

Supporting IMAP and POP3 with Dovecot

LPIC-2: Linux Engineer (202-450)

Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe the Dovecot IMAP and POP3 server and its intended uses.
2. Install and configure Dovecot on a Linux email server.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

- Supporting IMAP and POP3 with Dovecot
 - Introduction to Dovecot
 - Installing Dovecot
 - Configuring Dovecot for User Access
- Introduction to Dovecot
 - <https://www.dovecot.org/>
 - Popular opensource POP3 and IMAP4 server
 - Post Office Protocol
 - Internet Mail Access Protocol
 - POP3
 - Basic email client service
 - No folder support
 - Email not intended to stay on server long term
 - IMAP4
 - Advanced email client service
 - Folder support
 - Read/unread status synchronization between client and server
- Installing Dovecot
 - sudo apt install dovecot-pop3d dovecot-imapd
 - sudo systemctl enable --now dovecot
- Configuring Dovecot for User Access
 1. sudoedit /etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-auth.conf
 - disable_plaintext_auth = no
 - auth_mechanisms = plain login
 2. sudoedit /etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-mail.conf
 - mail_location = mailldir:~/Mail
 3. sudoedit /etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-master.conf
 - unix_listener /var/spool/postfix/private/auth {
 - mode = 0666
 - user = postfix
 - group = postfix
 - }
- Enabling TLS support in Dovecot
 - sudoedit /etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-ssl.conf
 - ssl = yes
 - ssl_cert = </etc/dovecot/private/dovecot.pem
 - ssl_key = </etc/dovecot/private/dovecot.key
 - Alternate ports

- 110 POP3 Unencrypted
 - 995 POP3/S
 - 143 IMAP4 Unencrypted
 - 993 IMAP/S
- Firewall access
 - sudo ufw allow "Dovecot POP3"
 - sudo ufw allow "Dovecot IMAP"
 - sudo ufw allow "Dovecot Secure IMAP"
 - sudo ufw allow "Dovecot Secure POP3"
- Testing Dovecot
 - telnet 127.0.0.1 110
 - user dpezet
 - pass password123
 - list
 - retr 1
 - quit
 - telnet 127.0.0.1 143
 - Configure a client like Thunderbird