

Re: Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.setup/2005-07/msg00182.html>

- *From:* "Al Mulnick" <amulnick_No_SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 10 Jul 2005 09:23:00 -0400
-

That's correct.

Although since it's RFC defined, they do have some structure in it to prevent happenstance but what you describe is pretty much the way it works.
:)

Al

"Gary Demi" <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:0F38B9FB-B0D4-47EB-90A0-3D10FEF808D9@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

> Thanks, I was going on the assumption that the URL of the mailserver was
> something like an http server such that <http://page1.mydomain.com> needed
> a

> definition for page1 within the http server for mydomain.com.

> As I undersand it now you can give your mail server any name (in the MX
> record) thing as long as somewhere that name is resolved to an IP address
> that listens on port 25.

> --

> Gary Demi

> Software & Communication Concepts, Inc.

> Microsoft Registered Partner

> Houston, & Phoenix

>

>

>

> "Al Mulnick" wrote:

>

>> Here's your current:

>> Non-authoritative answer:

>> tektoneco.net MX preference = 0, mail exchanger = mail1.tektoneco.net

>> tektoneco.net MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = mail.tektoneco.net

>>

>> tektoneco.net nameserver = park10.secureserver.net

>> tektoneco.net nameserver = park9.secureserver.net

>> park9.secureserver.net internet address = 64.202.165.114

>> park10.secureserver.net internet address = 64.202.167.153

>>

>>

>> Here's Microsoft's:

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>>
>> Non-authoritative answer:
>> microsoft.com MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = mailb.microsoft.com
>> microsoft.com MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = mailc.microsoft.com
>> microsoft.com MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = maila.microsoft.com
>>
>> microsoft.com nameserver = ns3.msft.net
>> microsoft.com nameserver = ns4.msft.net
>> microsoft.com nameserver = ns5.msft.net
>> microsoft.com nameserver = ns1.msft.net
>> microsoft.com nameserver = ns2.msft.net
>> maila.microsoft.com internet address = 131.107.3.124
>> mailb.microsoft.com internet address = 131.107.3.123
>> mailc.microsoft.com internet address = 207.46.121.52
>> ns1.msft.net internet address = 207.46.245.230
>> ns2.msft.net internet address = 64.4.25.30
>> ns3.msft.net internet address = 213.199.144.151
>> ns4.msft.net internet address = 207.46.66.75
>> ns5.msft.net internet address = 207.46.138.20
>>
>>
>>
>> Note how maila.microsoft.com has a corresponding record? That's an A
>> record
>> for the responsible host. So, you would define xxx.domain.com which
>> equates
>> to FQDN of a host. XXX == hostname while domain.com == tektoneco.net.
>> (note: I simplified these records to make the illustration clearer)
>> microsoft.com MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = maila.microsoft.com
>> maila.microsoft.com internet address = 131.107.3.124
>>
>> Translated means that for the zone microsoft.com, the mailhandler with a
>> preference of 10 is maila.microsoft.com or host maila in the
>> microsoft.com
>> domain is responsible for handling mail destined for the microsoft
>> domain.
>> In your case, I see A records for park9 and park10 in the
>> secureserver.net
>> domain. You would want one of those hosts to handle mail for you I
>> assume.
>> If not, then you'll need to publish a host record in the tektoneco.net
>> domain. That host might be named mail or it might be something else, but
>> if
>> it listens on tcp 25 and handles mail destined for tektoneco.net domain,
>> then it should have a corresponding MX record.
>>
>> CNAME records are discouraged by RFC so it's best not to use them if
>> possible.
>>
>> Does that make more sense?
>>

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>> If not, drop a note to my email address and let me know. I don't always
>> catch NNTP messages.
>>
>> Al
>>
>>
>>
>> "Gary Demi" <GaryDemi@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>> news:091412CA-F029-4375-B8E3-7DCD87C64CF5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>> >I still don't get it, I took the cname records out for mail and set my
>> >mx
>> > records to
>> > pri=0 mail1.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.
>> >>

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>>> 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.
>>>
>>> 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?
>>> >
>>> >

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>>>> 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
>>>>> 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

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>>>> 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 =

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>>>> SMTP.yourISP.net
>>>>
>>>> Which would typically send mail destined for your domain to
>>>> 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? ;)
>>>>>

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Re: Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info

>>>>
>>>> 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
>>>> > Software & Communication Concepts, Inc.
>>>> > Microsoft Registered Partner
>>>> > Houston, & Phoenix
>>>> >
>>>> >
>>>> >
>>>> > "Al Mulnick" wrote:
>>>> >
>>>> >> Two MX resource records?
>>>> >>
>>>> >> MX resource records are used to designate mail handlers for your
>>>> >> domain.

• **References:**

- ◆ **[Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info](#)**
 ◇ From: Gary Demi
- ◆ **[Re: Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info](#)**
 ◇ From: Al Mulnick
- ◆ **[Re: Newbie to Exchange needs MX record info](#)**
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