

## Re: REPOST: Store and Forward Email Server?

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On Thu, 09 Oct 2003 08:38:03 -0400, Bill Unger wrote:

> **QUICK EXPLAIN:**

> We have several clients hosting their own email servers. Their respective  
> ISP's have provided backup mail servers ( lower pref'd MX records adjusted  
> accordingly ) to store their mail in the event their connection/server goes  
> offline and then to forward it on to the client's server when service is  
> restored. Unfortunately, we are running into more and more issues with this  
> as the ISP's are becoming more restrictive with this service. So we are  
> thinking about implementing our own store and forward email server as a  
> possible tertiary email server. We have a Redhat 9 server setup in a  
> dedicated network that would work great, but I am not sure where to start.

>

> **QUESTIONS:**

> 1. Does anyone have any "pointers" on which mail server software is the  
> most suited for this type of scenario?

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> 2. Does anyone have any suggestions on known "pitfalls?"

>

> 3. Does anyone know of any good tutorials on the subject?

>

> Note about questions: I have googled quite a bit on this and get lost in  
> all of the Redhat Digests!

Any mail server will do: Sendmail, qmail, exim, postfix — you name it. To find the one for you I suggest visiting the respective products home pages and try to find a FAQ covering your scenario. When you find a FAQ you understand you have found your product.

The only real pitfall I can think of is validating recipients. If you do not validate recipients (verify that any recipient is a valid user at your clients' mail server) your relay server will get swamped by dictionary attack spam mail from time to time. Nothing serious, a few thousand messages won't bother a tertiary server much. It's got plenty of time to try and retry bouncing them before it deletes them.

And always double check that each forwarding host you configure for any given domain (I suggest using DNS lookup to forward/relay any mail, but

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that isn't always possible) is using anti virus software. I.E. do not configure your host to bypass any primary mail server "just in case that server is down".

Mvh  
Hugo