

Handbook of instructions for configuring DNS records for our email server

In the handbook examples, we will assume that you have a bakery named CheezeKake and are configuring a self-hosted email service for its domain cheezekake.com, with email addresses of the form @cheezekake.com.

We are assuming that you have an Ubuntu machine with the IP address 20.227.211.113, where you have installed MySQL and Postfix.

1. On your DNS service provider's page, create the following record.

Type: A

Name: mail-server (which actually means mail-server.cheezekake.com)

Value: 20.227.211.113

2. Next, create the following record.

Type: MX

Name: @ (which actually means 'cheezekake.com' itself)

Value: mail-server.cheezekake.com

This means that all emails that are addressed to addresses of the form @cheezekake.com, will be sent to mail-server.cheezekake.com server.

3. Finally, create the following record.

Type: TXT

Name: @ (which actually means 'cheezekake.com' itself)

Value: v=spf1 mx -all

This means that any email that comes from an email address of the form @cheezekake.com MUST be sent from ONLY the server that is specified in the 'MX' record. Mails sent from any other server will be immediately rejected as spam or blocked.

4. Note, another type of record is important. The 'A' or 'CNAME' record with the name '@' and an IP address. Typically this record might already exist if you already have a website for cheezekake.com. But if you don't, then you need to create the following record too.

Type: A

Name: @ (meaning 'cheezekake.com' itself)

Value: 20.227.211.113

5. Test the DNS settings on <https://www.dnschecker.org>.

6. Validate the SPF record using <https://mxtoolbox.com/NetworkTools.aspx>

7. Use the following command to keep the mail logs open for you to debug

```
sudo tail -f //var/log/mail.log &
```

8. Find your sendability score by testing with <https://www.mail-tester.com/>

Use the following command to send a mail.

```
sendmail <email address>
```

9. Send an email using sendmail to a Gmail address. The email should land in Spam and should not be rejected.

10. Send an email from a Gmail address to an address such as john@cheezekake.com. The email should reach your server as per the logs, but then bounce with the error, 'Address Not Found'.