

How to Install Postfix with Roundcube Webmail on Ubuntu and Debian

If you're unfamiliar with what it entails, it's quite simple. For example, if you have a website like **"example.com"**, you can create an email account such as **"username@example.com"**, this enables you to send and receive emails easily without relying on services like Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, etc.

In this article, we'll learn how to do so by installing the **Postfix** mail server with the **"Roundcube"** webmail application and its dependencies on Debian and Ubuntu distribution.

Step 1: Set a Hostname and DNS Records for Domain

1. First, set a valid **FQDN (Fully Qualified Domain Name)** hostname for your Ubuntu server using the [hostnamectl command](#) as shown.

```
sudo hostnamectl set-hostname mail.tecmint.com
```

2. Next, you need to add a MX and A records for your domain in your DNS control panel that guides other MTAs that your mail server mail.yourdomain.com domain is responsible for email delivery.

MX record @ mail.tecmint.com

mail.tecmint.com <IP-address>

Step 2: Installing Apache, MariaDB, and PHP on Ubuntu

3. To create a running mail server using **"Roundcube"**, we'll have to install **Apache2, MariaDB,** and **PHP** packages first, to do so, run.

```
sudo apt update -y
```

```
sudo apt upgrade -y
```

```
sudo apt install apache2 apache2-utils mariadb-server mariadb-client php libapache2-mod-php php-mysql php-net-ldap2 php-net-ldap3 php-imagick php-common php-gd php-imap php-json php-curl php-zip php-xml php-mbstring php-bz2 php-intl php-gmp php-net-smtp php-mail-mime mailutils
```

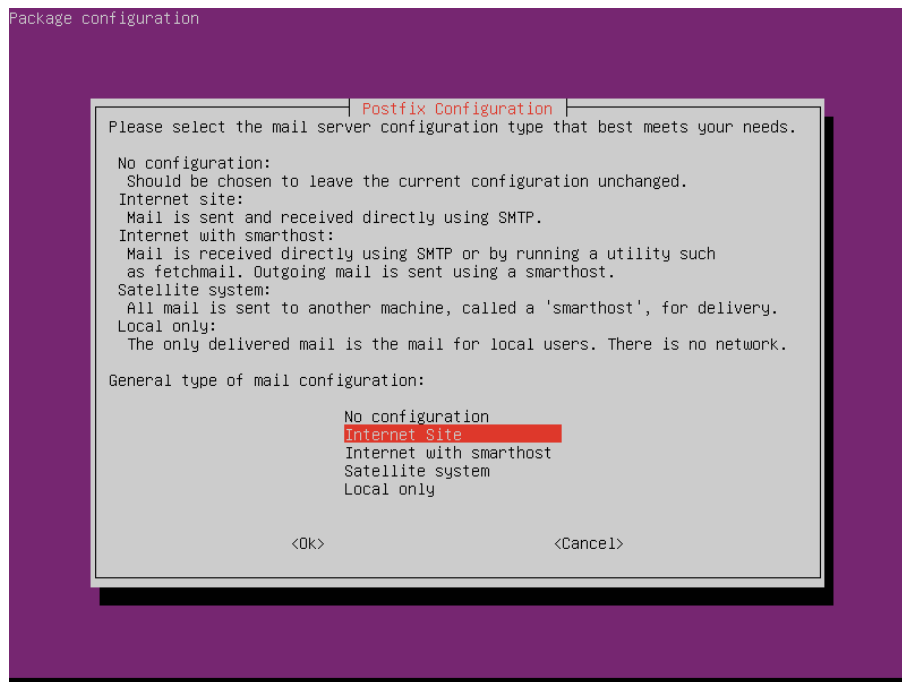
Step 3: Installing Postfix Mail Server on Ubuntu

4. Postfix is a mail transfer agent (**MTA**) which is the responsible software for delivering & receiving emails, it's essential in order to create a complete mail server.

