 2. The most important parameters are "Default SMTP server" which is the mail server host, "Default SMTP server port" which is the port the mail server is running on.
- 3. If mail server is using an SSL connection, the "SSL" value has to be set to MUST and the respective certificate from mail server has to be obtained and checked in under CA section.
- 4. In the adapter CA section, the name of CA certificate checked in has to be chosen

SMTP Send Adapter

Service Settings	
Service Type	SMTP Send Adapter
Description	SMTP Send Adapter
System Name	SMTP_SEND_ADAPTER
Environment	ALL ASI Nodes
Group Name	None
Default SMTP Server	6
Default SMTP Server Port	25
SMTP Authentication required	No
User Name	None provided
Password	None provided
Connection Retries	3
Retry Interval(Sec)	5
Subject	None provided
Encoding Type	ASCII
Request for a delivery receipt notification	No
Request for a read notification	No
SSL	SSL_NONE
Cipher Strength	STRONG

5. The SMTP Send Adapter parameters can be set at the BP level by using assign statements as below, the values set at the BP level takes precedence over the values set at the adapter level.

```
<assign to="xport-smtp-auth">true</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-
mailBCC">Recipient@company1.com</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-
mailCC">Recipient2@company2.com</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-
mailfrom">sender@company1.com</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailhost">000.000.1.103</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailport">25</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailsubject">Test</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-
mailsubjectencoding">ASCII</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-
mailto">receiver@company2.com</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-notify-delivery">true</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-notify-read">true</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-retries">3</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-retryinterval">1</assign>
       <assign to="xport-tp-cakeycert-id">server:105e37:
f3be012345:-52e9</assign>
       <assign to="xport-tp-cipher">STRONG</assign>
       <assign to="xport-tp-keycert-id">server:218e57:
f3bd123456:-733b</assign>
       <assign to="xport-tp-ssloption">SSL_MUST</assign>
```

6. From V5.2.6 and higher, the security protocol version the SMTP Send adapter uses is defaulted in b2bMailsvs.properties to **TLS 1.2**. If your mail server uses TLS 1.0 or 1.1, you must update the value of the "mail. sslProtocol" property to set the proper TLS version. Otherwise, sending documents using SMTP will fail.

7. As of V5.2.4.2, Interim Fix 1, you can adjust the timeout properties for this service if you encounter hung threads. In the b2bMailsvs.properties file, you can adjust the following parameter values

 $mail.smtp.timeout = 30000 \ (default \ in \ milliseconds) - length \ of \ the \ socket \\ I/O \ timeout \\ mail.smtp.connectiontimeout = 30000 \ (default \ in \ milliseconds) - length \ of \\ the \ socket \ connection \ timeout \\$

Configuring B2B Mail Client Adapter

- 1. To create B2B Mail Client Adapter, go to Deployment -> services configuration. Select B2B mail client adapter as the service type and create new adapter.
- 2. The most important parameters are "Default Mail server" which is the mail server host, "Default Mail server port" which is the port the mail server is running on, "Default Message Access Protocol" the protocol POP3 or IMAP and URI where the username value is configured.
- 3. The URI must be the same name that is entered in the User Name field. We also have to set either a predefined contract or a business process. The URI name is then compared with the Userid (that matches a contract or business process). If a contract match is found, the business process ID is obtained from the contract and the adapter starts that business process. If a business process match is found, the adapter starts that business process.
- 4. You can configure multiple URIs when configuring the B2B Mail Client adapter for the first time. If you want to modify a URI, you need to change only the username and password of the URI.

