

**NAME**

transport – Postfix transport table format

**SYNOPSIS**

**postmap /etc/postfix/transport**

**postmap -q "string" /etc/postfix/transport**

**postmap -q - /etc/postfix/transport <inputfile**

**DESCRIPTION**

The optional **transport(5)** table specifies a mapping from email addresses to message delivery transports and next-hop destinations. Message delivery transports such as **local** or **smtp** are defined in the **master.cf** file, and next-hop destinations are typically hosts or domain names. The table is searched by the **trivial-rewrite(8)** daemon.

This mapping overrides the default *transport:nexthop* selection that is built into Postfix:

**local\_transport (default: local:\$myhostname)**

This is the default for final delivery to domains listed with **mydestination**, and for [*ipaddress*] destinations that match **\$inet\_interfaces** or **\$proxy\_interfaces**. The default *nexthop* destination is the MTA hostname.

**virtual\_transport (default: virtual:)**

This is the default for final delivery to domains listed with **virtual\_mailbox\_domains**. The default *nexthop* destination is the recipient domain.

**relay\_transport (default: relay:)**

This is the default for remote delivery to domains listed with **relay\_domains**. In order of decreasing precedence, the *nexthop* destination is taken from **relay\_transport**, **sender\_dependent\_relayhost\_maps**, **relayhost**, or from the recipient domain.

**default\_transport (default: smtp:)**

This is the default for remote delivery to other destinations. In order of decreasing precedence, the *nexthop* destination is taken from **sender\_dependent\_default\_transport\_maps**, **default\_transport**, **sender\_dependent\_relayhost\_maps**, **relayhost**, or from the recipient domain.

Normally, the **transport(5)** table is specified as a text file that serves as input to the **postmap(1)** command. The result, an indexed file in **dbm** or **db** format, is used for fast searching by the mail system. Execute the command "**postmap /etc/postfix/transport**" to rebuild an indexed file after changing the corresponding transport table.

When the table is provided via other means such as NIS, LDAP or SQL, the same lookups are done as for ordinary indexed files.

Alternatively, the table can be provided as a regular-expression map where patterns are given as regular expressions, or lookups can be directed to TCP-based server. In those case, the lookups are done in a slightly different way as described below under "REGULAR EXPRESSION TABLES" or "TCP-BASED TABLES".

**CASE FOLDING**

The search string is folded to lowercase before database lookup. As of Postfix 2.3, the search string is not case folded with database types such as **regexp:** or **pcre:** whose lookup fields can match both upper and lower case.

**TABLE FORMAT**

The input format for the **postmap(1)** command is as follows:

*pattern result*

When *pattern* matches the recipient address or domain, use the corresponding *result*.

blank lines and comments

Empty lines and whitespace-only lines are ignored, as are lines whose first non-whitespace character is a '#'.

multi-line text

A logical line starts with non-whitespace text. A line that starts with whitespace continues a logical line.

The *pattern* specifies an email address, a domain name, or a domain name hierarchy, as described in section "TABLE LOOKUP".

The *result* is of the form *transport:nexthop* and specifies how or where to deliver mail. This is described in section "RESULT FORMAT".

## TABLE SEARCH ORDER

With lookups from indexed files such as DB or DBM, or from networked tables such as NIS, LDAP or SQL, patterns are tried in the order as listed below:

*user+extension@domain transport:nexthop*

Deliver mail for *user+extension@domain* through *transport* to *nexthop*.

*user@domain transport:nexthop*

Deliver mail for *user@domain* through *transport* to *nexthop*.

*domain transport:nexthop*

Deliver mail for *domain* through *transport* to *nexthop*.

*.domain transport:nexthop*

Deliver mail for any subdomain of *domain* through *transport* to *nexthop*. This applies only when the string **transport\_maps** is not listed in the **parent\_domain\_matches\_subdomains** configuration setting. Otherwise, a domain name matches itself and its subdomains.

\* *transport:nexthop*

The special pattern \* represents any address (i.e. it functions as the wild-card pattern, and is unique to Postfix transport tables).

Note 1: the null recipient address is looked up as **\$empty\_address\_recipient@\$myhostname** (default: mailer-daemon@hostname).

Note 2: *user@domain* or *user+extension@domain* lookup is available in Postfix 2.0 and later.

## RESULT FORMAT

The lookup result is of the form *transport:nexthop*. The *transport* field specifies a mail delivery transport such as **smtp** or **local**. The *nexthop* field specifies where and how to deliver mail.

The transport field specifies the name of a mail delivery transport (the first name of a mail delivery service entry in the Postfix **master.cf** file).

