

Mail services @ NIKHEF

CT system support

Outline

- NIKHEF SMTP mail service
- Incoming mail (virus, spam, etc)
- Read mail (imap/pop)
- Mail clients

NIKHEF SMTP mail server

- **smtp@nikhef.nl**
 - Handles all incoming and outgoing mail
 - Implemented on two dual-processor Linux servers (plus one 'spare' server)
 - **smtp@nikhef.nl does not allow mail relays** (i.e. does not relay mails sent outside nikhef.nl domain)

Incoming mail

1. Check sender on blacklist
2. Check if virus in mail
3. Analyze mail with spam criteria
4. Check actions in .forward file
5. Run mail processor 'procmail'

Incoming mail (1)

- **Check blacklist**
 - 'nikhef' blacklist (no external blacklist consulted)
 - If mail sent from domain on our blacklist: bounce mail

Incoming mail (2)

- **Check for virus**
 - If virus: store mail, notify receiver (and sender)

```
From: postmaster@nikhef.nl
Subject: VIRUS IN MAIL FOR YOU FROM admin@duma.gov.ru
```

V I R U S A L E R T

Our virus checker found the 'W32/Dumaru-A' virus(es) in an email to you from: admin@duma.gov.ru.

Delivery of the email was stopped!

Please contact your system administrator for details. The ID of your quarantined message is: virus-20030905-102641-5661

Incoming mail (3)

- **Check for SPAM**
 - Each incoming mail analyzed by spam filter 'spamassassin'
 - Standard spam criteria updated daily
 - Individual users can add their own criteria
 - If the 'spam score' is above a certain level, the mail is marked as being 'spam mail'
 - The default 'spam score' is set to 5 (but will be set lower soon)

Example ~/.spamassassin/user_prefs

```
# SpamAssassin user preferences file.

# How many hits before a mail is considered spam.
required_hits      2

# Whitelist, accept allways nikhef.nl mails
whitelist_from    *@nikhef.nl
```

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Incoming mail (4)

- **Check .forward configuration**
 - '~.forward' file checked before delivering mail to user
 - Mail can be forwarded to other user(s)
 - Programs like 'vacation' can be triggered

Example ~/.forward

```
# deliver mail to user 'wimh' and
# run 'vacation' to reply a vacation message
# to the sender

\wimh, "|/usr/bin/vacation wimh"
```

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Incoming mail (5)

- Run mail processor 'procmail'
 - 'procmail' runs whenever '~/.procmailrc' file exists
 - Preferred solution to handle spam mail (without mail client!)

Example ~/.procmailrc

```
# define directory to store mail
MAILDIR=$HOME/mail

# recipe to store 'spam-labelled' mail in folder 'spam'
:0
* ^X-Spam-Status: Yes
spam
```

Reading mail

- Mail stored on server 'mail.nikhef.nl'
 - One file per user: /var/spool/mail/user
- Mail folder on server can be accessed
 - Directly from a unix system with 'mail' program (old)
 - From mail clients (like Eudora, Outlook, web mail, etc)
 - using the 'imap' protocol (imap.nikhef.nl)
 - using the 'pop' protocol (pop3.nikhef.nl)
- Preferred solution: imap client

imap.nikhef.nl

- **Mails stored in folders on imap.nikhef.nl**
 - Mail folders (or files) in home directory in Unix
- **Mail always 'leave on server'**
 - 'copy' to mail client, not 'move' to mail client
- **Mail administration always done on server**
 - The same view from all clients (e.g. mail marked as 'read')
- **Subscribe / unsubscribe mail folders**
 - Use (un)subscribe to make folder (in)visible on client
- **Authorisation to server**
 - Unix username and password

Migration from pop to imap

- **Configure mail client**
 - Create mail accounts for imap.nikhef.nl instead of pop3.nikhef.nl
- **Copy 'pop' mail archives to Unix home dir**
 - Ask assistance from CT helpdesk
- **Do not mix 'pop' and 'imap' clients**

Supported mail clients

- **Mail** (Unix); simple, no attachments, not recommended
- **Pine** (Unix)
- **Eudora** (Unix/Windows)
- **Netscape/Mozilla** (Unix/Windows)
- **Outlook** (Windows)
- **Secure web mail** (web browser)

Outside nikhef.nl domain

- **Reading mail with imap/pop client**
 - Always possible
- **Send mail via smtp.nikhef.nl server**
 - Use secure web mail
 - Or more advanced configure SSH client
 - Smtplib secure port forwarding

Questions ??