Email Gateways
Using MDaemon 6.0
With Dynaworx

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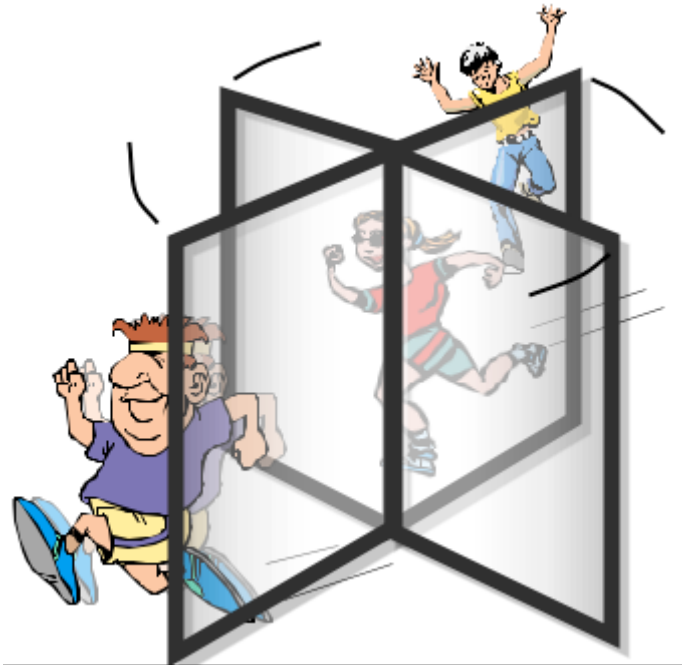
Abstract

An email gateway collects, stores, and forwards messages to a primary domain server. A gateway typically has no individual accounts. Email gateways can help both large and small enterprises solve some of the problems inherit to Internet email services. For a small organization, a gateway can make a private email domain affordable. This is because a service provider supplies the gateway at a reasonable cost by sharing the hardware and software with other smaller ventures. The primary domains in such cases can have either permanent or dialup connections to the Internet. Larger establishments can employ security-hardened gateways to provide protection and content filtering for their more vulnerable enterprise email systems. Gateways can also be configured to supply automatic real-time mail storage backup when a primary domain goes offline for any reason. One copy of MDaemon can simultaneously operate gateways for dozens of email domains, even while running a primary domain server of its own.

Gateways

Real Life Gateways

In real life a gateway regulates the flow of people and things. It might be a revolving door, a traffic light, a turnstile or, well, a gate. Gateways serve many purposes. On the street the traffic light increases safety and usually smoothes the movement of traffic. The gate at the concert hall slows the inflow of the crowd for the ticket taker. The amusement park gateway limits the number of people who can get on ride. In theory, gateways may sound like restrictive devices, but in practice, they improve the quality of life. In or out, gateway regulates clutter.



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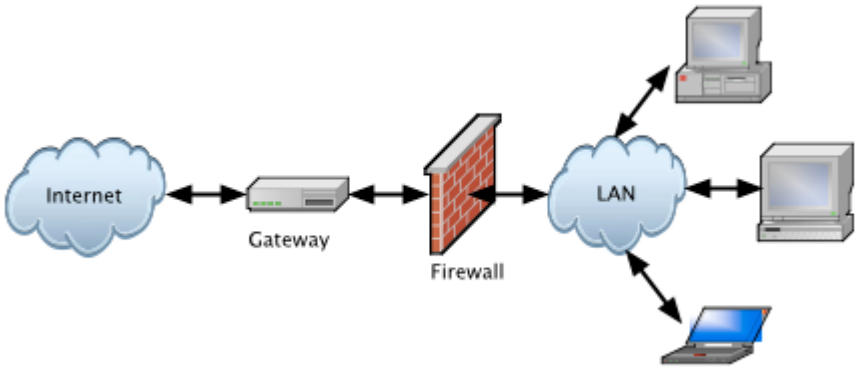
Digital Gateways

A gateway in a digital communications network is a machine connected to the Internet or some other large system. The gateway shares its connection with other computers on a local network. It can serve as a buffer between the larger network and the local computers. It can route and limit network traffic in both directions. It might provide security. A gateway can also operate with an optional firewall. The illustration shows a network gateway and firewall at work.