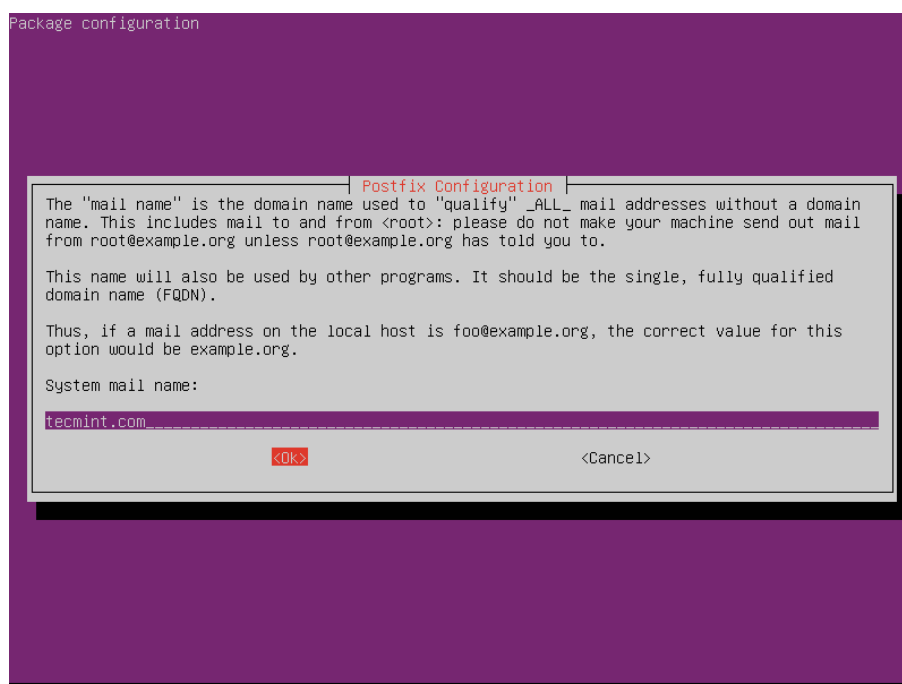
To install it on Ubuntu/Debian or even Mint, run:

```
sudo apt install postfix
```

During installation, you will be asked to choose the type of mail configuration, and choose **"Internet Site"**.



5. Now enter the fully qualified domain name that you want to use for sending and receiving emails.



6. Once Postfix is installed, it will automatically start and create a new **/etc/postfix/main.cf** file. You can verify the Postfix status of the service using the following commands.

```
sudo systemctl status postfix
```

Step 4: Testing Postfix Mail Server on Ubuntu

7. Now try to check your mail server is connecting on port 25 using the following command.

```
$ telnet gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com 25
```

Trying 74.125.200.27...

Connected to gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.

Escape character is '^['.

220 mx.google.com ESMTP k12si849250plk.430 - gsmtip

The above message indicates that the connection is successfully established. Type **quit** to close the connection.

8. You can also use a **mail** program to send and read emails using the following command.

```
$ mail username@gmail.com
```

Cc:

Subject: Testing My Postfix Mail Server

I'm sending this email using the postfix mail server from Ubuntu machine

Step 5: Installing Dovecot IMAP and POP in Ubuntu

9. Dovecot is a mail delivery agent (**MDA**), it delivers the emails from/to the mail server, to install it, run the following command.

```
sudo apt install dovecot-imapd dovecot-pop3d
```

10. Next, restart the Dovecot service and verify the status using the following commands.

```
sudo systemctl restart dovecot
```

```
sudo systemctl status dovecot
```

Step 6: Installing Roundcube Webmail in Ubuntu

11. Roundcube is the webmail server that you'll be using to manage emails on your server, it has a simple web interface to do the job, it can be customized by installing more modules & themes.

```
wget https://github.com/roundcube/roundcubemail/releases/download/1.6.6/roundcubemail-1.6.6-complete.tar.gz
```

```
tar -xvf roundcubemail-1.6.6-complete.tar.gz
```

```
sudo mv roundcubemail-1.6.6 /var/www/html/roundcubemail
```

```
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/html/roundcubemail/
```

```
sudo chmod 755 -R /var/www/html/roundcubemail/
```

12. Next, you need to create a new database and user for **roundcube** and grant all permission to a new user to write to the database.

```
$ sudo mysql -u root
```

```
CREATE DATABASE roundcube DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8 COLLATE utf8_general_ci;
```

```
CREATE USER roundcubeuser@localhost IDENTIFIED BY 'password';
```

```
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON roundcube.* TO roundcubeuser@localhost;
```

```
flush privileges;
```

```
quit;
```

13. Next, import the initial tables to the Roundcube database.

```
sudo mysql roundcube < /var/www/html/roundcubemail/SQL/mysql.initial.sql
```

Step 7: Create an Apache Virtual Host for Roundcube Webmail

14. Create an Apache virtual host for **Roundcube** webmail.

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/roundcube.conf
```

Add the following configuration to it.

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
```

```
    ServerName tecmint.com
```

```
    DocumentRoot /var/www/html/roundcubemail/
```

```
    ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/roundcube_error.log
```

```
    CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/roundcube_access.log combined
```

```
<Directory />
```

```
    Options FollowSymLinks
```

```
    AllowOverride All
```

```
</Directory>
```

```
<Directory /var/www/html/roundcubemail/>
```

```
    Options FollowSymLinks MultiViews
```

```
    AllowOverride All
```

