Internet Based Email

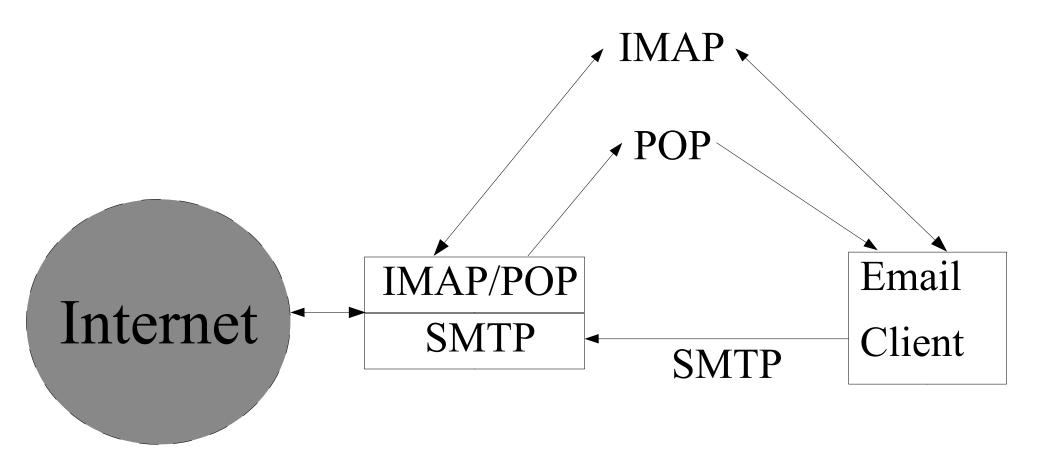
IMP

John Schulz February 12, 2002

Overview

- Email 101
- Internet Based Email Options
- IMP
- IMP Extended to the Internet
- IMP Pros/Cons
- IMP Future developments
- IMP Install notes
- IMP Demo
- References

Email 101



Email 101

- SMTP
 - Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
- POP
 - Post Office Protocol
- IMAP
 - Internet Message Access Protocol

Email 101

• SMTP

- Transfers email between mail servers
- Receives and forwards email from client software
- sendmail
- Exchange??

Email 101 - POP

- Designed to support "offline" mail processing
- Computer user periodically invokes a mail "client" program that connects to the server and downloads all of the pending mail to the user's local inbox
- After transfer, all mail processing is local to the client machine
- Intended to move mail (on demand) from the mail server (drop point) to a single destination machine

