

**NAME**

error – Postfix error/retry mail delivery agent

**SYNOPSIS**

**error** [generic Postfix daemon options]

**DESCRIPTION**

The Postfix **error(8)** delivery agent processes delivery requests from the queue manager. Each request specifies a queue file, a sender address, the reason for non-delivery (specified as the next-hop destination), and recipient information. The reason may be prefixed with an RFC 3463-compatible detail code; if none is specified a default 4.0.0 or 5.0.0 code is used instead. This program expects to be run from the **master(8)** process manager.

Depending on the service name in master.cf, **error** or **retry**, the server bounces or defers all recipients in the delivery request using the "next-hop" information as the reason for non-delivery. The **retry** service name is supported as of Postfix 2.4.

Delivery status reports are sent to the **bounce(8)**, **defer(8)** or **trace(8)** daemon as appropriate.

**SECURITY**

The **error(8)** mailer is not security-sensitive. It does not talk to the network, and can be run chrooted at fixed low privilege.

**STANDARDS**

RFC 3463 (Enhanced Status Codes)

**DIAGNOSTICS**

Problems and transactions are logged to **syslogd(8)** or **postlogd(8)**.

Depending on the setting of the **notify\_classes** parameter, the postmaster is notified of bounces and of other trouble.

**CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS**

Changes to **main.cf** are picked up automatically as **error(8)** processes run for only a limited amount of time. Use the command "**postfix reload**" to speed up a change.

The text below provides only a parameter summary. See **postconf(5)** for more details including examples.

**2bounce\_notice\_recipient (postmaster)**

The recipient of undeliverable mail that cannot be returned to the sender.

**bounce\_notice\_recipient (postmaster)**

The recipient of postmaster notifications with the message headers of mail that Postfix did not deliver and of SMTP conversation transcripts of mail that Postfix did not receive.

**config\_directory (see 'postconf -d' output)**

The default location of the Postfix main.cf and master.cf configuration files.

**daemon\_timeout (18000s)**

How much time a Postfix daemon process may take to handle a request before it is terminated by a built-in watchdog timer.

**delay\_logging\_resolution\_limit (2)**

The maximal number of digits after the decimal point when logging sub-second delay values.

**double\_bounce\_sender (double-bounce)**

The sender address of postmaster notifications that are generated by the mail system.

**ipc\_timeout (3600s)**

The time limit for sending or receiving information over an internal communication channel.

**max\_idle (100s)**

The maximum amount of time that an idle Postfix daemon process waits for an incoming connection before terminating voluntarily.

**max\_use (100)**

The maximal number of incoming connections that a Postfix daemon process will service before terminating voluntarily.

**notify\_classes (resource, software)**

The list of error classes that are reported to the postmaster.

**process\_id (read-only)**

The process ID of a Postfix command or daemon process.

**process\_name (read-only)**

The process name of a Postfix command or daemon process.

**queue\_directory (see 'postconf -d' output)**

The location of the Postfix top-level queue directory.

**syslog\_facility (mail)**

The syslog facility of Postfix logging.

**syslog\_name (see 'postconf -d' output)**

A prefix that is prepended to the process name in syslog records, so that, for example, "smtpd" becomes "prefix/smtpd".

Available in Postfix 3.3 and later:

**service\_name (read-only)**

The master.cf service name of a Postfix daemon process.

**SEE ALSO**

[qmgr\(8\)](#),  
queue manager  
[bounce\(8\)](#),  
delivery status reports  
[discard\(8\)](#),  
Postfix discard delivery agent  
[postconf\(5\)](#),  
configuration parameters  
[master\(5\)](#),  
generic daemon options  
[master\(8\)](#),  
process manager  
[postlogd\(8\)](#),  
Postfix logging  
[syslogd\(8\)](#), system logging

**LICENSE**

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