Order allow,deny

allow from all

</Directory>

</VirtualHost>

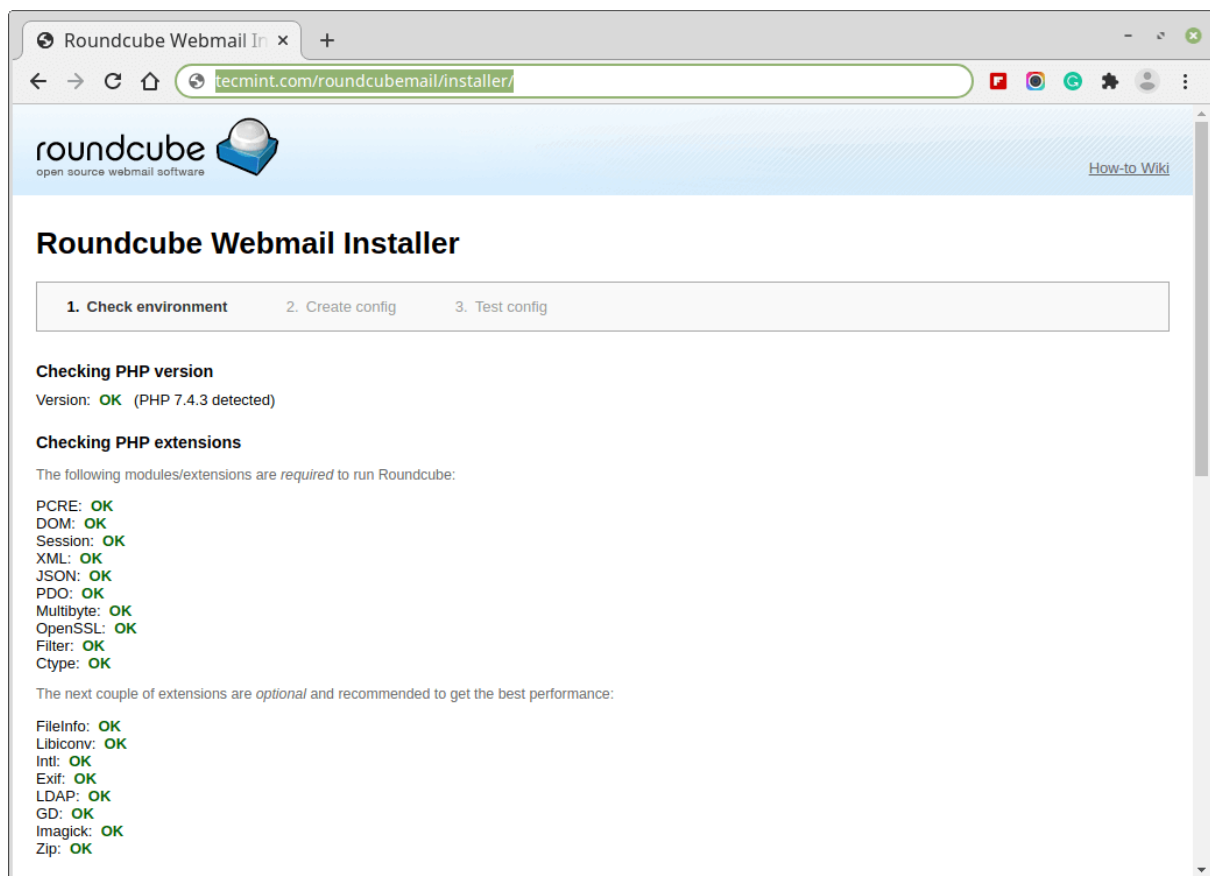
15. Next, enable this virtual host and reload the Apache for the changes.

```
sudo a2ensite roundcube.conf
```

```
sudo systemctl reload apache2
```

16. You can now access the roundcube webmail by going to the following url.

<http://yourdomain.com/roundcubemail/installer/>



16. Next, go to the Database settings and add the database details.

Roundcube Webmail Installer

Database setup

db_dsnw

Database settings for read/write operations:

MySQL Database type

localhost Database server (omit for sqlite)

roundcube Database name (use absolute path and filename for sqlite)

roundcubeuser Database user name (needs write permissions)(omit for sqlite)

tecmin Database password (omit for sqlite)

db_prefix

Optional prefix that will be added to database object names (tables and sequences).

IMAP Settings

default_host

The IMAP host(s) chosen to perform the log-in

localhost

add

Leave blank to show a textbox at login. To use SSL/IMAPS connection, type ssl://hostname

default_port

143

TCP port used for IMAP connections

username_domain

Automatically add this domain to user names for login

Only for IMAP servers that require full e-mail addresses for login

auto_create_user

☒ Automatically create a new Roundcube user when log-in the first time

17. After making all the changes, create a config.inc.php file.

Roundcube Webmail Installer

1. Check environment 2. Create config 3. Test config

The config file was saved successfully into /var/www/html/roundcubemail/config directory of your Roundcube installation.

Of course there are more options to configure. Have a look at the defaults.inc.php file or visit [Howto Config](#) to find out.

