

Telnet to a mail server ; testing, relaying, etc...

In Windows go to "Start", and click on "Run". Then type "cmd". This will pop up a Dos window. On the command line type "telnet". This will bring up the telnet client. To connect to a site type "open [the dns of the site or ip] [port]". What is a port? Imagine a great board of holes all with numbers above them. This is your connection. If you have a firewall most of these "holes" would be closed. Your internet connection uses ports to transfer data to certain programs or "services". We will be using port 110 (pop3) and 25 (smtp).

SMTP - To Send Mail

To send mail:

Bring up telnet

Type "open (your mail server here) 25"

This will connect to your mail server on port 25 (the smtp port) SMTP stands for Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.

Type "HELO (site you want the mail server to record you connecting from...this can be anything you want)" Some mail servers do not require this line.

If you want the mail server/receiver of the email to know who this email is from type "MAIL FROM: yourname@whereever.com (replace this with whatever you want)" **Note: Some mail servers require this line...if you get an error that blank sender is not allowed than use this command.**

To tell the mail server where you want your mail to go to type "RCPT TO: (where you want the mail to go)". *Warning: If you incorrectly enter the destination of the mail it will be sent to the postmaster of the receiving server (usually the mail server will give you an error informing you that the user does not exist and that this message will be sent to the postmaster).

Then type "DATA"

The mail server will give you specific instructions on how to terminate the message (usually a "." on a line by itself) you must use this or else you will not be able to send the message!

Type your message

Then terminate the message with the appropriate character

At this point you generally type "QUIT" to disconnect as your message is sent.

Go to the start menu and hit run

Type in "telnet". This will bring up a window that will display microsoft telnet etc.

Type in "open (name of your mail server here) 110"

This should connect to your mail server if it uses POP (Post office protocol) on port 110. For those of you who use yahoo this won't work (though you can send mail)

Now type "USER (your username here)"

When asked for a password type "PASS (your password here)"

It should give you a little mailbox stat message if you typed everything in correctly.

To retrieve the status of your mailbox type "STAT"

This first number will be the number of messages you have and the second number will be the amount of space they take up.

Now type "LIST" to list the messages

It will list the message numbers followed by how large they are.

To retrieve a message type "RETR (message number)"

To delete a message type "DELE (message number)"

To quit type "QUIT"

You may quit at any time during this process by typing "QUIT". Also using the escape character or control-c may work. Note: this applies to my mail server and mail servers that I've used but may not apply to all. For example, Netscape will submit an "AUTH" command after the username is entered and my mail server will return an error message. It will then try the "PASS" command and this will work.

Notes:

Some mail servers may not allow "relay" that is sending the mail to a non-local address. If this is the case you will generally get a message saying that relay is not allowed. Also some servers require smtp authentication using a username/password. I haven't encountered this before but if it does then maybe you can use the commands for accessing mail above?

Mail servers do not "echo characters" that is you will not see what you type. Do not think that telnet/mail server is not working...this is normal.

The "Delete" key does not work...therefore you cannot correct typing errors. If you make a mistake then all you can do is disconnect and restart or try again (if it was a password/username).

After sending an email and viewing the commands I noticed that when my server contacted hotmail's server it used "EHLO" instead of the standard "HELO" I described above. Try this if the other one does not work?

Revision #2

Created 2006-05-18 14:02:37 UTC by Yamahata, Mitsuru

Updated 2007-03-05 20:07:28 UTC by Garcia, Ricardo