Dovecot – server for pop and imap

Joel Jaeggli
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What is Dovecot?

- High-performance POP and IMAP server

- Developed byTimo Sirainen

- Unlike say UW IMAP it wasn't written in the 80s

- Transparently index's mailbox contents (Why is this important?)

- Supports both mbox and maildir formats

- Capable of operating in an environment with minimal locking. (Why is this important)

- Graceful around failures (index repair for example)

Let's install it the FreeBSD way

- `cd /usr/ports/mail/dovecot`

- `make`

- Note all the options for databases!

  - It is typical for small applications to do authentication of users using the unix password file or PAM.

  - Bg mail installations can use an SQL database interface for the stroage of user credentials.

- The defaults are ok for our purposes

FreeBSD install cont

- `make install`
- Take a look at `/usr/local/etc/rc.d/dovecot`
- Edit /etc/rc.conf
- dovecot_enable:="YES"
- Ok, now we could start it but we really need to configure it first.
- Look at /usr/local/etc/dovecot.conf

Dovecot Configuration

- Find the lines:
  - #ssl_cert_file = /etc/ssl/certs/dovecot.pem
  - #ssl_key_file = /etc/ssl/private/dovecot.pem
- Uncomment them, Then amend them to point at the certificate and keyfile that we created during the apache webserver tutorial.
- Disable plaintext authentication by altering:
  - `disable_plaintext_auth = no`
  - Note: unencrypted connections can still be made from localhost!

Dovecot Configuration 2

- Note that the default listening services are:
    - `protocols = imap imaps pop3 pop3s`
    - TCP listeners are on 110 143 993 and 995
    - If you need the unencrypted versions of the protocol for some reason (e.g. a webmail application) then you should firewall them off from the rest of your end users (end-user clients should never be be allowed to connect insecurely)
    - Otherwise disable imap and pop3

Dovecot Configuration – mailbox location

- Locate the line:
  - `mail_location = mbox:~/mail/:INBOX=/var/mail/%u`
  - Read the section above it...
  - Replace it with:
  - `mail_location = maildir:~/Maildir`
- Ok we should have a sufficiently tuned dovecot to be able to start it.
- `/usr/local/etc/rc.d/dovecot start`

Done

- If everything works correctly you should be able to point an imap client towards your system at port 993.