CONTINUE

General configuration

product_name

Roundcube Webmail

The name of your service (used to compose page titles)

support_url

Provide an URL where a user can get support for this Roundcube installation. PLEASE DO NOT LINK TO THE ROUND CUBE.NET WEBSITE HERE!

Enter an absolute URL (including http://) to a support page/form or a mailto: link.

skin_logo

Custom image to display instead of the Roundcube logo.

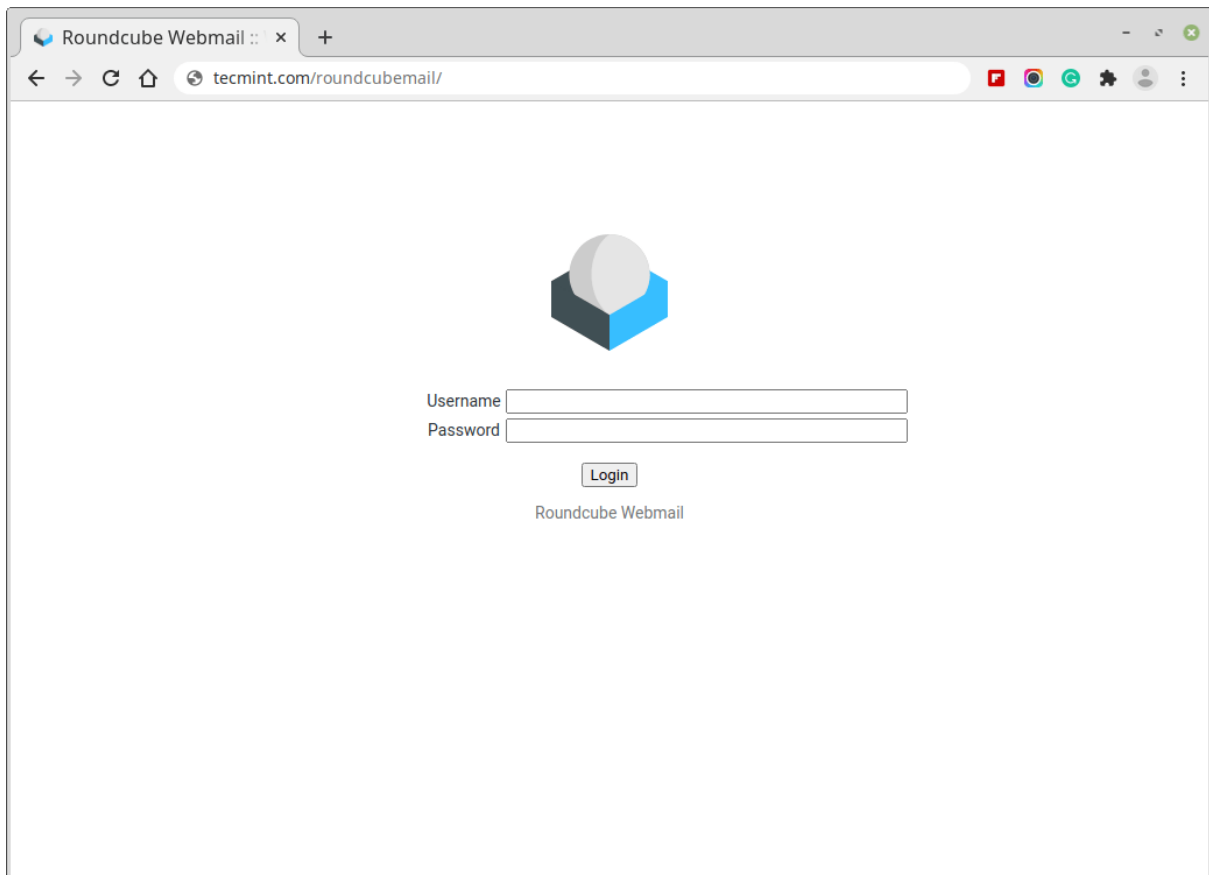
Enter a URL relative to the document root of this Roundcube installation.

18. After finishing the installation and the final tests please delete the installer folder and make sure that `enable_installer` option in `config.inc.php` is disabled.

```
$ sudo rm /var/www/html/roundcubemail/installer/ -r
```

19. Now go to the login page and enter the username and password of the user.

<http://yourdomain.com/roundcubemail/>



Step 8: Creating Mail Users in Postfix

20. In order to start using the Roundcube webmail, you'll have to create a new user, to do so, run.

```
sudo useradd myusername
```

Replace **"myusername"** with the user name you want, and create a password for the new user by running.

```
sudo passwd myusername
```

21. Now go back to the login page and enter the user name and the password of the newly created user.

Have you tried to create an email server before? How did it go? Have you used Roundcube or any other mail server before? What do you think about it?

<https://www.aih.app/2023/07/03/set-up-your-own-email-server-on-ubuntu-22-04/>