
Dovecot Integration with cPanel

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Dovecot - Release Notes

cPanel 11.24 features full support for Dovecot, a fast and simple provider of IMAP and POP3 protocol access. Full documentation and more can be found at the website for the Dovecot project: www.dovecot.org This document explains the specifics of its integration into cPanel.

Installing Dovecot

Converting Existing Systems

The conversion process should be seamless and incur little interruption of service, however as with all such changes it is recommended to perform a full backup before attempting the conversion process. Only systems supporting Maildir as the native message storage format can be converted using the provided tools. If a system is not configured for Maildir, the conversion process will offer to perform the mbox to Maildir conversion before continuing with the Dovecot portion of the procedure.

Conversion is a manually initiated process which can be performed either using the command line or the WHM interface. The command line method is initiated by executing `/scripts/setupmailserver dovecot`. The WHM interface to this process is the **Mailserver Selection** function in the Service Configuration section.

When performed using WHM, the conversion process is executed in the background, with the progress logged to `/var/cpanel/logs/setupmailserver` as well as displayed in the browser. The conversion process will continue even if the browser used to initiate the process is closed.

The conversion will install Dovecot and process all cPanel account owned Maildirs. Specific items in each Maildir, the keywords and UID list files for example, are converted to a format usable by Dovecot. The Courier specific versions of these files are left in place.

Depending upon factors beyond the control of the conversion process (e.g. disk I/O, network connectivity) the conversion will be transparent to end users. No message loss should occur. POP3 users might be

prompted to re-download some messages, depending upon their configuration and the timing of message retrieval during the conversion process.

Courier, its dependent files and scripts are retained after the conversion. This includes the various Courier specific files in each Maildir. This facilitates a return to Courier if Dovecot does not suit your needs.

`/scripts/courierup` is disabled by the conversion. Likewise on a system configured for Courier, `/scripts/dovecotup` is disabled.

New Installs

The following methods can be used to have a system default to Dovecot during installation:

1. Perform the install as normal then immediately execute `/scripts/setupmailserver dovecot`
2. Before performing the install, create `/var/cpanel/cpanel.config` with the following value:

Warning

It is neither recommended nor supported to do this on an existing server in order to convert it to Dovecot. Please use the steps outlined in the Converting Existing Systems section.

Example 1. Default to Dovecot

```
maildir=1
mailserver=dovecot
```

During the `upcp` portion of the install, cPanel will disable Courier and install Dovecot. No Maildir conversion is performed using this method so no accounts should exist on the server before installation.

Reverting to Courier

The same process for converting to Dovecot can be used to return the system to Courier. To accomplish this using the command line, execute `/scripts/setupmailserver courier`. The Mailserver Selection interface in WHM allows you to choose Courier and make the change there.

Dovecot Utilities

Along with the standard binaries used by Dovecot itself, several utility scripts used by cPanel are available. These are found in the `/scripts` directory

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| builddovecotconf | Generates and installs a new <code>dovecot.conf</code> file. Accepts the following flags: |
| <code>--force</code> | Forces installation of newly generated configuration file even if the file fails a syntax check |
| <code>--leave-broken</code> | If generated configuration file fails syntax check, the file is left in place, but not installed |
| dovecotup | Installs the latest version of Dovecot. Accepts the following flags: |
| <code>--force</code> | Perform update even if current installed version is the latest |

`--source` On RPM systems, force a rebuild and installation from the source RPM rather than using the precompiled binary RPM

`restartsrv_dovecot` Performs management tasks on the Dovecot processes. The use of this script is covered in more detail in the Maintenance and Management section.

Maintenance and Management

Similar to other binary packages supplied by cPanel, Dovecot is updated during the cPanel update (e.g. `/scripts/upcp`) via `/scripts/dovecotup`. This behavior can be adjusted using the Update Config interface within WHM. A separate entry therein exists to enable or disable the automatic update.

Process control within cPanel occurs using `/scripts/restartsrv_dovecot` or `/scripts/restartsrv_imap`. The latter is used by `chkserd` for automated process monitoring and control. Both accept the following command line arguments:

`--check` Only outputs a value if the service is not running. For example:

```
# /scripts/restartsrv_dovecot --check
dovecot is not running
```

`--status` Outputs the main process information if the service is running. For example:

Example 2. status example

```
# /scripts/restartsrv_dovecot --status
root      27319  0.0  0.1  1856   584 ?        Ss   11:41   0:00 /usr/sbin/doveco
root      27321  0.0  0.2  2288   872 ?        S    11:41   0:00 dovecot-auth
```

Account Transfers and Restoring Backups

Account transfers and backup restoration use the same functionality, which is updated to ensure an account packaged on an mbox or Courier system is properly updated when restored to a Dovecot configured system. Hence it is not necessary to perform additional steps after the transfer or restoration.

When restoring or transferring an account from a Dovecot system to a Courier system, the account is likewise updated.

Configuration

The `dovecot.conf` file is generated automatically when necessary using the AdvConfig system in a fashion similar to EasyApache 3. Templates for the Dovecot configuration file are stored in `/var/cpanel/templates/dovecot1.1`. The "main" template is combined with several preset default values and a YAML datastore of customized values located at `/var/cpanel/conf/dovecot/main`.

The IMAP Configuration editor, found in Service Configuration within WHM, provides a simple interface to the configuration system. This interface allows setting several parameters for the service, such as enabling SSL Access and limiting concurrent connections per IP Address.

The WHM Configuration interface allows you to disable the protocols Dovecot will handle. If you disable all the protocols, cPanel will disable Dovecot itself. You must then re-enable Dovecot using the Mailserver Selection interface in WHM, or the `/scripts/setupmailserver` command line method.

To customize the Dovecot configuration file in a way that the WHM configuration interface doesn't allow, use one of the following methods:

- If the directive you wish to change is already present in the template file, simply provide a value in the main datastore. For example, to change the "lock_method" to "dotlock" add a line like this to `/var/cpanel/conf/dovecot/main`:

Example 3. lock_method

```
lock_method: dotlock
```

After making this change run `/scripts/builddovecotconf` and the configuration file will be updated.

- If the directives you want to use in the `dovecot.conf` file do not exist in the template, copy the `main.default` template file to one named `main.local`. Make the modifications to `main.local` then run `/scripts/builddovecotconf` to regenerate the final configuration file. Your new template will be used each time the Dovecot configuration file is rebuilt in the future.

Warning

When using this method please note that updates to the dovecot binaries may require matching updates to the dovecot template file. The dovecot update system does not touch the `main.local` template in any way, and it is the responsibility of the administrator to reconcile cPanel's template changes in `main.default` with the site specific `main.local` template.

A useful command when customizing the Dovecot configuration file is `dovecot -n`. This outputs the configuration being used by the current Dovecot process. Using this, you can verify that Dovecot is using all the directives you added to the configuration.

Integration with Exim

With Dovecot installed, Exim will use the Dovecot authentication system to perform SMTP authentication.

Variations With Courier

There are some notable differences between Courier and Dovecot. For speed optimization, Dovecot retains an index of Maildirs currently in use. This can give individual logins process a slightly higher memory overhead than Courier login processes. Total memory consumption by all Dovecot processes will still be lower than all Courier processes in like scenarios.

Dovecot possesses no native functionality to empty the Trash folder at specified intervals. A plugin exists for this functionality but is not integrated with the cPanel Dovecot system at this time.