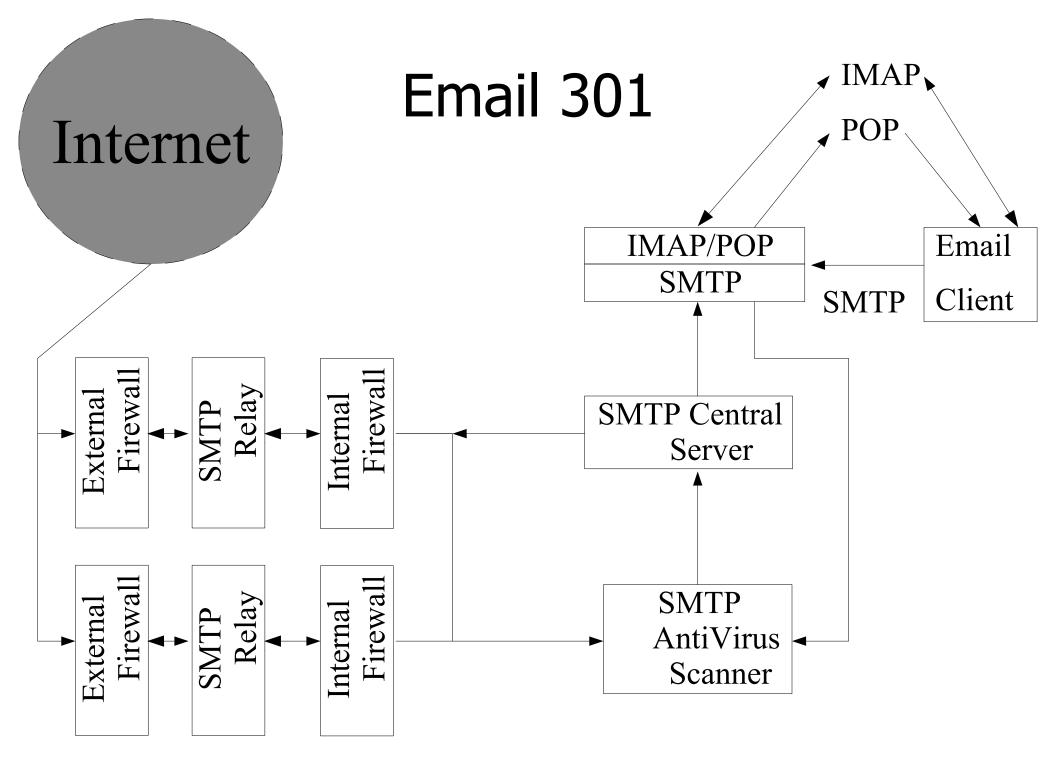
Email 101 - IMAP

- A method of accessing electronic mail messages that are kept on a (possibly shared) mail server
- It permits a "client" email program to access remote message stores as if they were local
- The protocol includes operations for:
 - Creating, deleting, renaming mailboxes
 - Checking for new messages
 - Permanently removing messages
 - Setting and clearing flags
 - Searching, and selective fetching of message attributes, texts, and portions thereof for efficiency

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Email 101 - IMAP

- Key goals for IMAP include:
 - Be fully compatible with Internet messaging standards
 - Allow message access and management from more than one computer
 - Allow access without reliance on less efficient file access protocols
 - Provide support for "online", "offline", and
 "disconnected" access modes
 - Support for concurrent access to shared mailboxes
 - Client software needs no knowledge about the server's file store format



Web based Email Clients

- MailMan CGI script
- AcmeMail Perl based
- IMP PHP, MySQL
- Commercial products available
 - Sendmail Mailspinner
 - Mail Studio complete environment

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IMP - General

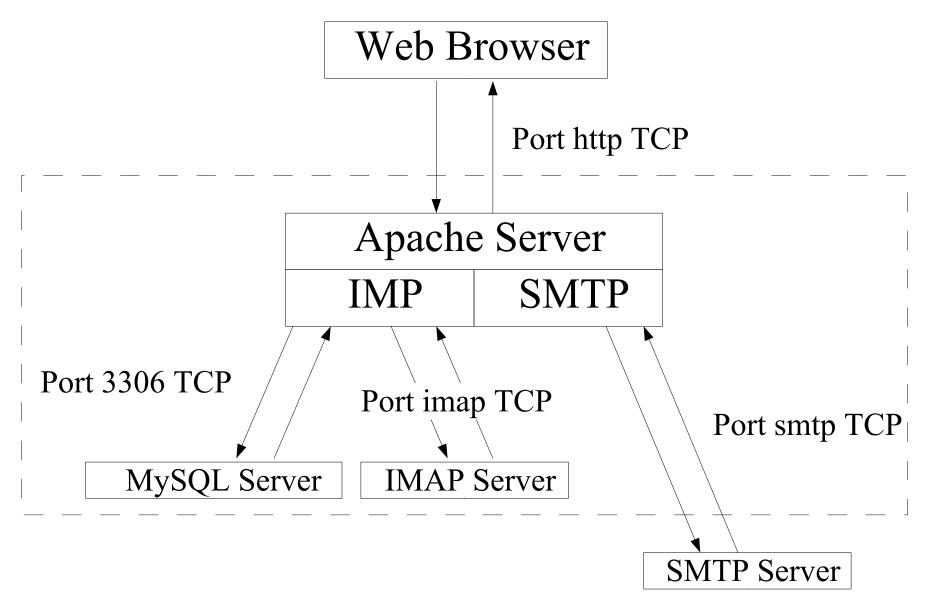
- Internet Messaging Program
- Component of the Horde project IMP is the most widely-deployed component of Horde
- Features:
 - Web based
 - Attachments, Spell-check
 - Address book
 - Multiple folder support
 - Multiple-language support

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IMP - General

- Requires
 - Horde
 - PHP, PHPLib
 - Apache server with PHP support
 - MySQL database for contact, preferences, session info
 - SMTP server
 - IMAP server (although IMP supports POP)
 - Perl to use config scripts
- Optional
 - other databases, LDAP, SSL Web Server

IMP - Architecture



IMP - Secure

- Requirements
 - Secure access from anywhere (not only company equipment)
 - Encrypted data
 - Two levels of authentication
 - Restrict access to internal systems from Internet

