

CryptoMail.org

CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs

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Version 0.10
September 25, 2000

Table of Contents

1. CryptoMail System Administrators Meta-FAQs	1
1.1 What is the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?	1
1.2 Where can I get the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?	1
1.3 Who maintains the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?	1
1.4 How do you submit your comments?	1
2. Hosting CryptoMail Email System.....	2
2.1 Can anyone host his/her own CryptoMail Email System?	2
2.2 What do I need to host my CryptoMail Email System?	2
2.3 Where can I get the newest version of CryptoMail Email System?	2
3. Administrating CryptoMail Email System	3
3.1 What are the supported httpd (web servers) or/and SQL servers?	3
3.2 Can I use other httpd (web servers) or/and SQL servers?.....	3
3.3 What do I need to secure email messages in the database?	3
3.4 How do I create and erase an email account in the CryptoMail Email System?	3
3.5 What can I do to reset a user account password?	3
3.6 What should I pay attention to while administrating CryptoMail Email System?	4
4. Getting Help	5
4.1 Where can I get more help about Administrating the CryptoMail Email System?	5
4.2 Who can I ask for more help?	5
5. Legalese.....	6

1. CryptoMail System Administrators Meta-FAQs

1.1 What is the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?

The CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs is an opening document about hosting and administrating the CryptoMail Email System. If you are planning to run our email system in your server, you should start to read this document. You will find useful answers for preparing and keeping your email system to operate smoothly.

1.2 Where can I get the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?

You always can get the latest version of the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs from the website of CryptoMail.org (http://www.cryptomail.org/faqs/system_administrators.html). Furthermore, this document should also be included with the binary and source code distributions of CryptoMail Email System.

1.3 Who maintains the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs?

The CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs is maintained by one or more members in the CryptoMail.org. If you are interested in helping our documentation projects, please contact Peter Leung (pleung@cryptomail.org).

1.4 How do you submit your comments?

From time to time, the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs will be updated to reflect the most up-to-date information. If you have any questions or comments about the CryptoMail System Administrators FAQs, you should check the latest version of this document first before submitting your comments. When you have a comment to submit, you should send it to the author of this document, Peter Leung (pleung@cryptomail.org).

2. Hosting CryptoMail Email System

2.1 Can anyone host his/her own CryptoMail Email System?

Everyone is allowed to host his/her own CryptoMail Email System, since CryptoMail.org has licensed our email system under the GNU General Public License. Moreover, you are welcome to change the style of the email system to fit your website.

2.2 What do I need to host my CryptoMail Email System?

You will need a MySQL server and a web server with CGI capability to host the CryptoMail Email System for exchanging messages within a LAN environment. If you are planning to use the email system to communicate over the Internet, you are required to have a IP address and a Sendmail (SMTP) email server for the Internet. Before hosting your own CryptoMail Email System, you have to make sure that all supporting servers (e.g. MySQL, httpd and sendmail) are running properly. For the hardware, the CryptoMail Email Server can run on a low-end computer system (e.g. Pentium 100MHz with 16Mb RAM). Administrators should prepare a large storage space for the encrypted messages in the user email account, because the encrypted messages are generally significantly larger than the plain text messages.

In the System Requirement at the CryptoMail.org, you should find detailed software and hardware requirements for the CryptoMail System.

2.3 Where can I get the newest version of CryptoMail Email System?

You can get the newest official CryptoMail Email System from Download at CryptoMail.org.

If your organization is interested in becoming a mirror site for distributing CryptoMail Email System, please contact Stan Osborne (stan@cryptomail.org).

3. Administrating CryptoMail Email System

3.1 What are the supported httpd (web servers) or/and SQL servers?

Only the Apache web server and the MySQL server are supported by CryptoMail.org. Although the CryptoMail Email System has not been tested on other web servers, the email system should run on other web servers with CGI capability. Currently, the email system will only run with the MySQL servers, and we plan to support other SQL servers in the future.

3.2 Can I use other httpd (web servers) or/and SQL servers?

You should be able to use other web servers other than Apache web server, but you must use the MySQL server with the CryptoMail Email System. Although we have not tested the CryptoMail Email System on all web servers, most of the web servers with CGI capability should allow you to run the email system properly. For the most detailed information about supported web servers and SQL servers, you should read System Requirements at the CryptoMail.org.

You could use following web servers (CryptoMail.org does not provide technical supports for any web servers):

- Apache Web Server (all platforms)
- Netscape Enterprise Server (all platforms)
- NCSA httpd (all platforms)

3.3 What do I need to secure email messages in the database?

You do not need any administration procedure to secure email message in the database, but you should encourage your users to pick a good password that are hard to guess. Under any condition, only the person with the correct password of the email account is allowed to read any contents of the account. However, you should secure your system (the hosting server) to avoid any downtime or loss of files due to system intrusions. In case of an unauthorized intrusion, email messages are still safe from reading.

3.4 How do I create and erase an email account in the CryptoMail Email System?

By using the Administration Module, you can erase an email account in the CryptoMail Email System. However, you cannot directly create an email account for a user. If you really need to do so, you have to create the account and then give the password of the account to the user.

3.5 What can I do to reset a user account password?

You cannot reset a user account password, but users can change their password with their old password. If your user forgot his/her password for the email account, he/she will never be able to access his/her email account. Administrator has no way to reset the password for the users.

3.6 What should I pay attention to while administrating CryptoMail Email System?

You should pay attention to disk space usage, since encrypted message is significantly larger than the original message. If you have many users in your CryptoMail Email System, you will need to assign large disk space for the email system. In addition, you should watch for open encryption sessions. If you need to kill an encryption session for a user, you can use the Administration Module.

4. Getting Help

4.1 Where can I get more help about Administrating the CryptoMail Email System?

You can get more help about administrating the CryptoMail Service by going through other documentation in CryptoMail.org. The Client/Server Manual has additional information about hosting, administrating, running and using our email system. If you have specific questions about administration, you may find them in HOWTOs. In the System Administrators Forum, you can reach our members and other system administrators who may able to give you additional help.

4.2 Who can I ask for more help?

CryptoMail.org does not provide additional help for individuals. From the System Administrators Forum, you may find people to answer your question about running the CryptoMail Email System.

5. Legalese

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Peter Leung (pleung@cryptomail.org) wrote the first version of this document in 2000. Mail me if you have any questions about this document.

CryptoMail Users FAQs, Version 0.10, 9/25/2000