

How to Configure the Exim Outgoing IP Address

Overview

Modify Exim's preferences for outgoing mail

Enable automatic configuration of the server's IPv4 address for outgoing mail

Manually configure Exim's outgoing IP addresses

The `/etc/mailhelo` file

The `/etc/mailips` file

Additional documentation

Overview

By default, Exim sends mail from the server's primary IPv4 address. To decrease the chance that spam filters mark your mail as spam, verify that the reverse DNS (rDNS) entry of Exim's outgoing IP address matches the DNS response of your server's hostname.

Note:

The steps in this document **require** `root`-level privileges on the server.

Modify Exim's preferences for outgoing mail

cPanel & WHM offers two ways by which to modify Exim's default preferences for outgoing mail's IP address.

Enable automatic configuration of the server's IPv4 address for outgoing mail

To automatically configure Exim to send mail from each domain's dedicated IPv4 address, perform the following steps:

1. Modify the rDNS for each IPv4 address to point to the desired domain.

Important:

- An incorrect rDNS configuration may cause mail servers to reject your server's mail.
- For more information, read our [How to Configure Reverse DNS for BIND in WHM](#) documentation.

2. Enable the *Send mail from account's dedicated IP address* option in WHM's [Exim Configuration Manager](#) interface (*Home >> Service Configuration >> Exim Configuration Manager*).

Warning:

If you select this option, cPanel & WHM uses the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/updateuserdomains` script to automatically configure Exim, and overrides any [manual changes](#) in the following files:

- `/etc/mailhelo`
- `/etc/mailips`

Manually configure Exim's outgoing IP addresses

Important:

- We do **not** recommend that you modify your Exim files.
- To modify your Exim configuration files, you **must** possess `root`-level privileges.

To use a custom Exim configuration, you **must** enable the following options in the *Basic Editor* section of WHM's [Exim Configuration Manager](#) interface (*Home >> Service Configuration >> Exim Configuration Manager*):

- *Reference /etc/mailhelo for outgoing SMTP HELO*
- *Reference /etc/mailips for outgoing SMTP connections*

Important:

- If you disable the *Reference /etc/mailhelo for outgoing SMTP HELO* setting, the system **will** overwrite any changes that you make to the `/etc/mailhelo` file.

- If you disable the *Reference /etc/mailips for outgoing SMTP connections* setting, the system **will** overwrite any changes that you make to the `/etc/mailips` file.

If you change the outgoing IP address to a non-cPanel main IP address, the cPanel **user** must update that email address' SPF record. They can configure the SPF record in cPanel's *Email Deliverability* interface (*cPanel >> Home >> Email >> Email Deliverability*).

In cPanel & WHM version 76 and earlier, this interface is cPanel's *Authentication* interface (*cPanel >> Home >> Email >> Authentication*).

The `/etc/mailhelo` file

The `/etc/mailhelo` file contains Exim's configuration for the HELO command, which initiates dialog between a mail server and a client. This file governs which domain sends the HELO command.

Use your preferred text editor to create an `/etc/mailhelo` file that resembles the following example:

```
example.com: example.com
sub.example.com: example.com
example.net: example.net
addon.example.net: example.net
*: hostname.example.com
```

The `/etc/mailips` file

The `/etc/mailips` file controls the IP address from which each domain sends mail.

Use your preferred text editor to create an `/etc/mailips` file that resembles one of the following examples:

▼ [Click to view IPv4 example](#)

```
example.com: 192.168.0.2
sub.example.com: 192.168.0.2
example.net: 192.168.0.3
addon.example.net: 192.168.0.3
*: 192.168.0.1
```

Notes:

- In the example above, the system uses the asterisk (*) entry to direct outbound mail for domains without entries within this file. In this case, this is your server's main shared IPv4 address. You can set this value to another IP address if you ensure that the asterisk entry in the `/etc/mailhelo` file uses the appropriate domain name.
- **Only** use valid, publicly-accessible IP addresses.
- Do **not** separate multiple IP addresses with commas. Instead, use semi-colons.

▼ [Click to view IPv4 and IPv6 example](#)

```
example.com: 192.168.0.2
sub.example.com: 192.168.0.2
example.net: 201:db8::2:1
addon.example.net: 201:db8::2:1
*: 192.168.0.1
```

Notes:

- In the example above, the system uses a double colon (: :) to indicate a collapsed section. However, IPv6 addresses **can not** contain more than one double colon. For more information, read our [Guide to IPv6](#) documentation.
- **Only** use valid, publicly-accessible IP addresses.
- Do **not** separate multiple IP addresses with commas. Instead, use semi-colons.

Additional documentation

Suggested documentation For cPanel users For WHM users For developers

- [How to Configure the Exim Outgoing IP Address](#)
- [CVE-2017-1000369 Exim - Stack Clash](#)
- [CVE-2016-9963 Exim](#)
- [How to Customize the Exim System Filter File](#)
- [Scan Outgoing Mail](#)

- [How to Migrate the Contents of Email Accounts in Addon Domains](#)
- [IMAP vs. POP3](#)
- [Email](#)
- [AutoConfig and Autodiscover](#)
- [How to Configure Mail Filters](#)

- [How to Configure the Exim Outgoing IP Address](#)
- [CVE-2017-1000369 Exim - Stack Clash](#)
- [CVE-2016-9963 Exim](#)
- [How to Customize the Exim System Filter File](#)
- [Scan Outgoing Mail](#)

- [WHM API 1 Sections - Mail](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - get_unique_recipient_count_per_sender_for_user](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - get_unique_sender_recipient_count_per_user](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - validate_exim_configuration_syntax](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - get_mailbox_status](#)