SquirrelMail for Webmail

AfNOG 2016
Scalable Internet Services (SS-E)

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What is Webmail?

- Webmail provides a web-based (HTTP) Mail User Agent (Front end) to access emails.
- This makes webmail available anywhere which is practical for most users.
- Use the default http port 80 but can ran on other user defined ports.
- Webmail systems will access the mail server using IMAP4(s), POP3(s). Some read the files directly from the mailbox stored in Maildir format e.g Sqwebmail.
Background

- Started in 1998 by two brothers Luke and Nathan Ehresman
- Named after squirrels for their agility
- [www.squirrelmail.org](http://www.squirrelmail.org)
- It supports IMAP and SMTP protocols and can be setup to support a wide range of MTA and implementations
- It's written in PHP
Why Squirrelmail

- Squirrelmail is stable and scales well in most environments
- Continues to have features support in plugins including password change and server-side filters
- It's fast with options header caching and supports server-side indexing - works well with Dovecot and Cyrus IMAP
- It has a light interface due to php
- Additional resources would be required to make it scale for large scale implementations
Summary on Apache

- In configuring apache the configuration files are in `/etc/apache2/
  - Uncommenting all the required includes are done here
  - This file is also responsible for loading library module e.g. php
  - Additional system wide configurations are done here.
  - More specific configs should be done in included files and folders

- Virtual-hosts are defined in the `/etc/apache2/sites-available/`

- Installation of Squirrelmail will require PHP to be preinstalled.
Configuring Squirrelmail

- SquirrelMail has its own configure options
  - afnog@pcXX:~$ sudo squirrelmail-configure
1. Organizational Preferences

SquirrelMail Configuration: Read: config_default.php (1.4.0)

Organization Preferences:
1. Organization Name: AFNOG
2. Organization Logo: ../images/sm_logo.png
3. Org. Logo Width/Height: (308/111)
4. Organization Title: AFNOG Webmail Service
5. Signout Page:
6. Top Frame: _top
7. Provider link: http://www.afnog.org/
8. Provider name: AFNOG

R Return to Main Menu
C Turn color on
S Save data
Q Quit

Command >>
2. Server Settings

- Select 2 for Server settings and 1 to change domain. Domain is “______.afnog.guru”
2 a. Set Predefined IMAP Servers

- Select A for option to set the type of Server
- Type “dovecot” and press enter
- Press S to save and R to return to previous menu
4. General Options

- From the main menu Press 4 to go to “General Options”
- Select option 1 for Data Directory
- Type the path of the data directory created earlier i.e. /var/squirrelmail/data
- Press enter
- Press option 2 for Attachments Directory
- Type the path of the attachments directory created earlier i.e. /var/squirrelmail/attachment
- Press “s” to save and “r” to return to main menu
Other Squirrelmail Options

- Folder options: - directory default features and behavior of squirrelmail
- General Options: - Server side activities and optimizations
- Themes: - Look and Feel
- Addressbook: - Create or configure LDAP AB
- Plugins: - Install additional plugin features
- Database: - Define database for AddrBook
- Languages: - Change Languages
Configuring Squirrelmail as Apache Virtual-Host

- Squirrelmail is a web-mail service
- First step to do is add the virtual hosts on apache.
- Open `/etc/apache2/sites-available/squirrelmail.conf` and add the following lines.

```html
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin afnog@pcXX.sse.ws.afnog.org
    DocumentRoot /usr/share/squirrelmail
    ServerName webmail._____.afnog.guru
    ErrorLog /var/log/mail-error_log
    CustomLog /var/log/mail-access_log common
</VirtualHost>
```
- Save the file and close
- Restart apache

`$ sudo service apache2 restart`
DNS Entry for Webmail

- A Resource Record for “webmail” subdomain should be created in your DNS Servers

- Edit /var/cache/bind/master/____.afnog.guru

- Add an Address Record (A) and (AAAA) for webmail.____.afnog.guru pointing to the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses assigned to the PC/virtual machine

- Update the serial number and restart Bind - sudo rndc reload
Accessing Webmail

- Open the browser as per the configuration it should be http://webmail._______.afnog.guru
- Logon using the system username and password (user afnog/pass afnog)
Happy Webmailing
Additional Information
SSL Mod-rewrite for Squirrelmail

- Squirrelmail is a web-mail service as such for security reasons its important to use secure access https
- Since we require and want to force everyone to go through an SSL interface we set it up as follows;

```html
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName webmail.XXX.bogus.gh
  RewriteEngine on
  RewriteCond %{HTTPS} ^off$
  RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} (.*)
  RewriteRule ^(.*)/? https://%1/$1 [L,R]
</VirtualHost>
```

- **CAVEAT:** SSL does not work in Name Based Virtual Hosting environment only in an IP Based Virtual Hosting. On a shared server it will generate name warnings