Mittuniversitetet
MID SWEDEN UNIVERSITY

DT149G Administration of UNIX-like systems

Laboratory Assignment: Nuntio servitium

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Contents

1 Introduction

In this laboratory assignment you will install and configure an email server and related mechanisms. Before starting this assignment, you must have finished lab assignment 4 — DNS

2 Aim

After completion of this assignment you will:

- Have the knowledge to set up an SMTP server process.
- Be able to set up the necessary security measures so that an email sent from your SMTP server will not be regarded as spam and cannot easily be used by spammers.

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- Know how to correctly set up your DNS to handle email and related mechanisms.
- Be able to install and configure software for delivering emails using either POP3 or IMAP.

3 Reading instructions

Before starting this assignment you should have read [1, chapters 17, 20] or [2, chapter 18] During this laboratory assignment you should also consult the following sites and documents: [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10].

4 Tasks

Perform the following tasks and document all the steps taken to complete them.

4.1 MTA/MDA

As you have read in the course literature, there are numerous types of components involved in an email system. We are going to start by setting up the mail transfer agent (MTA). Which MTA you choose to use is up to you, the book covers Sendmail, Exim and Postfix. The instructions will be based on Postfix.

Since Postfix more or less works out of the box, there are only a few configurations that must be made in order to make your SMTP server work.

1. Install and configure a basic Postfix server, you can easily follow the instructions given in [4]. See [3] for detailed information about the configuration steps.
2. Test your email server using `telnet (1)` to connect and send an email from your user to Mickey at localhost.
3. Check your Postfix access restrictions and ensure that it will only relay emails that originate from your local network.
4. Add SSL authentication to your Postfix installation, see [5] for detailed information about how to achieve this.

To answer in your report For this task, answer the following questions in your report:

- Explain each step taken to install the MTA-server and the purpose of it
- Include a screenshot showing that you can telnet to your MTA-server.
- What did you have to do, to ensure that your MTA will only relay emails from your local network?
- Discuss why it is important to restrict relaying emails, when it is not suitable to have this restriction.

4.2 DNS

Now that you have a working email server up and running, you must add an MX record to your domain zone-file so that messages sent to *youruser@yourdomain* will find its way to the comfort of your local mailbox.

1. Add the appropriate MX record to your DNS-server.
2. If you were to send an email from your email server to a Gmail-account[1], your email would be marked as spam and maybe even discarded before reaching the recipient. To ensure that this will not be the case we must setup DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) and Sender Policy Framework (SPF). See [8; 9] for the necessary steps to achieve this.
3. Since you have configured your Postfix-server to check the SPF records before accepting an incoming email, you should also add your own SPF-records in your zone configuration-file.
4. Restart Bind to ensure that it includes the new MX, DKIM and SPF-records
5. Using Telnet, send an email from your current account to any of the other accounts you created in previous labs. Then confirm that the email have gotten an DKIM-signature.

To answer in your report For this task, answer the following questions in your report:

- Include a screenshot showing your MX, DKIM and SPF-records.
- Include a screenshot showing the full header of the email that you sent, to show that DKIM works properly.

4.3 Access Agents

Your server is now able to send and receive email, however, in order for you to be able to access your emails from another PC you need to set up an Access Agent that runs POP3 or IMAP. The instructions will be based upon Dovecot, but as always, your are free to choose any software. See [6; 7] for instructions on how to install and configure Dovecot on your system.

1. Install and configure basic Dovecot with both POP3 and IMAP support.
2. Once installed, test and make sure that your AA-server is working properly, use for example `telnet (1)` or set up a user agent, e.g `mail (1)` or `Thunderbird (1)`

[1] Since you are installing your email server locally and your ISP probably will not allow SMTP-traffic, you will not be able to actually send any emails from this email server to an outside domain.

3. Since your user name and password will be sent in plain text you must now configure Dovecot to use SSL based authentication instead of plain-text authentication. Dovecot use the Simple Authentication and Security Layer (SASL) to enable SSL-based authentication, see [10] for how this protocol layer works[2]. See [6; 7] for instructions on setting up SSL-based authentication in Dovecot.

4. Make sure that your Dovecot-server is now using SSL to encrypt your password, for example by analyzing the traffic using Wireshark.

To answer in your report For this task, answer the following questions in your report:

- Include a screenshot showing that your AA is working properly.
- Include a screenshot showing that SSL is working as it should.

5 Examination

Hand in a report containing all your solutions to the questions in section 4

References

[1] Evi Nemeth, Garth Snyder, Trent R. Hein, and Ben Whaley. *UNIX and Linux system administration handbook*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 4th ed. edition, 2011. ISBN 978-0-13-148005-6 (pbk. : alk. paper).

[2] Evi Nemeth, Garth Snyder, Trent R. Hein, Ben Whaley, and Dan Mackin. *Unix and Linux system administration handbook*. Addison-Wesley/Pearson, Boston, fifth edition. edition, 2017. ISBN 9780134277554.

[3] Postfix official documentation, . URL `http://www.postfix.org/documentation.html`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[4] Postfix basic setup howto, . URL `https://help.ubuntu.com/community/PostfixBasicSetupHowto`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[5] Postfix, . URL `https://help.ubuntu.com/community/Postfix`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[6] Dovecot, . URL `https://help.ubuntu.com/lts/serverguide/dovecot-server.html.en`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[7] Dovecot official documentation, . URL `http://wiki2.dovecot.org/`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[8] Postfix/dkim, . URL `https://help.ubuntu.com/community/Postfix/DKIM`. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[2] You do not have to read the entire document, just get yourself an understanding of the protocol.

[9] Postfix/spf, . URL https://help.ubuntu.com/community/Postfix/SPF. Accessed: 2018-09-06.

[10] A. Melnikov and K. Zeilenga. Simple Authentication and Security Layer (SASL). RFC 4422 (Proposed Standard), June 2006. URL http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4422.txt.