

# Configure Dovecot

For cPanel & WHM version 62

(Home >> Service Configuration >> Mailserver Configuration)

## Overview

The following options appear when you access WHM's *Mailserver Configuration* interface while you run the Dovecot mail server.

## Mailserver Configuration options

Choose the desired settings for each option in the table below, and then click *Save Changes*.

- To return to the default values for all configuration options, click *Use Default Values*.
- To undo your changes, click *Reset Form*.

Configuration option	Description
<i>Protocols Enabled</i>	<p>Select the checkboxes to enable the desired protocols.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 10px;"><p><b>Notes:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You <b>cannot</b> disable Local Mail Transport Protocol (LMTP).</li><li>• cPanel's <a href="#">Webmail</a> feature requires that you enable the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) protocol.</li></ul></div>
<i>IPv6 Enabled</i>	<p>Select the checkboxes to enable IPv6 address connection requests on the desired protocols.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f08080; padding: 10px;"><p><b>Important:</b></p><p>You <b>must</b> select the desired protocols' <i>Protocols Enabled</i> checkboxes before you select those protocols' <i>IPv6 Enabled</i> checkboxes.</p></div>
<i>Allow Plaintext Authentication (from remote clients)</i>	<p>This setting allows remote email clients to authenticate without encryption. Select the desired option from the menu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>yes</i> — Dovecot allows remote connections to authenticate without encryption.</li><li>• <i>no</i> — Dovecot <b>only</b> allows connections that originated on the local server to authenticate without encryption.</li></ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 10px;"><p><b>Note:</b></p><p>We recommend that you set this option to <i>no</i> if you wish to require remote webmail logins to use encryption.</p></div>
<i>SSL Cipher List</i>	<p>The list of ciphers, in standard format, that the mail server can use to connect to your server with the POP3 protocol. For more information, read <a href="#">OpenSSL's ciphers documentation</a>.</p>
<i>SSL Protocols</i>	<p>The list of SSL protocols that the mail server uses. Typically, you will only adjust this setting for PCI compliance.</p>
<i>Maximum Number of Mail Processes</i>	<p>The maximum number of mail processes that may run at one time.</p>

<p><i>Process Memory Limit for Mail (MB)</i></p>	<p>The maximum memory usage of the IMAP and POP3 processes, in Megabytes.</p> <p>Because these processes mostly read memory-mapped files, high limits rarely affect server performance.</p>
<p><i>Maximum IMAP Connections Per IP Address</i></p>	<p>The maximum number of simultaneous IMAP connections that one IP address's mail server may make.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> The system <b>only</b> applies this setting if you enabled an IMAP protocol.</p> </div>
<p><i>Interval between IMAP IDLE "OK Still here" messages</i></p>	<p>The number of minutes between <i>IMAP IDLE "OK Still here"</i> messages.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> Increase this number in order to increase battery life for mobile clients.</p> </div>
<p><i>Maximum POP3 Connections per IP Address</i></p>	<p>The maximum number of simultaneous POP3 connections that one IP address's mail server may make.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> The system <b>only</b> applies this setting if you enabled the POP3 protocol.</p> </div>
<p><i>Number of Spare Authentication Processes</i></p>	<p>The number of spare authentication processes to run to listen for new connections.</p>
<p><i>Maximum Number of Authentication Processes</i></p>	<p>The maximum number of authentication daemons that can run simultaneously. Consider the needs of your mail server before you enter a value that is not the default value.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high number of authentication daemons can cause your server to run slowly. Authentication daemons can consume large amounts of system resources.</li> <li>• A low number of authentication daemons can cause your server to run slowly due to a lack of daemons to authenticate each session.</li> </ul> </div>
<p><i>Process Memory Limit for Authentication (MB)</i></p>	<p>The maximum amount of memory that the IMAP and POP3 authentication processes may use, in Megabytes.</p>
<p><i>Size of Authentication Cache (MB)</i></p>	<p>The maximum amount of space on the hard drive that the cache file may use, in Megabytes.</p> <p>The cache file contains validated logins. This allows the mail server to retrieve mail multiple times before it must check login credentials again.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> The value that you input <b>cannot</b> exceed four characters, which includes the required M character (for example, 100 M).</p> </div>

<p><i>Time to Cache Successful Logins</i></p>	<p>The amount of time, in seconds, that the cache file stores a successful login attempt's record.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f9e79f; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> Lower this value to decrease the likelihood of problems when users update their passwords.</p> </div>
<p><i>Time to Cache Failed Logins</i></p>	<p>The amount of time, in seconds, that the cache file stores a failed login attempt's record.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f9e79f; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> Lower this value to decrease the likelihood of problems when users update their passwords.</p> </div>
<p><i>Use New Authentication Process for Each Connection</i></p>	<p>Whether the mail server uses a newly-created authentication process each time that a connection attempt occurs. Select <b>yes</b> to improve Dovecot security.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f9e79f; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> Heavily-loaded servers may experience significant performance issues if you select <b>yes</b>.</p> </div>
<p><i>Process Memory Limit: config (MB)</i></p>	<p>The maximum virtual memory size (VSZ) of Dovecot's internal <code>conf</code> <code>ig</code> service, in Megabytes. Each SSL/TLS certificate that Dovecot tracks requires additional memory. To ensure that Dovecot runs correctly, increase this value on servers with many domains.</p> <p>This option defaults to 2048. We recommend that you set this value to at least 512.</p>
<p><i>Idle Check Interval</i></p>	<p>The amount of time, in seconds, between updates to idle IMAP connections.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f9e79f; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We recommend that you use the default setting (30 seconds).</li> <li>Lower this value to cause idle clients to see new messages faster.</li> <li>Lower values may increase your server load slightly.</li> </ul> </div>
<p><i>Include Trash in Quota</i></p>	<p>This option determines whether the system will count email messages in the <i>Trash</i> folder against the user's quota.</p> <p>This option defaults to disabled.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #f9e79f; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> After you modify this option, you <b>must</b> run the following command on the command line as the <code>root</code> user in order to recalculate existing quotas:</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #add8e6; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <pre style="margin: 0;">/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/generate_maildirsize --allaccounts --confirm</pre> </div> </div>

