

Re: Building a mail server

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2003-07/1409.html>

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To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

On Wed, Jul 30, 2003 at 12:37:52PM -0700, Jeffrey Hartmann wrote:

> *I'm currently using sendmail, qpopper, and openwebmail. Although this setup works, it's lacking in some features I would like.*

>

> *Requirements (mostly standard stuff):*

>

> *1) maildirs – I've been told that maildirs is less CPU intensive since the MUA doesn't have to scan through huge mailbox files. I also like that one mangled message isn't going to corrupt a whole mailbox. The other option I was thinking about was Cyrus or maybe find something that stores mail in mySQL, but many people seem to talk badly about 'proprietary' mail storage formats.*

If it's open source, it's not proprietary, by definition. Proprietary in the pejorative sense means that the format is unknowable, except through reverse engineering, so in that respect, Cyrus is no more proprietary than mbox.

> *2) virtual domain support*

> *specifically I like the sendmail style virtusertable:*

> *bob@domain.com: user1*

> *@domain.com: user2*

Were you planning to switch from sendmail? If it's working, why switch? That aside, Postfix supports this for sure, and exim probably does as well.

> *3) imap – Cyrus or Courier seem to be the current top contenders.*

I use Cyrus. Don't know anything about courier.

> *4) webmail – I like openwebmail, but it only does mbox mail spools.*

> *Squirrelmail seems to be the most popular here.*

I use squirrelmail.

> *5) smtp auth – Sendmail had a patch/configuration option for this.*

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- > *pop-before-smtp* is an option, however I like the *smtp auth* method better.
- > *It'd be nice if I could have everything behind SSL and still have it*
- > *compatible with the popular windows MUAs.*

Dunno, I don't do this. Postfix supposedly supports it via SASL, and if you use Cyrus, you will also need to get SASL working.

- > *6) pop3 – pretty standard, just needs to work.*

Cyrus gives you a pop3 server in addition to an imap server.

- > *1) Server based filtering, What I'm really looking for here is the ability to*
- > *sort all my mail by domain. So maindomain.com mail would end up in INBOX/,*
- > *but domain1.com mail would end up in INBOX/domain1.com/. This really ties to*
- > *the IMAP, as those are the folders I would be sorting into, and I'd like the*
- > *filtering to happen on the server so it's already filtered no matter what MUA*
- > *I'm connecting with. It could also be used for just general mail filters like*
- > *filters mailing lists to different folders. Right now I color code my*
- > *messages in OE so I know what mail server it came from, but I can't seem to do*
- > *that in IMAP.*

Cyrus with sieve does this:

```
if address :all :contains ["To","Cc","Bcc"] "domain1.com" {  
    fileinto "INBOX.domain1.com";  
}
```

- > *It would be nice to be able to setup the filters from the MUA, but I'm*
- > *guessing that's going to be pretty rare or impossible to find. It wouldn't be*
- > *too horrible to have to do it manually from a shell, as the people using this*
- > *feature would be the more advanced users.*

There may be web-based sieve config software around, but I personally use vi.

- > *Along this line also the POP3 server shouldn't distinguish between the*
- > *filtered mail and just kick it all out like a normal pop3 server. (The filter*
- > *could possibly add some X- header to signify the sorting for pop users.)*

Nope, Cyrus' pop server will only serve messages in your INBOX. Pop users will never even see the mail that gets filtered into some other folder.

- > *2) virtual users. Currently everyone has thier own account on the system, and*
- > *mail is delivered according to the virtusertable. I have some family members*
- > *that don't really know how to use a shell account, so I'd like the ability to*
- > *not have to open that account for them. I'd rather have virtual users than*
- > *having to take measures to lock the account. So I would still need that*
- > *virtusertable functionallity, but it would have to be able to deliver to*
- > *virtual accounts as well.*

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Cyrus doesn't need shell accounts at all. Credentials are stored using whatever mechanism you want. I use LDAP. SASL is another option.

- > 3) *spam and virus scanning. This seems pretty trivial to implement. Mainly*
- > *I'd like to have the spam filters, but virus scanning is a plus as well.*
- > *SpamAssassian looks good, but I'm not sure if there are any virus scanners*
- > *that wouldn't cost too much for a small server like this.*

I use f-prot, SpamAssassin, and my assassind relay for this. assassind adds an X-Spam-Color header (sieve uses this to do its filtering), and it can do a number of different things with the mail if it's infected. f-prot is free for personal use.

- > 4) *fetchmail or something like it that could run globally for all users like*
- > *every hour and inject the messages into the maildir/IMAP. Again if I could*
- > *filter this so messages from myisp.com went into INBOX/myisp.com/ I would be*
- > *happy.*

If you use Cyrus, then just use fetchmail with LMTP mode.

- > *At this point I know I'm going to have to change webmail systems, and I need*
- > *to decide on an IMAP server. Not even sure what's available for a server-side*
- > *filter, and what MTAs it's compatible with. Sendmail is the tried and true*
- > *proven system, but from what I understand it doesn't support maildirs, which*
- > *makes postfix look good, as postfix also seems very popular.*

Cyrus uses LMTP, so anything that can deliver to LMTP will work. Sendmail and Postfix can both use LMTP.

BTW, I have this setup for both my home network, and the network I administer at work.

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Dave is currently listening to Crash Test Dummies - Comin' Back Soon (The Bereft Man's Song) (The

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