5. If mail server is using an SSL connection, the "SSL" value should be set to MUST and the respective certificate from mail server must be obtained and checked in under CA section. In the adapter CA certificates field, the name of CA certificate checked in should be chosen

BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT

Service Settings	
Service Type	B2B Mail Client Adapter
Description	BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT
System Name	BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT
Group Name	None
Default Message Access Protocol	POP3
Default Mail Server	
Default Mail Server Port	995
User Name	jas1
Password	*****
Connection Retries	3
Retry Interval(Sec)	1
Max Messages per Session	1
Remove inbox mail messages	Yes
Ignore Errors During Processing Mails	No
Specify the path where you want any corrupted mail(s) to be dumped	None provided
Cipher Strength	STRONG
CA Certificates	Jassi_mail
SSL	SSL_MUST
URI	jas1 Business Process: CustomBP1 Send Raw Messages: No
Insert into Process Data	All mail header fields

Installing Surge Mail Server

1. Download it

surgemail_73e2_windows.exe

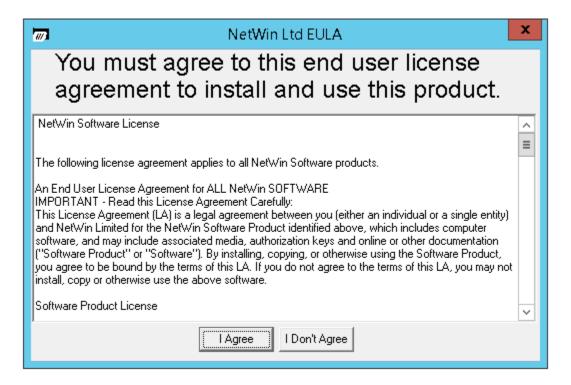
2. Double click on the .exe and the install window will appear



3. Choose install option



4. Click on "I agree" in the license agreement window



5. Chose the install location



6. Enter the domain name for the mail server.



7. Provide the IP address or host name of the machine where the surge mail server is being installed



8. Enter the user name and password which will be used to login to web portal





9. Provide the email address



10.As in the below screenshot enter the user name password and in the following window enter the password twice. Next proceed with default and click on install

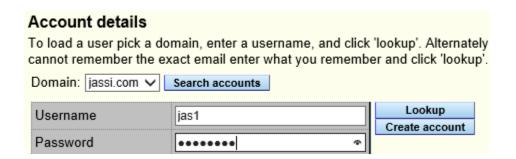


11. After the install completes, the surge mail web UI comes up and use the user name password that was used during the install.

12. This is how the Surge Mail web portal looks



- 13. User accounts can be created using the "Create User Account" option
- 14. Here i have created a user named "jas1" which will be used as the "to" address in the test cases.



Test Cases: Connecting to Surge Mail server from SBI

Test Case1 – Send email from SBI to Surge Mail server using SMTP Send Adapter (Non- SSL)

- 1. Firstly, collect the information like Host name, Port, Mail-To, username and password (if authentication is required) from the mail server side.
- 2. Create SMTP send adapter as shown below.

SMTP Send Adapter

Service Settings	
Service Type	SMTP Send Adapter
Description	SMTP Send Adapter
System Name	SMTP_SEND_ADAPTER
Environment	ALL ASI Nodes
Group Name	None
Default SMTP Server	97884774F
Default SMTP Server Port	25
SMTP Authentication required	No
User Name	None provided
Password	None provided
Connection Retries	3
Retry Interval(Sec)	5
Subject	None provided
Encoding Type	ASCII
Request for a delivery receipt notification	No
Request for a read notification	No
SSL	SSL_NONE
Cipher Strength	STRONG

Note: The Non- SSL port is 95.

3. Create a BP to use the SMTP send adapter to connect to mail server and send email. Below is the sample BP

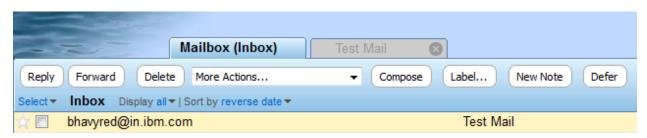
```
cprocess name="SMTP SEND BH">
  <sequence name="optional">
    <operation name="One">
      <participant name="SMTP SEND ADAPTER"/>
      <output message="Xout">
        <assign to="." from="*"></assign>
        <assign to="xport-smtp-mailhost">$\frac{1}{2}$
                                                      5</assign>
        <assign to="xport-smtp-mailport">25</assign>
        <assign to="xport-smtp-mailto">jas1@jassi.com</assign>
        <assign to="xport-smtp-mailfrom">bhavyred@in.ibm.com</assign>
                <assign to="xport-smtp-mailsubject">Test Mail</assign>
      </output>
      <input message="Xin">
        <assign to="." from="*"></assign>
      </input>
    </operation>
  </sequence>
</process>
```