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IMP - Secure

- Secure access from anywhere
 - Push SSL certificates to clients
 - Can use commercial or self signed certificates
- Encrypted data
 - Encrypt traffic using https and ssl certificates
 - Clients encrypt using IMP's public key
 - IMP decrypts using private key

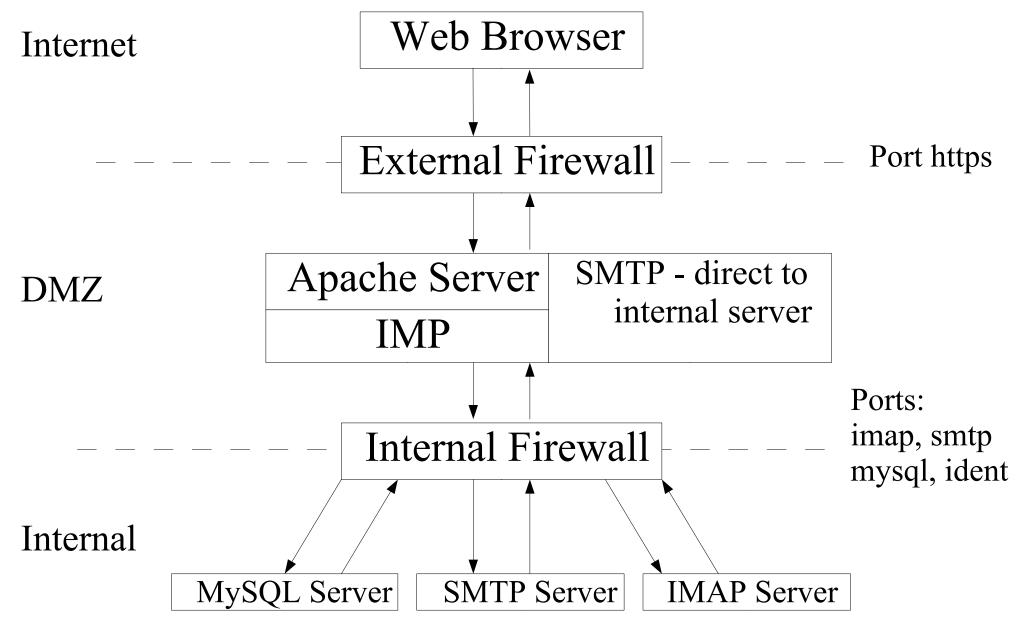
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IMP - Secure

- Two levels of authentication
 - .htaccess from Apache
 - controls access into directories
 - IMP's IMAP login
 - internal to the system (not exposed to the internet)
- Restrict Access
 - Place services behind layers of firewalls
 - Expose as little internal information as possible
 - Do not allow unencrypted access

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IMP Secure - Architecture



IMP - Pros/Cons

Pros

- Concurrent access from anywhere
- Server based storage of IMAP
- O/S independent
- Lightweight low bandwidth requirements

Cons

- Weak address book
- Security controlling access to data
- No offline access

IMP - Future

- Certificates
 - Use certificate authority
- OTP One Time Passwords
 - Investigating use of OTP cards for first level passwords
- Increased functionality
 - Better address book
 - Integrate with LDAP server
- New Versions
 - Imp 3.0, Horde 2.0

IMP – Installation Highlights

- Install RH7.2 with apache, imap, mysql, php stuff
- Get i386 and noarch rh7 packages from ftp.horde.org
- Install
 - horde-1.2.7
 - horde-mysql-1.2.7
 - imp-2.2.7
- Start services
 - http, imap, sendmail, mysql
- Test
 - http://localhost/horde/test.php3

IMP – Installation Highlights

- Mysql setup
 - mysqladmin -u root password 'new password'
 - mysql -p
 </var/www/html/horde/scripts/database/mysql_create.sql</pre>
 - mysqladmin -p reload
 - mysqladmin -u hordemgr hordemgr 'new password'

Setup IMP

- cd /var/www/html/horde
- sh install.sh
- Connect to http://localhost/horde/setup.php3

References

- IMP: www.horde.org
- Mail studio: www.mailstudio.com/
- MailMan: www.endymion.com
- Acmemail: www.astray.com/acmemail/
- Mail Spinner: www.mailspinner.com
- IMAP: www.imap.org

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