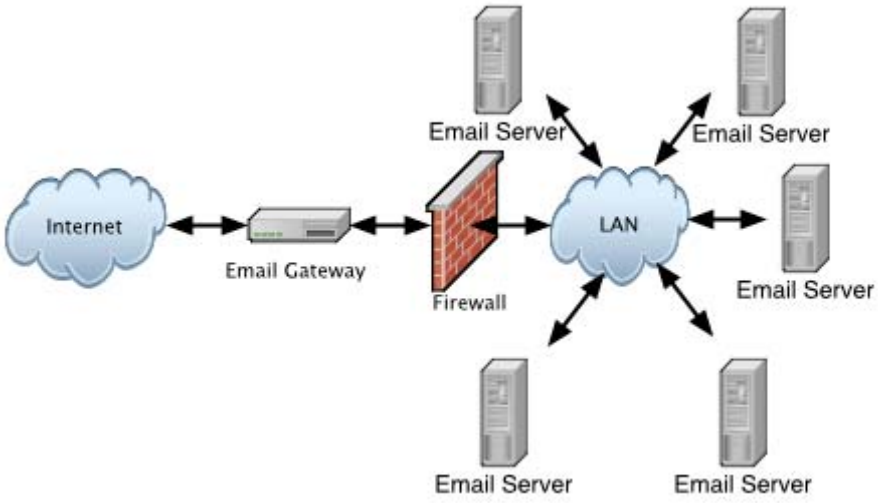


Email Gateways

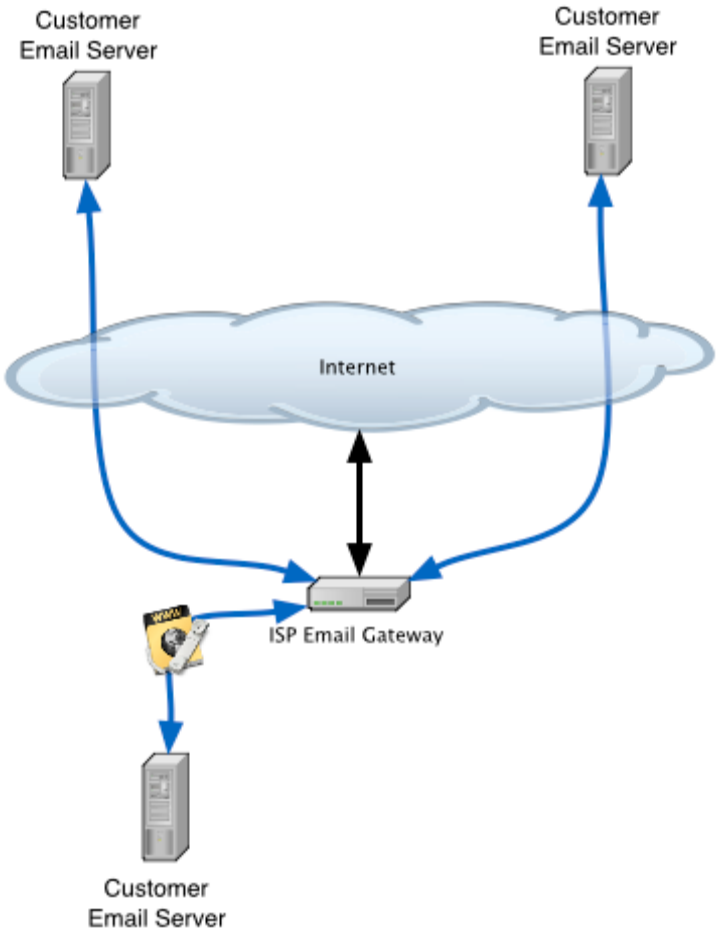
An email gateway is similar to one serving a network. It regulates and routes email for one or more domain servers. For company use, it typically sits on the Internet side of a network and collects messages for internal servers. For a service provider, an email gateway collects messages for multiple customer domains. Except for special uses, the email server does not contain any accounts of its own. For both companies and service providers, the email gateway simply stores incoming messages then forwards them to the specified domain servers using schedules or when polled. Gateways can work with both online and dialup domain servers.

Email gateways can also block unsolicited mail or mail violating company policy before it reaches the domain servers. Optionally, a gateway can join forces with a firewall to provide additional security for the email servers on the protected side. Gateways can also serve as real-time backup devices should the primary server fail.

The first illustration shows a company email gateway serving multiple domain servers located behind a firewall.



The next illustration shows a service provider gateway. The arrow between the email gateway and the Internet represents public messages from any source. The arrows between the gateway and customer servers show two online and one dialup domain server for customers.



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MDaemon Gateways

MDaemon Gateway Applications

MDaemon comes with a set of options for configuring, maintaining and operating email gateways. MDaemon gateways can serve multiple applications for corporate and service provider email systems.

Service to Multiple Domains

One copy of MDaemon can simultaneously serve as a gateway for dozens of email domains. The messages for each domain can be sent to or accessed by only authorized domain servers so the mail is secure. Mail from the gateway can be forwarded to a host or to a single email address. In the first case, forwarding would be similar to conventional relaying between a mail sender and a mail receiver. Forwarding to an email address is typically used for DomainPOP, ETRN and ATRN applications where the email domain server connects to the gateway through a dial up line.

Security Front End

MDaemon is a secure email server. When deployed as a gateway, it can function as a safe front end for email servers more vulnerable to break in. In a typical application, an MDaemon gateway would sit outside the firewall and collect messages. The messages would pass to the protected domain servers through a single port in the firewall. In this way the more assailable domain servers are protected by the more security-hardened gateway.

Virus and Spam Front End

MDaemon contains tools for server-side scanning for viruses, spam and policy violations. These tools provide fast performance. By deploying these checks at the gateway level, an enterprise or service provider can reduce or eliminate these problems for the primary email servers.

Low Cost Dial Up Interface

Sometimes adding dial up functionality to a large corporate email server costs hundreds or thousands to purchase and deploy the hardware and software. Dial up capability comes standard with MDaemon. If the server hardware hosting MDaemon provides access to a modem, the standard gateway can receive calls from or initiate calls to domain servers. This eliminates the need for add-ons.

Live Backup

An MDaemon gateway can provide “dynamic” backup for a primary domain server. This backup uses Mail Exchanger (MX) records. It configures the gateway as a lower priority email destination. If the primary domain server fails, the gateway collects and stores all messages until the server goes back online.

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