

# Install sendmail service on Debian

## Overview

This guide explains how to set up authenticated email sending from the command line on Debian-based systems (including Proxmox Backup Server) using **msmtp** (a lightweight SMTP client) and **s-nail** (a mailx-compatible utility). This is ideal for system notifications, backup/email scripts, and environments with **DMARC/SPF** filtering where authenticated sending is required.

## 1. Install Required Packages

```
apt update
apt install -y msmtp s-nail
```

## 2. Configure msmtp

### 1. Create/Edit the global configuration file:

```
nano /etc/msmtprc
```

### 2. Example `/etc/msmtprc`:

```
defaults
auth          on
tls           on
tls_trust_file /etc/ssl/certs/ca-certificates.crt
logfile       /var/log/msmtp.log
syslog        LOG_MAIL

account       default
```

```
host      mail.hosting.de
port      587
from      admin@simmy.org
user      admin@simmy.org
password
```

- **Important:** "from" and "user" should match your authenticated email address for DMARC/SPF.

### 3. Example 2 /etc/msmtprc

1.

```
syslog LOG_MAIL

defaults
auth on
tls off
tls_trust_file /etc/ssl/certs/ca-certificates.crt
logfile /var/log/msmtp.log

account ucs-backup
host ucs-backup.simmy.ch
port 25
from pbs01@simmy.ch
account default : ucs-backup
```

- Use only plain ASCII spaces (no tabs or Unicode spaces).

### 4. Set strict permissions:

```
chmod 600 /etc/msmtprc
```

## 3. Configure `s-nail` or `mailx` to use `msmtp`

Add the following line to your `/etc/s-nail.rc` (system-wide) or `~/.mailrc` (per user):

```
set mta=/usr/bin/msmtp
```

## 4. Send a Test Email

Use the mail command to test sending:

```
echo "This is the body" | mail -s "Test Subject" recipient@example.com
```

On success, no output is shown. Check `/var/log/msmtp.log` or `/var/log/mail.log` (if syslog is enabled) for debug info if not delivered.

## 5. Troubleshooting

- If mail arrives in Junk/Spam, create a filter at your destination mailbox to whitelist the sender or move to Inbox.
- If you see an error like “**account default was already**

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