- 4. Ensure the adapter is enabled and the Mail server is up
- 5. Execute the BP by passing a sample input file

Name: SMTP SEND BH Instance ID: 245084 User: admin

Completed Status: Success Advanced **Execution Status** Instance Step Service Status Status Started Ended Report Document 04/17/2018 04/17/2018 node1 [-] SMTP Send Adapter Success None None 🕕 info 1 info 5:38:36 PM 5:38:42 PM IST 04/17/2018 04/17/2018 node1 [-] INITIATING CONTEXT Success None None 1 info nfo 🕦 5:38:35 PM 5:38:35 PM from user 'admin' * Inline Invocation [-] Load Balanced, [p] Preferred Node, [m] Mandatory Node, [r] Execution Role

6. You can see the mail now in the inbox of jas1.



Test Case2 – Send email from SBI to Surge Mail server using SMTP Send Adapter(SSL)

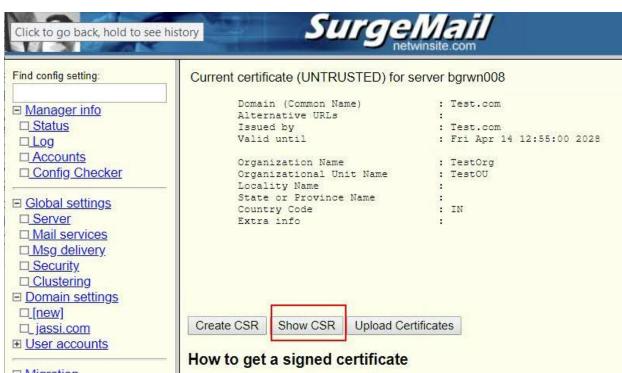
- 1. Firstly, collect the information like Host name, Port, Mail-To, username and password (if authentication is required), certificate (as it is SSL) from the mail server side.
- 2. Firstly, let us see how to fetch the certificate from the SurgeMail server.
- 3. Open the SurgeMail portal and as indicate click on Security -> SSL certificates -> configure -> Create CSR -> Show CSR

Follow the steps in the screenshot below







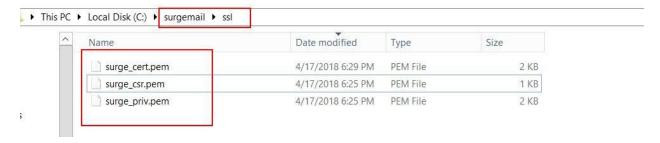




- 4. Copy this CSR and get it signed using a signing tool and save it in a folder on filesystem.
- 5. Upload the signed certificate in the Upload Signed Certificate section of SurgeMail server.



6. when cert is uploaded. this folder gets updated, this has the private key + CSR + final certificate (which will be shared with the client SBI)



7. Next, check in the root and the final mail cert into SBI dashboard under Trading partner -> Digital certificate-> CA, section



8. Once done, we are ready with the certificate, port, host name. Edit the already created SMTP send adapter and update the port as 465(SSL port), choose SSL must and choose the Final mail certificate that was checked in, in the previous step as the CA certificate.

