

## Setting up Exim4, Dovecot, and Squirrelmail on Debian Squeeze

Since Exim4 is already installed, we need to make a configuration change for it to use the "Maildir" format.

Run this command from the root prompt: **dpkg-reconfigure exim4-config**

I will walk you through the choices but we want it to be an Internet mail server and deliver mail to the users in the **Maildir** format.

Restart Exim4 **/etc/init.d/exim4 restart** This reloads the configuration file.

If you **vi /etc/exim4/update-exim4.conf.conf** you should see this at the bottom of the configuration file: `dc_localdelivery='maildir_home'`

Exit from vi with **Esc:q!**

Next we want to install the Dovecot IMAP e-mail program.

**apt-get install dovecot-imapd**

As of **Debian Jessie**, the configuration files for dovecot have been broken into multiple files.

The changes between the lines apply to **Debian Wheezy** and earlier. See below the lines for changes for Jessie.

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**vi /etc/dovecot/dovecot.conf**

We need to make a couple of changes here.

If you **Esc : 25** it will take you to line 25 where we need to uncomment the `protocols = imap imaps` line

This allows Dovecot to serve as an imap mail client.

Next **Esc : 47** to go to line 47. We need to uncomment the line `listen = *`

This allows it to listen on any port.

Now **Esc : 224** to go to line 224. We need to uncomment the line `mail_location = maildir:~/Maildir`

This allows it to use the Maildir format.

Now **Esc : wq** to save the file and restart Dovecot with **/etc/init.d/dovecot restart**

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**Debian Jessie specific:** Uncomment the `/etc/dovecot/dovecot.conf` file at line 29 so it looks like this: `listen = *, ::` to allow it to listen on ipv4 and ipv6. **Esc : wq** to save the file.

Now edit the `/etc/dovecot/conf.d/10-mail.conf` line to uncomment line 24 where it says:

```
mail_location = maildir:~/Maildir
```

and comment out line 30 where it says

```
mail_location = mbox:~/mail:INBOX=/var/mail/%u
```

This sets the location of dovecot to use the Maildir format.

Now **Esc : wq** to save the file and restart Dovecot with `/etc/init.d/dovecot restart`

This reloads the configuration for dovecot.

Now we need to install squirrelmail which is a web based mail client.

**apt-get install squirrelmail**

From the root command line run **squirrelmail-configure**

This will present an interactive menu where SquirrelMail can be configured.

Select option, D. Set pre-defined settings for specific IMAP servers. This preloads some settings specifically for your IMAP server package.

Enter dovecot

Press S to save and Q to quit.

Under `/etc/squirrelmail/` there is a file called `apache.conf` In order to be able to access squirrelmail from a web browser, we need to let apache2 know about this file.

**vi /etc/apache2/apache2.conf** and add this line at the bottom of the file:

```
include /etc/squirrelmail/apache.conf
```

**Esc : wq** to save the file.

This tells apache2 to include this configuration file so we can access squirrelmail at `http://(IP address)/squirrelmail`

We need to restart apache2 to reload the configuration  
**/etc/init.d/apache2 restart**

Now open your browser and type in `http://your_ip_address/squirrelmail`

It should display the web interface and you can log in as your standard user (not root) and your user password. You will see a full featured web page that allows you to read and send mail for your normal user.

### **Send Email via Telnet**

On occasion, we write code that sends email. Usually, it works the first time. But sometimes we need to figure out why not.

For that reason, we sometimes resort to manual telnet sessions with a remote mail server.

### **Simple manual telnet session with mail host**

Uppercase/lowercase does not appear to be significant.

You type this:

Telnet to hostname on port 25 **Example:** `telnet somedomain.com 25`

220 (then identifies itself - with several lines of 220 + text)

HELO your\_domain\_name or whatever  
250 (followed by human readable message)

MAIL FROM:you@hostname.com (ie, your email address)  
250 is syntactically correct (or similar)

RCPT TO:them@someplace\_else.com (email address you want to send to)  
250 is syntactically correct

DATA  
Tells you to send data then CRLF period CRLF at end

Subject: My Telnet Test Email  
Body of message

You type your message then CRLF period CRLF (ie, type a period on a line by itself then hit ENTER)

250  
QUIT

Signoff message