

E-mail failover to back up Internet connection

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2005-02/6085.html>

From: Todd (*Todd_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

Date: 02/19/05

Date: Sat, 19 Feb 2005 11:39:02 -0800

I'm trying to determine how to ensure in/outbound e-mail will flow over our backup Internet connection if the primary Internet connection fails.

We have firewall/router device in front of our SBS 2003 box. The device has two WAN interfaces. WAN1 has an IP from our primary ISP (ISP1) and WAN2 has an IP from ISP2.

Our DNS records, hosted by a third company, has an A record setup to match the IP from ISP1 to the host name of our SBS box (ie sbs.ourdomain.com). The hosting company has told me that setting up a second A record that matches the IP from ISP2 to the same host name (sbs.ourdomain.com) will not work.

A consultant has told me in order to accomplish our email failover goal, we would need to host DNS ourselves so that our sever has the authoritative DNS record. He is saying that our failover will not work if the receiving mailserver uses reverse DNS checks. He says once we are hosting our own DNS we can run inexpensive software that will monitor our dual internet connections and make the appropriate DNS changes if the connection to ISP1 fails. It seems there is a consensus that hosting our own DNS in an SBS environment is not advisable. Is this true?

How do we configure everything so that inbound and outbound e-mail will work on our connection to ISP2 if the connection to ISP1 fails?

Thanks

-Todd