



Setup mail server on ubuntu 14.04 (Postfix - dovecot)

This tutorial explains how to setup mail server on ubuntu 14.04 using postfix,dovecot and squirrelmail.

- » [Postfix](#) (for sending)
- » [Dovecot](#) (for receiving)
- » [Squirrelmail](#) (for webmail access).

Here i have used mail.krizna.com for hostname and krizna.com for Domain . please replace with your domain .



Setup mail server on ubuntu 14.04

- » [Installing and configuring postfix](#)
- » [Installing and configuring dovecot](#)
- » [Installing and configuring squirrelmail](#)

» Installing and configuring postfix

Step 1 » Assign static IP and hostname and add a host entry for the host name .

Assign hostname in **/etc/hostname**

```
mail.krizna.com
```

Add a hostentry in **/etc/hosts**

```
192.168.1.10 mail.krizna.com
```

Step 2 » Update the repositories.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo apt-get update
```

Step 3 » Install postfix and dependencies . Press enter for all prompted questions during installation. we will do that in the next step.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo apt-get install postfix
```

Step 4 » After installation issue the below command to configure postfix.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo dpkg-reconfigure postfix
```

Now you will be prompted for set of details . choose the following values and replace krizna.com with your domain name.

1. Internet Site
2. krizna.com

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4. krizna.com, localhost.localdomain, localhost

5. No

6. 127.0.0.0/8 [::ffff:127.0.0.0]/104 [::1]/128 192.168.0.0/24

7. 0

8. +

9. all



Step 5 » Now configure Postfix for SMTP-AUTH using Dovecot SASL by adding the below lines to postfix config file `/etc/postfix/main.cf` .

```
home_mailbox = Maildir/
smtpd_sasl_type = dovecot
smtpd_sasl_path = private/auth
smtpd_sasl_local_domain =
smtpd_sasl_security_options = noanonymous
broken_sasl_auth_clients = yes
smtpd_sasl_auth_enable = yes
smtpd_recipient_restrictions =
permit_sasl_authenticated,permit_mynetworks,reject_unauth_destination
smtp_tls_security_level = may
smtpd_tls_security_level = may
smtp_tls_note_starttls_offer = yes
smtpd_tls_loglevel = 1
smtpd_tls_received_header = yes
```

Step 6 » Now generate a digital certificate for tls. Issue the commands one by one and provide details as per your domain.

```
krizna@mail:~$ openssl genrsa -des3 -out server.key 2048
krizna@mail:~$ openssl rsa -in server.key -out server.key.insecure
krizna@mail:~$ mv server.key server.key.secure
krizna@mail:~$ mv server.key.insecure server.key
krizna@mail:~$ openssl req -new -key server.key -out server.csr
krizna@mail:~$ openssl x509 -req -days 365 -in server.csr -signkey server.key -out server.crt
krizna@mail:~$ sudo cp server.crt /etc/ssl/certs
krizna@mail:~$ sudo cp server.key /etc/ssl/private
```

Step 7 » Now configure certificate path



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```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo postconf -e smtpd_tls_cert_file = /etc/ssl/certs/server.crt
```

Step 8 » Open `/etc/postfix/master.cf` file and uncomment below lines to enable smtps (465) and submission (587) .

```
submission inet n      -      -      -      -      smtpd
  -o syslog_name=postfix/submission
  -o smtpd_tls_security_level=encrypt
  -o smtpd_sasl_auth_enable=yes
  -o smtpd_relay_restrictions=permit_sasl_authenticated,reject
  -o milter_macro_daemon_name=ORIGINATING
smtps      inet  n      -      n      -      -      smtpd
  -o syslog_name=postfix/smtps
  -o smtpd_tls_wrappermode=yes
  -o smtpd_sasl_auth_enable=yes
  -o smtpd_relay_restrictions=permit_sasl_authenticated,reject
  -o milter_macro_daemon_name=ORIGINATING
```

Step 9 » Now install Dovecot SASL by typing the below command.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo apt-get install dovecot-common
```

Issue the following values for the prompts during installation.

1. yes
2. mail.krizna.com

Step 10 » Make changes to the files as follows.

Open `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-master.conf` file and find `# Postfix smtp-auth` line (line no:95) and add the below lines .

```
# Postfix smtp-auth
unix_listener /var/spool/postfix/private/auth {
mode = 0660
user = postfix
group = postfix
}
```

Open `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-auth.conf` file and find (line no:100)

```
auth_mechanisms = plain

and replace

auth_mechanisms = plain login
```

Step 11 » Restart postfix and dovecot services

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo service postfix restart
krizna@mail:~$ sudo service dovecot restart
```

Step 12 » Now test SMTP-AUTH and smtp/pop3 port access .

Type the below command and should get below response.

```
krizna@mail:~$ telnet mail.krizna.com smtp
```



Centos 7



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Connected to localhost.

Escape character is '^['.

