

Re: Why is an eMail to karl@202.34.123.45 not possible ?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2006-12/msg00709.html

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 - *Date:* Thu, 21 Dec 2006 10:26:29 -0500
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Tim Tuples <titu@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

We have a deidcated server with a fixed IP (e.g =202.34.123.45) and a running mail server but NO domain associated with it.

I tried to send several times from serveral mail accounts from all over the world emails to an eMail account on this server (e.g. to karl@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx). Unfortunately this doesn't work.

The SMTP mail delivery system seems to need a domain name and NOT an IP. Why?

According to RFC 2821, the format of the address you're using is almost acceptable to SMTP mail agents. Here's a quote:

4.1.3 Address Literals

Sometimes a host is not known to the domain name system and communication (and, in particular, communication to report and repair the error) is blocked. To bypass this barrier a special literal form of the address is allowed as an alternative to a domain name. For IPv4 addresses, this form uses four small decimal integers separated by dots and enclosed by brackets such as [123.255.37.2], which indicates an (IPv4) Internet Address in sequence-of-octets form. For IPv6 and other forms of addressing that might eventually be standardized, the form consists of a standardized "tag" that identifies the address syntax, a colon, and the address itself, in a format specified as part of the IPv6 standards [17].

So, the RFC for SMTP mail dictates that you should be able to specify karl@[202.34.123.45]. However, Outlook doesn't like that. When I tried it without the brackets, Outlook accepted the address, but the message never arrived. Apparently, Outlook is not a standard-conforming mail program, but then, you knew that already.

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Brian Tillman

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