Configure send-only mailserver for Systemmails
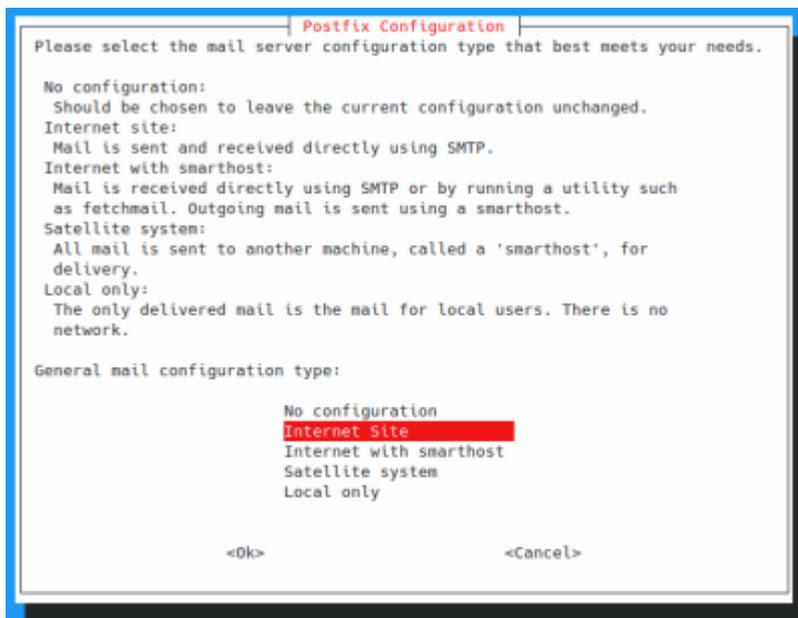
This guide shows how to install a send-only mailserver using `postfix` on Debian to automatically send emails e.g. of unattended-upgrades or cron-jobs.
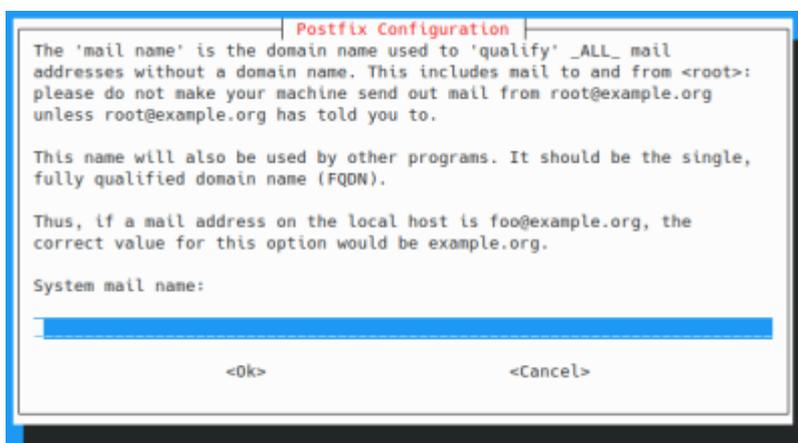
Postfix configuration

1. Install `postfix` and `mailutils`:

```
apt install postfix mailutils
```

2. Configure postfix as `Internet site`:

Then enter the systemmail-name e.g. `test.server.com`:

3. Verify correct `host`-file entry:

It is important that the first DNS name of the local server (`127.0.1.1`) contains the domain, otherwise some mail servers will reject the mails sent from this server because they can't verify the domain. So in our case the `/etc/hosts` file should look like this:

```
127.0.0.1        localhost
127.0.1.1        test.server.com test

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1      ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
fe00::0 ip6-localnet
ff00::0 ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
ff02::2 ip6-allrouters
```

If `test` would stand before `test.server.com` the system mails could be rejected.

4. Test the configuration:

```
sudo echo "Postfix Send-Only Server" | sudo mail -s "Postfix Testing" <address-where-the-mail-should-be-send-to>
```

Set receiver address

The receiver addresses of the system mails are configured in `/etc/aliases`, the content *can* look like this:

```
# See man 5 aliases for format
root:           <target-mail-address>

postmaster:     root
nobody:         root
hostmaster:     root
webmaster:      root
www:            root
```

After changing `/etc/aliases`, run the following command to update the aliases database:

```
newaliases
```

Configure crontab emails

If the receiver address is properly configured through the `/etc/aliases` file, just add `MAILTO=root` to the top of each crontab file that should send emails.

From:
http://fixes.brecht-schule.hamburg/ - **Fixes | Public BIT Wiki**

Permanent link:
http://fixes.brecht-schule.hamburg/linux/debian/configure-send-only-mailserver?rev=1690711759

Last update: **2023/07/30 12:09**