220 mail.kriznaa.com ESMTP Postfix (Ubuntu)

now type **ehlo mail.krizna.com** and should get below response , please make sure you get those bolded lines .

ehlo mail.krizna.com

250-mail.krizna.com

250-STARTTLS

250-AUTH PLAIN LOGIN

250-AUTH=PLAIN LOGIN

250 DSN

and try the same with port 587 (telnet mail.krizna.com 587).

Postfix configuration is over, continue for dovecot installation.

» Installing and configuring dovecot

Step 12 » Install dovecot using the below command

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo apt-get install dovecot-imapd dovecot-pop3d
```

Step 13 » Now configure mailbox. Open `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-mail.conf` file and find (Line no:30)

```
mail_location = mbox:~/mail:INBOX=/var/mail/%u
```

Replace with

```
mail_location = maildir:~/Maildir
```

Step 14 » Now change pop3_uidl_format . Open `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/20-pop3.conf` file and find and uncomment the below line (Line no : 50)

```
pop3_uidl_format = %08Xu%08Xv
```

Step 15 » Now enable SSL . Open `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-ssl.conf` file and find and uncomment the below line (Line no : 6)

```
ssl = yes
```

Step 16 »Restart dovecot service.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo service dovecot restart
```

Step 17 » Now test pop3 and imap port access using the telnet command.

```
krizna@mail:~$ telnet mail.krizna.com 110
```

```
Trying 127.0.0.1...
```

```
Connected to localhost.
```

```
Escape character is '^['.
```

```
+OK Dovecot (Ubuntu) ready.
```

Repeat the same for 995,993,143 ports.

OR check for listening ports using netstat command .

you should get the result like below.

```
krizna@mail:~$ netstat -nl4
Active Internet connections (only servers)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22              0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:25              0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:993             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:995             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:587             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:110             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:143             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
```

Step 18 » Create some users and check using mail clients like thunderbird or outlook

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo useradd -m bobby -s /sbin/nologin
```

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo passwd bobby
```

Your name: Your name, as shown to others

Email address:

Password:

☒ Remember password

Incoming: POP3 Server hostname: mail.krizna.com Port: 110 SSL: STARTTLS Authentication: Normal password

Outgoing: SMTP Server hostname: mail.krizna.com Port: 587 SSL: STARTTLS Authentication: Normal password

Username:

Now mail server is ready, you can send and receive mail using the server. Continue for squirrelmail ..

» Installing and configuring squirrelmail

Step 19 » Install squirrelmail using the below command. This will install apache and PHP packages.

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo apt-get install squirrelmail
```

Step 20 » Configure squirrelmail

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo squirrelmail-configure
```

Everything is pre-configured , we just need to change Organization name .

» Press 1 (Organization Preferences) » again press 1 (Organization Name) »

Organization Name » Press S » Press Q to quit

Step 19 » Now configure apache to enable squirrelmail .

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo cp /etc/squirrelmail/apache.conf /etc/apache2/sites-available/squirrelmail.conf
```

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo a2ensite squirrelmail
```

Step 20 » Restart Apache service

```
krizna@mail:~$ sudo service apache2 restart
```

Step 21 » Now open <http://serverIP/squirrelmail> in your browser and login using username (bobby) . you can send and receive mail using squirrelmail.

Okay .. its over now ..

Please note when you decide to move server to the production, it is very important to implement Spam filter and antivirus . please check this post for more detail [Postfix spamfilter and antivirus implementation](#)

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What is the expected output for ehlo in port 587? Which lines I'm looking for?

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**Mayank Gupta** • 2 days ago

Excellent tutorial ! I did everything. The squirrel mail is up. I can login but the messages I send are going nowhere. I created an email id as bobby@subdomain.com and I tried sending mail to itself, to gmail - nothing seems to be working. What did I miss ?

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**MN** • 23 days ago

Really Great guidance.....Thanks for it.....Can i send mail from gmail to the server i made and vice versa.....If yes.....please tell how?

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**MN** • 23 days ago

My server is configured and i am able to send and receive mail using squirrelmail but when i try to send and receive mails through thunderbird from other PC in network it doesn't find the server although it is in the same network and i am able to ping the server ip also.....pls guide

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**Yutthaphum Sriwino** • a month ago

Thank. It's work. Very good.

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**laptrinhphp** • a month ago

Hello, i have error.

```
/usr/sbin/postconf: warning: /etc/postfix/master.cf: undefined parameter:
mua_helo_restrictions
```

```
/usr/sbin/postconf: warning: /etc/postfix/master.cf: undefined parameter:
mua_sender_restrictions
```

```
/usr/sbin/postconf: warning: /etc/postfix/master.cf: undefined parameter:
mua_client_restrictions
```

```
/usr/sbin/postconf: warning: /etc/postfix/master.cf: undefined parameter:
mua_helo_restrictions
```

So how can i fix it? thanks.

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**Aaron Brooks** • 2 months ago

What should be the output for the telnet with port 587? I dont have those bolded lines for 587. Is this okay?

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**Captain** • 2 months ago

Great post, everything worked perfectly for me... Thank you very much and i will keep visiting your site for different installs

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**webs** • 3 months ago

help i can't login, what i get is ERROR:
ERROR: Connection dropped by IMAP server.

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