

Re: Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.setup/2005-07/msg00163.html>

- *From:* Gary Demi <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 9 Jul 2005 01:04:02 -0700
-

I still don't get it, I took the cname records out for mail and set my mx records to
pri=0 mail.tektoneco.net
pri=10 mail.tektoneco.net
yet dnsreport doesn't like this at all, says thoses addressess resolve to 0.0.0.0, which I guess they should since we have no cname record for mail.tektoneco.net. I am still confused on what the Exchange mail server URL is. I would guess it must be xxxx.mydomain.com, so what is xxx using the default SBS2003 setup.
Or otherwise where is the mailserver name determined by exchange.

Take a look at our domain tektoneco.net , right now it is very difficult for me to make changes to the NS records as the owner want's me to go through him on any changes to the domain. I have full control over the server.

I need to sit down and go through some basic Exchange documentation and/or tutorials, but right now, it's almost all working, just this silly MX record problem.

--
Gary Demi
Software & Communication Concepts, Inc.
Microsoft Registered Partner
Houston, & Phoenix

"Al Mulnick" wrote:

- > CNAME records are discouraged from being used for mail handling.
- > A records and MX records are the preferred method.
- >
- > Create an MX record for your domain, and whatever the A record is, it is.
- >
- > As for the ISP's, each one will vary. There is no value in checking to see
- > if the sending host has an MX record as far as I'm concerned. SPF values
- > are worse then worthless IMHO as they allow a spammer to publish and then in
- > practice, many hosts would allow bypassing of normal checks.
- >

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> Some ISP's do reverse lookup on the host to see if it belongs to the domain
> that's sending. That's accomplished with a PTR record. You *should*
> configure a PTR record for your sending host.
>
> Can you post some of the NDR's you get for delivery if that doesn't clear
> some of your issues up and the recipient domain ISP name?
>
> Al
>
> "Gary Demi" <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> news:451DB892-823C-49EF-8569-A0C9CE761FA1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>> Thanks for the info.
>> I already have an 'A' record, it consists of @ and my IP address this
>> works
>> fine for http, https and ftp access (with associated CNAME records)
>>
>> For Exchange Mail 2003 As I understand It,
>> I create a 'Cname' record such as alias=mail , points to @ , ttl=3600
>> then the MX record
>> PRI=0, HOST=@
>>
>> This will allow other mail handlers to deliver mail to Exchange using
>> anybody@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (actual domain removed).
>>
>> Wil this also fix the problem of bounced outgoing mail, as apparently many
>> ISP's we send mail to apparently check to see if I am sending mail from a
>> legit domain?
>>
>>
>> Gary Demi
>> Software & Communication Concepts, Inc.
>> Microsoft Registered Partner
>> Houston, & Phoenix
>>
>>
>>
>> "Al Mulnick" wrote:
>>
>>> The help file that comes with Exchange would be appropriate. Search SMTP
>>> and
>>> or Internet.
>>>
>>> MX records are not "required" per se to deliver mail per RFC. However, it
>>> is
>>> a best practice to have one that designates the mail handler for your
>>> domain. This is accomplished by designating a host as a mail handler (MX
>>> is
>>> the designation for mail handler in DNS terms.)
>>>
>>> It is a best practice to designate a MX record that specifies a host by
>>> it's

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>>> A record vs. any other type of record. During a SMTP transaction, the MTA
>>> (mail transfer agent) will receive a message. It will determine where to
>>> deliver that message and if it determines that message to be a remote
>>> MTA,
>>> it will then look at it's routing table to figure out if it knows how to
>>> contact that responsible MTA. If it doesn't have a specific route, it
>>> will
>>> then look to DNS and specifically will look for a MX record that
>>> specifies
>>> the mail handler for that domain (domain here is everything to the right
>>> of
>>> "@" in the address.) If an MX record does not exist, the MTA will look
>>> for
>>> an A record. If that doesn't exist, it will fail the delivery and return
>>> a
>>> non-delivery receipt (NDR). If an MX record does exist, it should
>>> reference
>>> an A record. Once that A record is discovered, it will be queried for
>>> it's
>>> IP address and a conversation will be started between the MTA's via the
>>> well
>>> known SMTP port, TCP 25. Messages will then be transferred and the
>>> recipient
>>> MTA will become responsible for the next step of delivery.
>>>
>>> Basically, that's how it works. Daniel Petri seems to have taken the
>>> time
>>> to explain it as well.
>>> http://www.petri.co.il/configure_mx_records_for_incoming_smtp_email_traffic.htm
>>>
>>> Having more than one MX record is done because the way SMTP mail works,
>>> it
>>> will try the lowest weighted (preferred) mail handler first. If it
>>> receives
>>> an error (depends on the error type), the sending MTA should then try to
>>> send to the next mailer listed. This provides some level of failure
>>> tolerance because you can have multiple hosts that receive mail for your
>>> domain. Should one be out of service, the other should pick up the
>>> slack.
>>> It's not a requirement.
>>>
>>> Typically, your ISP will offer queuing services. If your host should be
>>> down, they'll accept mail for your domain until you come back on-line at
>>> which time they'll dump the queued messages to your mailer. So in
>>> practice,
>>> you'll often see records that look like:
>>>
>>> yourdomain.net MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = smtp.yourdomain.net
>>> yourdomain.net MX preference = 50, mail exchanger = SMTP.yourISP.net
>>>
>>> Which would typically send mail destined for your domain to