SMTP Send Adapter

Service Settings		
Service Type	SMTP Send Adapter	
Description	SMTP Send Adapter	
System Name	SMTP_SEND_ADAPTER	
Environment	ALL ASI Nodes	
Group Name	None	
Default SMTP Server		
Default SMTP Server Port	465	
SMTP Authentication required	No	
User Name	None provided	
Password	None provided	
Connection Retries	3	
Retry Interval(Sec)	5	
Subject	Test SMTP SSL	
Encoding Type	ASCII	
Request for a delivery receipt notification	No	
Request for a read notification	No	
SSL	SSL_MUST	
CA Certificates	Jassi_mail	
Cipher Strength	STRONG	

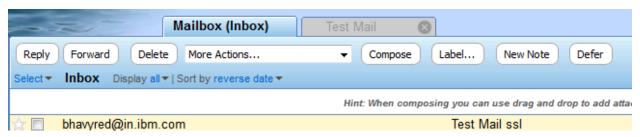
9. Create a sample BP like below

```
cprocess name="SMTP SEND BH">
  <sequence name="optional">
   <operation name="One">
     <participant name="SMTP SEND ADAPTER"/>
     <output message="Xout">
       <assign to="." from="*"></assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailhost">....</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailport">465</assign>
       <assign to="xport-smtp-mailto">jas1@jassi.com</assign>
        <assign to="xport-smtp-mailfrom">bhavyred@in.ibm.com</assign>
               <assign to="xport-smtp-mailsubject">Test Mail ssl</assign>
     </output>
     <input message="Xin">
        <assign to="." from="*"></assign>
                                             </input>
    </operation>
  </sequence>
</process>
```

10.Execute the BP by passing a sample file



11.In the Jas1 inbox we will able to see a mail with subject "Test Mail SSL"



Test Case3 – Fetch email from Surge Mail server using B2B Mail Client Adapter in SBI (Non- SSL)

- 1. Firstly, collect the information like Host name, Port, username and password (if authentication is required), protocol used for fetching mail from the mail server side.
- 2. Create a Non- SSL B2B Mail Client Adapter with name BH_MAIL_CLIENT_ADAPTER as shown below

Group Name	None
Default Message Access Protocol	POP3
Default Mail Server	0.100.111.100
Default Mail Server Port	110
User Name	jas1
Password	*****
Connection Retries	3
Retry Interval(Sec)	1
Max Messages per Session	1
Remove inbox mail messages	Yes
Ignore Errors During Processing Mails	No
Specify the path where you want any corrupted mail(s) to be dumped	None provided
SSL	SSL_NONE
Cipher Strength	STRONG
URI	jas1 Business Process: CustomBP1 Send Raw Messages: No

3. Create a sample BP to connect to mail server and fetch email.

4. Execute the BP, in the document info of the sub BP we can see the email.

Name: BH MAIL CLIENT ADAPTER Instance ID: 245169 Status: Success State: Completed User: admin

Deadline: None Contract ID: None

Action: Restart ▼ Go!

Steps 1-2 of 2

Advanced					Execution Status			Instance	
Step	Service	Status	Status	Started	Fnded	Node	Report	Document	Data
0	INITIATING_CONTEXT from user 'admin'	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	node1 [-]	None	None	None
1	BH B2B MAILCLIENT Subprocess 245170	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	node1[]	1 info	None	None

Sub-Process Detail

Name: MailProcessingService Instance ID: 245170 Status: Success State: Completed User: admin

Deadline: None Contract ID: None

Parent Business Process:

Name: BH MAIL CLIENT ADAPTER Instance ID: 245169

Steps 1-6 of 6

			Advanced			Execution	Status		Instance
Step	Service	Status	Status	Started	Ended	Node	Report	Document	Data
0	INITIATING_CONTEXT	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
1	Assign Service	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:21 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
2	Decision Engine Service	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
3	Mail Processing Service	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	node1 [-]	1 info	1 info	1 info
4	Assign Service	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
5	Decision Engine Service	Success		04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	04/17/2018 6:22:22 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info

