

## Re: Best Outgoing Mail, Via DNS or ISP SMTP?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-08/msg00663.html>

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- *From:* "kj" <kj@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 31 Jul 2006 13:31:05 -0700
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Yeah, forget using "delivery receipts" with smarthosts. Also some x509 signed and/or encrypted email gets mauled in transit.

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/kj

"Joe" <joe@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:%23mGCo4NtGHA.1512@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Lanwench [MVP - Exchange] wrote:

In  
<news:4D2EA0C5-D1BD-4BD4-A46D-739AD9C4C59C@xxxxxxxxxxxx>,  
Daren <Daren@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> typed:

I use the POP Manager to receive mail as my ISP (BT) scans everything for viruses, so I get a nice big fat comfort zone.

Except for the lack of comfort inherent in forcing a mail server to act like a POP client :-)

But which is best... To send mail via the ISP or via DNS and if the answer is DNS can anybody tell me why?

Regards

Daren

It's always best to send out directly if you have the bandwidth, if you have a static IP address, and a PTR. It's often faster, it is easier to track mail/trace stuff, etc.

I'd put this one as the main advantage. When you send your mail off

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through a smarthost, it's gone down a black hole. There's no way to tell what happened to it, as even the best ISPs don't usually have the time to snip out bits of their log files and send them to you. If you do it yourself, you can see the handshake with the other server, and if there are problems, you don't have to guess why.

A while back, I was trying to track down a complete lack of incoming email. The company leased a domain name through an American company and nothing was coming from them. They had no way to trace this further, being unable to send email outside to one of their own addresses without significant fiddling, so I connected to my home server and sent them an email, and then studied my logs. There was no answer at all from the redirection company, so there was obviously trouble there. 'I wonder if they're in Florida,' I joked. A quick look at their website showed that was exactly where they were...

A smarthost would just have sat on the test email, kept retrying at intervals and after a day or two would have sent back a message saying the email couldn't be delivered, but probably no details as to why. My own mail server would have done that, but I had access to its logs.