

GNU/Linux Administration - Feature #817

Filter Recipient Email Addresses Containing Spaces on Postfix

06/06/2016 05:26 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Closed	Start date:	06/06/2016
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis	% Done:	100%
Category:	Mail Server	Estimated time:	0.50 hour
Target version:	FreeBSD 10	Spent time:	3.50 hours

Description

I recently had a user having emails stuck in their email client's outbox. After doing some initial troubleshooting I found that one of the recipient addresses had a space in it, causing the email to be malformed and undeliverable.

- Looking around in the maillog:

```
cat /var/log/maillog
```

#*I found the following error message:

```
Jun  6 16:51:59 mail postfix/smtpd[35766]: 834C4A3FAA: reject: RCPT from unknown[192.168.1.147]: 450 4.7.1 <SOME otheruser@example.com>: Recipient address rejected: Access denied; from=<user@example.com> to=<SOME otheruser@example.com> proto=ESMTP helo=<android-5215693721918913.example.com>
```

To work around this problem, I used the `command_filter` feature provided by postfix (version 2.7+) and created a regular expression to put quotations around any email addresses matching with a space.

- Create the `command_filter` file:

```
vi /usr/local/etc/postfix/command_filter
```

- And add the following:

```
# Regular expression to match addresses with spaces, then put quotes around it
/^RCPT\s+TO:<([^\s:]+ \.+)@([^\s:]+>.*)/ RCPT TO:<"$1"@$2
```

- Now edit the main postfix config file:

```
vi /usr/local/etc/postfix/main.cf
```

- And add the `command_filter` definition, along with `smtpd_reject_unlisted_recipient`:

```
smtpd_command_filter = pcre:/usr/local/etc/postfix/command_filter
smtpd_reject_unlisted_recipient = no
```

- Restart postfix:

```
service postfix restart
```

NOTE: This does not magically correct wrong email address. Incorrect email addresses will either bounce back to the sender or be caught by a catch-all email box.

Resources

- http://www.postfix.org/postconf.5.html#smtpd_command_filter
- <https://www.mail-archive.com/search?l=postfix-users@postfix.org&q=subject:%22Re%3A+Illegal+address+syntax%22&o=newest&f=1>
- <http://www.iredmail.org/forum/topic8668-iredmail-support-this-should-be-in-iredmail-by-default-etcpostfixmaincf.html>
- <http://yvanrodrigues.com/content/server-error-501-513-bad-recipient-address-syntax>

History

#1 - 06/06/2016 05:29 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Subject changed from *Filter Email Addresses With Spaces on Postfix* to *Filter Recipient Email Addresses Containing Spaces on Postfix*
- Description updated
- Status changed from *New* to *Resolved*
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

#2 - 07/10/2016 10:02 AM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from *Resolved* to *Closed*