Service Name: INITIATING_CONTEXT

Document Name: None provided Document Store: Database

Document ID: 439383162d39f0bb8node1

Document in process data:

```
X-Default-Received-SPF: pass (skip=forwardok (res=PASS)) x-ip-name=127.0.0.1;
Received: from bgrwn008 (unverified [127.0.0.1])
       by jassi.com (SurgeMail 7.3e2) with ESMTP id 8-2000100
        for <jas1@jassi.com>; Tue, 17 Apr 2018 18:17:42 +0530
Return-Path: <jas2@jassi.com>
From: jas2@jassi.com
To: <jas1@jassi.com>
Subject: Test111
Date: Tue, 17 Apr 2018 18:17:42 +0530
Message-ID: <5ad5ecee.58c.1038.5ec@jassi.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
X-Originating-IP: 127.0.0.1
X-Mailer: SurgeWeb - Ajax Webmail Client
X-Authenticated-User: jas2@jassi.com
X-Rcpt-To: <jas1@jassi.com>
X-Info: aspam skipped due to (g_smite_skip_relay)
X-MyRbl: Color=White (from rbl) ip=127.0.0.1
X-IP-stats: No info recorded yet ip=127.0.0.1
Status: U
X-UIDL: 4
1111111111111111111111111
```

Test Case4 – Fetch email from Surge Mail server using B2B Mail Client Adapter in SBI(SSL)

1. Firstly, collect the information like Host name, Port, username and password (if authentication is required), protocol used for fetching mail and certificate from the mail server side.

Note: Same certificate which we used for SMTP SSL can be used.

2. Edit the NON- SSL B2b mail client adapter, change the port to 995, SSL to SSL_MUST, choose the CA certificate as shown below

BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT

Service Settings

Service Settings	
Service Type	B2B Mail Client Adapter
Description	BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT
System Name	BH_B2B_MAILCLIENT
Q⊐pup Name	None
Default Message Access Protocol	POP3
Default Mail Server	0.100.111.100
Default Mail Server Port	995
User Name	jas1
Password	****
Connection Retries	3
Retry Interval(Sec)	1
Max Messages per Session	1
Remove inbox mail messages	Yes
Ignore Errors During Processing Mails	No
Specify the path where you want any corrupted mail(s) to be dumped	None provided
Cipher Strength	STRONG
CA Certificates	Jassi_mail
SSL	SSL_MUST
URI	jas1 Business Process: CustomBP1 Send Raw Messages: No
Insert into Process Data	All mail header fields

3. Create a sample BP

4. Execute the BP, in the sub process document info we should be able to see the email. This is the main BP



This is the sub BP

Sub-Process Detail

Name: Deadline	MailProcessingService None	Instance ID: Contract ID:	245319 None	Status: Success	State: Completed	User: admin
Parent B Name:	Business Process: BH MAIL CLIENT ADAPTER	Instance ID:	245318			

Steps 1-6 of 6

			Advanced			Execution	Status		Instance
Step	Service	Status	Status	Started	Ended	Node	Report	Document	Data
0	INITIATING_CONTEXT	Success		04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
1	Assign Service	Success		04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
2	Decision Engine Service	Success	1	04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:14 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
3	Mail Processing Service	Success		04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	node1 [-]	1 info	1 info	1 info
4	Assign Service	Success		04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info
5	Decision Engine Service	Success		04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	04/17/2018 7:37:15 PM	node1 [-]	None	1 info	1 info

This is the document info, which contains the email

References

 $\frac{https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SS3JSW_5.2.0/com.i}{bm.help.svcs_adpts_m_z.doc/SMTP_Send_adapter.html}$

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SS3JSW_5.2.0/com.i bm.help.svcs_adpts_a_l.doc/B2B_Mail_Client_adapter.html

https://www.hmailserver.com/documentation/v4.2/?page=whatis_pop3i mapsmtp

https://techdifferences.com/difference-between-pop3-and-imap.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_Mail_Transfer_Protocol

https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/simple-mail-transfer-protocol-smtp/