<p><i>Auto Expunge Trash</i></p>	<p>Select this checkbox to allow the system to delete messages in the <i>Trash</i> folder based on the number of days that you configure in the <i>Trash Expire Time</i> option.</p> <p>This option defaults to <i>disabled</i>.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #fde725; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> This option will <b>only</b> delete messages in the <i>Trash</i> folder that the account receives <b>after</b> you enable this option. For example, if you enable this option on April 1st, this option will <b>not</b> delete messages older than March 31st.</p> </div>
<p><i>Trash Expire Time</i></p>	<p>The number of days that the mail server should keep messages in the <i>Trash</i> folder before the <i>Auto Expunge Trash</i> option deletes the messages.</p> <p>This option defaults to 30 days.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #fde725; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> This option <b>only</b> activates when you enable the <i>Auto Expunge Trash</i> option.</p> </div>
<p><i>MDBOX rotation size (MB)</i></p>	<p>The maximum size of an MDBOX mailbox file, in Megabytes, before the system rotates it.</p> <p>Enter a value that contains an integer value and the M character (for example, 100M). This value <b>cannot</b> exceed 999M and defaults to 2M.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #fde725; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> The value that you enter <b>cannot</b> exceed four characters, which includes the required M character (for example, 100M).</p> </div>
<p><i>MDBOX rotation interval (Weeks or Days)</i></p>	<p>The maximum time that an MDBOX mailbox file may exist before the system rotates it.</p> <p>For example, 2w represents a two week rotation interval.</p> <p>Enter a value that consists of an integer and the letter w, which represents weeks, or the letter d, which represents days.</p> <p>This option defaults to 0, which disables time-based rotation of the MDBOX mailbox files.</p>
<p><i>Disk Quota Delivery Failure Response</i></p>	<p>This option determines how Dovecot will handle delivery to a mailbox that reaches its mailbox quota or to a cPanel account that reaches its system disk quota.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reject the message permanently.</i> — This setting rejects the message and returns it to the sender.</li> <li>• <i>Defer delivery temporarily.</i> — This setting allows the user to free disk space or increase disk quota before the system attempts to deliver the message again.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Minimum Available LMTP Processes</i></p>	<p>This option determines the minimum number of processes for the system to reserve in order to accept client connections.</p> <p>This option defaults to 0, which configures the LMTP server to only start when the system needs it, and needs to conserve memory.</p>
<p><i>LMTP Process Limit</i></p>	<p>This option determines the maximum number of processes that the system will allow the LMTP server to run.</p> <p>This option defaults to 500.</p>

## Add Dovecot options

You can also add options that do **not** exist in the *Configure Dovecot* interface to configure the Dovecot mail server. To do this, select the tab that corresponds to the Dovecot template that you wish to modify.

`dovecot.conf`  
`sni.conf`

To modify the template for the `/etc/dovecot/dovecot.conf` file, perform the following steps:

1. Copy the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecot2.2/main.default` file to the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecot2.2/main.local` file.
2. Open the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecot2.2/main.local` file with a text editor and edit the files to reflect your desired settings, for example:

```
login_trusted_networks: 192.168.1.0/24
```

**Note:**

This example automatically creates the `mail.domain.com` domain for all domains that use the *Mail SNI* option in WHM's *Manage SSL Hosts* interface (*Home >> SSL/TLS >> Manage SSL Hosts*).

3. Save your changes to the file.
4. Rebuild the Dovecot mail server to apply the new configuration settings. To do this, run the following script:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/builddovecotconf
```

5. Restart the Dovecot mail server. To do this, run the `/scripts/restartsrv_dovecot` command.

To modify the template for the `/etc/dovecot/sni.conf` file, perform the following steps:

1. Copy the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecotSNI/main.default` file to the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecotSNI/main.local` file.
2. Open the `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecotSNI/main.local` file with a text editor and edit the files to reflect your desired settings. For example:

```
[% FOREACH domain IN mail_sni_domains.sort -%]  
  
local_name [% domain %] {  
    ssl_cert = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.crt %]  
    ssl_key = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.key %]  
    [%- IF mail_sni_domains.$domain.cabundle %]  
    ssl_ca = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.cabundle %]  
    [%- END %]  
}  
  
local_name mail.[% domain %] {  
    ssl_cert = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.crt %]  
    ssl_key = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.key %]  
    [%- IF mail_sni_domains.$domain.cabundle %]  
    ssl_ca = <[% mail_sni_domains.$domain.cabundle %]  
    [%- END %]  
}
```

**Note:**

This example automatically creates the `mail.domain.com` domain for all domains that use the *Mail SNI* option in WHM's *Manage SSL Hosts* interface (*Home >> SSL/TLS >> Manage SSL Hosts*).

3. Save your changes to the file.
4. Rebuild the Dovecot mail server to apply the new configuration settings. To do this, run the following script:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/builddovecotconf
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5. Restart the Dovecot mail server. To do this, run the `/scripts/restartsrv_dovecot` command.