

Re: recommended network/server layout for website, email, and backup hosting

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2007-01/msg01509.html>

- *From:* "Mihira Fernando" <mihiratheace@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 12 Jan 2007 04:20:27 +0000
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On 1/11/07, John Schmidt <jaschmidt@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi,

I would like to host several low traffic web sites at my home with some older computers (400 Mhz P2) that I have laying around. I would like to get some recommendations on effective ways of setting up my set of computers that would provide a web server, and email server and back up servers.

for low traffic servers, these machines are more than enough.

What really matters is the amount of memory and HD space and ofcause bandwidth.

These web sites would be publically accessible with low traffic volumes. In addition, I forsee email hosting for each of the domains. I would not have that many email accounts (not more than 10-20). I figured that exim with the ability to do multiple hosting would suffice. I would probably set up a couple of mailing lists as well using something like mailman. I would like to set up my email server with imap, and pop capabilities for both the publically accessible domains and my own personal email access. I would like to have a couple of machines set up in my LAN that would be able to provide two levelsof backups for my configurations, both internal LAN backups and DMZ level backups (web server and email server).

For multidomain virtual mail hosting, you're far better off using Postfix. It's much easier to configure and uses less resources than exim.

Initially, I was thinking that I would put two machines in my DMZ zone, one acting as a web server and one acting as an email server. My two backup machines would be in my LAN along with my fileserver and another development machine.

If its really low traffic, you can have all-in-one box.

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Regarding server security (email and web server), I have the following questions?

1. Because the machines are slow, would it be better to have the two machines do some sort of load balancing or would it be better to have a separation of responsibilities?

If its low traffic, your mahines doesnt need load balancing. P2 400 is more than enough to handle the traffic.

2. Would it be better (security wise) to have my email server located in my LAN and not in my DMZ zone and just tunnel port 25 traffic through?

ofcause but configuration is more complex in this approach. Besides, Postfix in its default state (out of the box) is secure enough and with proper configuration its virtually imposible to compromise.

3. I know nothing about DNS, and figured that I would let someone like no-ip.com provide this service for me. Or would it be fairly straightforward to do my own DNS hosting and combine two of my machines for doing primary and secondary DNS with other responsibilities, i.e. email/DNS on one machine, DNS/web server on another? Is it possible to have my DNS machines inside my LAN, or is it necessary to have both primary and secondary DNS machines in my DMZ for better security.

No-ip.com is for dynamic IP hosts. Since you have a static IP, you dont need dynamic IP services.

If you dont want to maintain your own DNS use a free DNS service like <http://freedns.afraid.org>. However, if you're going to maintaing your own DNS, its far easier to keep the DNS on the DMZ. However, you'll have to do some address translation/forwarding since you have only one static IP.

4. For imap and pop stuff can the imap server be inside my LAN and access be tunneled through as needed.

possible but more troublesome.

5. Should any server, i.e. mail, imap,pop, web be located in the DMZ zone so if they are hacked, my internal LAN machines are safer?

Depends on how you configure your firewall and the PCs.

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Random Quotes From Megas XLR

Re: recommended network/server layout for website, email, and backup hosting

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Coop: You see? The mysteries of the Universe are revealed when you break stuff.

Jamie: When in doubt, blow up a planet.

Kiva: It's an 80 foot robot, if we can't see it, absolutely it's not here.

Glorft Technician: Unnecessary use of force in capturing the Earthers
has been approved.

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