

# Postfix Configuration Files and descriptions

## Postfix Configuration Files

The Ubuntu Postfix mail server uses three configuration files, all of which are installed in the directory `/etc/postfix`:

`dynamicmaps.cf`:

Identifies additional capabilities to be loaded at run time based on

the type of operation that is being performed.

`main.cf`:

Contains configuration information for Postfix that is used during message processing.

`master.cf`:

Contains parameters used when the Postfix master program runs other

programs from `/usr/lib/postfix`.

Postfix can also use standard mailer configuration files such as `/etc/aliases` (which allows e-mail addressed to one user to be automatically delivered to another), but this is not a Postfix-specific configuration file.

The `main.cf` configuration file is the only Postfix configuration file that most users will ever have to modify. As installed on an Ubuntu system, the `main.cf` configuration file for a system following the Internet site model looks like the following (I've removed some irrelevant comments and white space):

```
[crayon-66380a0086bda334023395/]
```

In order, these configuration variables do the following:

myorigin:

An option for Debian and derivative distributions (such as Ubuntu) that

enables you to use the first line of the text file /etc/mailname as the name of the mailer. This is actually set later in the default file.

smtpd\_banner:

Sets the value of the banner that is displayed when an SMTP connection is established. In this case, the banner is constructed by using the value of other

variables set in the configuration file.

biff:

Determines whether the local e-mail notification service (biff) should be used

for each user with new mail each time Postfix processes the incoming mail queue. In

this case, it is disabled because biff notifications can cause a performance drain, and

are relevant only on the machine that houses the mail files.

Users who use local mail

files can enable this for themselves.

append\_dot\_mydomain:

Determines whether Postfix should append a domain name

to mail sent to user@host. Nowadays, this is usually handled by the MUA, so this is

disabled.

delay\_warning\_time:

Uncommenting this parameter would specify the period of

time after which users would be notified if mail that they had sent had not yet been

delivered. After all, the remote site could be using Microsoft Exchange, and might be

down.

smtpd\_tls\_cert\_file:

Identifies the full pathname of the file on this system that

holds the certificate used by this machine when sending

messages using TLS (Transport Layer Security).

`smtpd_tls_key_file:`

Identifies the full pathname of the file on this system that holds the RSA private key for the Postfix SMTP client when sending messages using TLS (Transport Layer Security).

`smtpd_use_tls:`

Determines whether this Postfix server should use TLS when a remote SMTP server announces STARTTLS support. If the remote server does not

announce STARTTLS support, the message is sent in the clear.

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`smtpd_tls_session_cache_database:`

Identifies the organization and location of the SMTP server TLS session cache used by the `tlsmgr` daemon.

`smtp_tls_session_cache_database:`

Identifies the organization and location of the SMTP client TLS session cache used by the `tlsmgr` daemon.

`myhostname:`

Identifies the actual Internet hostname of this system. By default, this

value is the value returned by `gethostname()`.

`alias_maps:`

Identifies the organization and full pathname of the aliases file used for local mail delivery.

`alias_database:`

Identifies the organization and full pathname of the aliases file used

for local mail delivery, and which is updated using the traditional `newaliases` com-

mand. This is often the same file as that identified by the `alias_maps` parameter, but

need not be.

`myorigin:`

Identifies the name of the host or domain that local mail is assumed to come from and is sent to. On Ubuntu systems, it is the name of a file containing whatever you specified as the mail name when installing Postfix. This is suitable for single-domain installations, but insufficient for Postfix mail servers that support multiple domains.

**mydestination:**

A list of domains for which mail is delivered via local mail delivery. I

specified `ubuntu.vonhagen.org` as the name of my host when I installed Postfix.

In most cases, `mail.domain-name` (i.e., `mail.vonhagen.org`, in my case) would be the

standard name to use for a mail server to help keep your sysadmins sane and make it

easy to locate/identify your domain's mail server.

**relayhost:**

If outgoing mail must be sent to another mail server for delivery, this

parameter identifies that mail server; otherwise, it is empty.

**mynetworks:**

Identifies the networks or specific hosts from which this mail server will

send mail. This information is specified in both IPv4 and IPv6 formats. In this case, the

mail server will only send mail from the loopback network, which is a problem. This is

discussed in the following section, "Identifying Trusted Hosts and Domains."

**mailbox\_size\_limit:**

Identifies the maximum size of any mailbox on the system. In this case, 0 means that there is no limit.

**recipient\_delimiter:**

Identifies the separator used internally by the Postfix server between usernames and addresses.

`inet_interfaces:`

Identifies the network interfaces on which the machine can receive

mail. In this case, the Postfix server will listen on all network interfaces.

`html_directory:`

Identifies the location of HTML files that describe how to install and

configure a Postfix server and various Postfix features.

A complete list of Postfix configuration parameters and possible values is available in the files sec-

tion of the online reference information for the `postconf` command (`man 5 postconf`) or online

at locations such as [www.postfix.org/postconf.5.html](http://www.postfix.org/postconf.5.html).