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> > > smtp.yourdomain.net. However, if that server were unavailable, a sending
> > > host would try to send the mail to the other server, SMTP.yourISP.net.
> > > When
> > > smtp.yourdomain.net came back into service, it would then receive the
> > > queued
> > > messages from the ISP MTA, SMTP.yourISP.net.
> > >
> > > One caveat to be aware of, is that some admins have configured their
> > > hosts
> > > to look for reverse DNS records as a way to reduce spam. I don't
> > > consider
> > > this effective, but that's my opinion. The reason I don't, is because I
> > > can
> > > have a sending host that is not also a receiving a host and therefore I
> > > wouldn't have a corresponding MX record. To have the sending and
> > > receiving
> > > host be the same, is more often done in smaller IT shops vs. the larger
> > > and
> > > global shops. By RFC, I am not required to have an MX record for a host
> > > that
> > > is sending only nor would I want to as there would be no path for that
> > > mail
> > > handler to ever deliver a message. A PTR record is a good idea for your
> > > sending host for the same reason. While not required, it is a good idea
> > > to
> > > more reliably transfer messages with your customers because some hosts
> > > are
> > > configured to check for a reverse lookup when receiving a message from
> > > your
> > > domain. Same goes with SPF records (you may want one); I don't spf
> > > records
> > > as effective nor desirable, but what do I know? ;)
> > >
> > >
> > > Does that help?
> > >
> > > Al
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > "Gary Demi" <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> > > news:1067F097-FA48-4B5F-97D3-5F0957549B12@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> > > >I thought two MX records where required. The MX records should read
> > > >something
> > > > liklike mail.yourdomain.com or smtp.yourdomain.com (what prefix does
> > > > Exchange
> > > > use, and what help file are you referring to?
> > > >
> > > > Thanks
> > > > --
> > > > Gary Demi

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> > > Microsoft Registered Partner
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> > >
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> > >
> > > "Al Mulnick" wrote:
> > >
> > >> Two MX resource records?
> > >>
> > >> MX resource records are used to designate mail handlers for your
> > >> domain.
> > >> The A RR is the host name, and the MX references the A.
> > >>
> > >> If you have the A already, you would have your lowest priority MX
> > >> record
> > >> specify the A record as the mail handler. You may also want a reverse
> > >> PTR
> > >> (some domains check this record when receiving mail from you), but
> > >> that's
> > >> up
> > >> to you. The higher priority record, if you specify one, would
> > >> typically
> > >> be
> > >> for a backup mail handler such as might be provided by your ISP.
> > >>
> > >> Check out the help files for more information regarding MX and A
> > >> records
> > >> and
> > >> how to set this up. I believe it has mail flow pictures in there if
> > >> that's
> > >> helpful.
> > >>
> > >> Al
> > >>
> > >>
> > >> "Gary Demi" <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> > >> news:9DEFC442-1929-4252-A261-BE4FFCA4A901@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> > >> > We are running SBS2003 premium and starting to use exchange. Right
> > >> > now
> > >> > we
> > >> > are
> > >> > running one NIC behind a NAT router.
> > >> >
> > >> > We have access to the DNS records on our nameserver through our
> > >> > domain
> > >> > registrar.
> > >> >
> > >> > We have a public domain name pointing to the SBS2003 computer (via
> > >> > the
> > >> > A

