**postfix interview questions**

**Explain the working of local mail submission for postfix?**

When a local email message enters the postfix system. Local messages are deposited into the maildrop directory of the Postfix queue by the postdrop command, usually through the sendmail compatibility program. The pickup daemon reads the message from the queue and feeds it to the cleanup daemon. The cleanup daemon processes all inbound mail and notifies the queue manager after it has placed the cleaned-up message into the incoming queue. The queue manager then invokes the appropriate delivery agent to send the message to its next hop or ultimate destination.

**What are the important files for postfix server ?**  
  
/etc/postfix/[main.cf](http://main.cf)  
/etc/postfix/access  
/etc/postfix/aliases

**Which command checks for configuration problems?**

# postfix check

**How you will see the queue of postfix server?**

#postqueue -p

or mailq

**How can I clear postfix mail server queue?**  
  
# postsuper -d ALL

**How you will reload the postfix queue?**

# postsuper -r ALL

**which command is used to find out that postfix is complied with mysql or not?**  
  
# postconf -m

nis  
regexp  
environ  
mysql  
btree  
unix  
hash

**Explain smtpd\_recipient\_limit parameter? And what is the default value for this parameter?**

The smtpd\_recipient\_limit parameter can limit the number of recipients allowed in a single incoming message.

The default value for this parameter is 1000.

**Explain smtpd\_timeout Parameter?**  
  
The smtpd\_timeout parameter limits the amount of time Postfix waits for an SMTP client request after sending a response. This allows the Postfix administrator to quickly disconnect SMTP servers that "camp out" on the SMTP connection, utilizing system resources for the SMTP connection without actually sending a message.

smtpd\_timeout = *value*

By default, Postfix will assume the value is in seconds.

**Explain maximal\_queue\_lifetime** **Parameter?**

The maximal\_queue\_lifetime parameter sets the amount of time (in days) that a message remains in the deferred message queue before being returned as undeliverable. The default value is 5 days. Once this value is reached, Postfix returns the message to the sender.

**Explain queue\_run\_delay** **Parameter?**

The queue\_run\_delay parameter sets the time interval (in seconds) that Postfix scans the deferred message queue for messages to be delivered. The default value for this is 1,000 seconds.

**Explain default\_destination\_concurrency\_limit** **Parameter?**

The default\_destination\_concurrency\_limit parameter defines the maximum number of concurrent SMTP sessions that can be established with any remote host. This parameter is related to the SMTP maxprocess parameter in the [master.cf](http://master.cf) configuration file. The maximum number of concurrent SMTP sessions cannot exceed the maxprocess value set for the maximum number of SMTP client processes. Thus, if the default maxprocess value of 50 is used, setting the default\_destination\_concurrency\_limit greater than 50 has no effect.

Q: - What are the important files for postfix server ?

/etc/postfix/main.cf  
/etc/postfix/access  
/etc/postfix/aliases

****Q: - Tell me about latest Version of Postfix on which u have worked ?****

postfix 2.6

what is postfix?

**Definition: postfix**: Postfix is a Mail Transport Agent  
(MTA), supporting LDAP, SMTP AUTH (SASL), TLS and running in a chroot  
environment. Postfix is Wietse Venema's mailer that started life as an  
alternative to the widely-used Sendmail program. Postfix attempts to be  
fast, easy to administer, and secure, while at the same time being  
sendmail compatible enough to not upset existing users. Thus, the  
outside has a sendmail-ish flavor, but the inside is completely  
different. This software was formerly known as VMailer. It was released  
by the end of 1998 as the IBM Secure Mailer. From then on it has lived  
on as Postfix. This rpm supports LDAP, SMTP AUTH (trough cyrus-sasl) and  
TLS. If you need MySQL too, rebuild the srpm --with mysql.

**1.When do you need a virtual hosting ?**

The term Virtual Host refers to the practice of maintaining more than one server on one machine, as differentiated by their apparent hostname. For example, it is often desirable for companies sharing a web server to have their own domains, with web servers accessible as www.company1.com and www.company2.com, without requiring the user to know any extra path information.

**2.In which port telnet is listening?**

23

**3.How to get the listening ports which is greater than 6000 using netstat ?**

**4.How to block and openrelay ?**

Open relays are e-mail servers that are configured to accept and transfer e-mail on behalf of any user anywhere, including unrelated third parties.

The qmail-smtpd daemon will consult the rcpthosts control file to determine valid destination addresses, and reject anything else.

**5.What is sandwitch configuration in qmail ?**

Qmail + Clam + Spamassassin- This is normally called Sandwitch configuration in qmail.

**6.Advantages of Qmail ?**

More secure, better designed, modular, faster, more reliable, easier to configure, don't have to upgrade it every few months or worry about being vulnerable to something due to some obscure feature being enabled

qmail supports host and user masquerading, full host hiding, virtual domains, null clients, list-owner rewriting, relay control, double-bounce recording, arbitrary RFC 822 address lists, cross-host mailing list loop detection, per-recipient checkpointing, downed host backoffs, independent message retry schedules, etc. qmail also includes a drop-in ``sendmail'' wrapper so that it will be used transparently by your current UAs.

**7.What is the difference between POP3 and IMAP ?**

The Difference

POP3 works by reviewing the inbox on the mail server, and downloading the new messages to your computer. IMAP downloads the headers of the new messages on the server, then retrieves the message you want to read when you click on it.

When using POP3, your mail is stored on your PC. When using IMAP, the mail is stored on the mail server. Unless you copy a message to a "Local Folder" the messages are never copied to your PC.

Scenarios of Use

POP3

You only check e-mail from one computer.

You want to remove your e-mail from the mail server.

IMAP

You check e-mail from multiple locations.

You use Webmail.

**8.How to drop packets using iptables ?**

Iptables -A INPUT -s xx.xx.xx.xx -d xx.xx.xx.xx -j DROP

**9.Daily routines of Linux Administrators ?**

\*.Check the health of servers

\*.Check for updates

\*.Check the Backup

\*.Check with the trouble ticketing system for any unread ticket.

\*.Troubleshoot if there any problem

\*.Installation of new servers, if needed.

\*.Report to the Boss

**10.How to take the Dump of a MySQL Database ?**

Mysqldump databasename > dumpname

**11.How to know the CPU usage of each process ?**

Top, uptime

**12.How to bind another IP in a NIC ?**

Copy the contents eth0 to eth1, and change the ipaddress. Restart the network. .

**13.Transparently proxy all web-surfing through Squid box**

iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -i eth1 -tcp --dport 80 -j DNAT --to

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**14.Transparently redirect web connections from outside to the DMZ web server.**

iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -i eth0 -d 192.168.1.1 -dport 80 -j DNAT –to

**15 Howto Activate the forwarding**

echo 1 >/proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip\_forward

**16.Kill spoofed packets**

for f in /proc/sys/net/ipv4/conf/\*/rp\_filter; do

echo 1 > $f

done.

$iptables -A LDROP --proto tcp -j LOG --log-level info \ --log-prefix “TCP Drop”