

# Setting up XAMPP for email feature development

## Overview:

- XAMPP contains a package called Mercury which allows you to set up a local SMTP server which can relay messages to external servers such as Gmail. This is useful if you want to test the mailing features of moodle on your local machine.

## What you need:

- XAMPP which can be found [here](#)
- Details for your SMTP server. I used Gmail which has information posted here:
- <http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=13287>

## Configuring Mercury:

- Trying to configure Mercury takes 27 or more steps which can be extremely confusing without a guide. I found [this guide](#) to be very helpful.
- In addition to what the guide says you must add the line “sendmail\_from = postmaster@localhost” to both ‘xampp/php/php.ini’ and ‘xampp/apache/bin/php.ini’ before restarting apache and mercury from the xampp control panel.
- If you’re successful, you should be able to use PHP’s mail function without error.

## Configuring Moodle:

- In order to use Moodle’s email functionality, we need to configure the settings under the Administration Panel → Server → Email.
- Set SMTP hosts: localhost
- Leave SMTP username and SMTP password blank.

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