

Re: Fully spam/virus filtered mail, and reliable outbound relay

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2004-06/0623.html>

From: Jem Berkes (jb_at_users.pc9.org)

Date: 06/07/04

Date: 7 Jun 2004 14:22:42 GMT

>> *An ideal user for these services would be someone who needs to
>> reliably send mail but who is dissatisfied with their ISP's mail
>> relay.*

>>

> *Jem:*

>

> *I am currently interested in finding a SMTP provider that offers
> access to their server via some other port besides port 25. Currently,
> my ISP is blocking outgoing port 25 because of
> virused/infected/trojaned machines on their system. They were
> threatened to be placed on some blacklist (I believe) by some large
> ISP provider.*

mail.pc9.org accepts connections on port 465, which is ssl-tunneled smtp (smtps), and also on port 587 (submission) which is the recommended alternate SMTP port for these kinds of purposes. Both ports enforce authentication before relay.

It's very unlikely that an ISP would block your access to both of these ports, since they are especially intended to provide an authenticated access outside your ISP. Try to telnet mail.pc9.org 587 and see if you can see my server's greeting.

> *Right now, my choices are to pay an additional \$10.00 per month (US
> 120.00 per year) to my ISP for a buisness account that does not block
> outgoing port 25 or place restrictions on what can be put in the From:
> line. To me this seems like extortion.*

I would agree. My ISP said I would need to pay \$60 month for the privilege. I told them to screw off, and set up my own servers.

> *Another option is to join something like fastmail.fm. It looks like
> my two cheapest choices would be to either pay a one time \$14.95 for a
> member account or \$19.95 a year for a full account. It looks like
> both of these offer access to their SMTP server on port 26 and maybe*

> *on someother port.*

fastmail.fm is highly recommended. I paid a one-time \$14.95 and have been very happy with their service. If, for the volume of mail you are sending, fastmail works for you then you should go with them. It's cheaper. (I needed to run all other kinds of servers, so I decided to do my own hosting but otherwise I would have used fastmail).

> *Your prices are in between the two. Above you mentioned charging
> \$5.00 per month (or \$60.00 per year). I am really only interested in
> accessing an external SMTP server. As far as spam filtering goes, I
> do all of that on my own. If I can use my own From: and Reply-To:
> line, then I can continue to download my email using either fetchmail
> or fetchyahoo.pl (perl script to download email from yahoo.com).*

I think you should go with fastmail. I'm not trying to run a competitive mail service, just provide colleagues access to my resources at a price that balances the risk to myself.

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Jem Berkes

<http://www.sysdesign.ca/>