The interpretation of the *nexthop* field is transport dependent. In the case of SMTP, specify a service on a non-default port as *host.service*, and disable MX (mail exchanger) DNS lookups with *[host]* or *[host]:port*. The *[]* form is required when you specify an IP address instead of a hostname.

A null *transport* and null *nexthop* result means "do not change": use the delivery transport and *nexthop* information that would be used when the entire transport table did not exist.

A non-null *transport* field with a null *nexthop* field resets the *nexthop* information to the recipient domain.

A null *transport* field with non-null *nexthop* field does not modify the transport information.

## EXAMPLES

In order to deliver internal mail directly, while using a mail relay for all other mail, specify a null entry for internal destinations (do not change the delivery transport or the *nexthop* information) and specify a wild-card for all other destinations.

**my.domain :**

**.my.domain :**

\* **smtp:outbound-relay.my.domain**

In order to send mail for **example.com** and its subdomains via the **uucp** transport to the UUCP host named

**example:**

```
example.com    uucp:example
.example.com  uucp:example
```

When no nexthop host name is specified, the destination domain name is used instead. For example, the following directs mail for *user@example.com* via the **slow** transport to a mail exchanger for **example.com**. The **slow** transport could be configured to run at most one delivery process at a time:

```
example.com    slow:
```

When no transport is specified, Postfix uses the transport that matches the address domain class (see DESCRIPTION above). The following sends all mail for **example.com** and its subdomains to host **gateway.example.com**:

```
example.com    :[gateway.example.com]
.example.com  :[gateway.example.com]
```

In the above example, the [] suppress MX lookups. This prevents mail routing loops when your machine is primary MX host for **example.com**.

In the case of delivery via SMTP, one may specify *hostname:service* instead of just a host:

```
example.com    smtp:bar.example:2025
```

This directs mail for *user@example.com* to host **bar.example** port **2025**. Instead of a numerical port a symbolic name may be used. Specify [] around the hostname if MX lookups must be disabled.

The error mailer can be used to bounce mail:

```
.example.com  error:mail for *.example.com is not deliverable
```

This causes all mail for *user@anything.example.com* to be bounced.

## REGULAR EXPRESSION TABLES

This section describes how the table lookups change when the table is given in the form of regular expressions. For a description of regular expression lookup table syntax, see [regexp\\_table\(5\)](#) or [pcre\\_table\(5\)](#).

Each pattern is a regular expression that is applied to the entire address being looked up. Thus, *some.domain.hierarchy* is not looked up via its parent domains, nor is *user+foo@domain* looked up as *user@domain*.

Patterns are applied in the order as specified in the table, until a pattern is found that matches the search string.

The [trivial-rewrite\(8\)](#) server disallows regular expression substitution of \$1 etc. in regular expression lookup tables, because that could open a security hole (Postfix version 2.3 and later).

## TCP-BASED TABLES

This section describes how the table lookups change when lookups are directed to a TCP-based server. For a description of the TCP client/server lookup protocol, see [tcp\\_table\(5\)](#). This feature is not available up to and including Postfix version 2.4.

Each lookup operation uses the entire recipient address once. Thus, *some.domain.hierarchy* is not looked up via its parent domains, nor is *user+foo@domain* looked up as *user@domain*.

Results are the same as with indexed file lookups.

## CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS

The following **main.cf** parameters are especially relevant. The text below provides only a parameter summary. See [postconf\(5\)](#) for more details including examples.

### **empty\_address\_recipient**

The address that is looked up instead of the null sender address.

**parent\_domain\_matches\_subdomains**

List of Postfix features that use *domain.tld* patterns to match *sub.domain.tld* (as opposed to requiring *.domain.tld* patterns).

**transport\_maps**

List of transport lookup tables.

**SEE ALSO**

[trivial-rewrite\(8\)](#), rewrite and resolve addresses

[master\(5\)](#),

master.cf file format

[postconf\(5\)](#),

configuration parameters

[postmap\(1\)](#),

Postfix lookup table manager

**README FILES**

Use "[postconf readme\\_directory](#)" or "[postconf html\\_directory](#)" to locate this information.

[ADDRESS\\_REWRITING\\_README](#), address rewriting guide

[DATABASE\\_README](#), Postfix lookup table overview

[FILTER\\_README](#), external content filter

**LICENSE**

The Secure Mailer license must be distributed with this software.

**AUTHOR(S)**

Wietse Venema

IBM T.J. Watson Research

P.O. Box 704

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, USA

Wietse Venema

Google, Inc.

111 8th Avenue

New York, NY 10011, USA