

Scalable Open-source Email Infrastructure at SUNY Potsdam

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<http://fritz.potsdam.edu/projects/email>

Scalable Open-source Email Infrastructure at SUNY Potsdam

Application Design

- MTA, POP/IMAP, content-scanning, antivirus, anti-spam, quarantine, phish, storage...

Federating Management

- Postmaster, Helpdesk

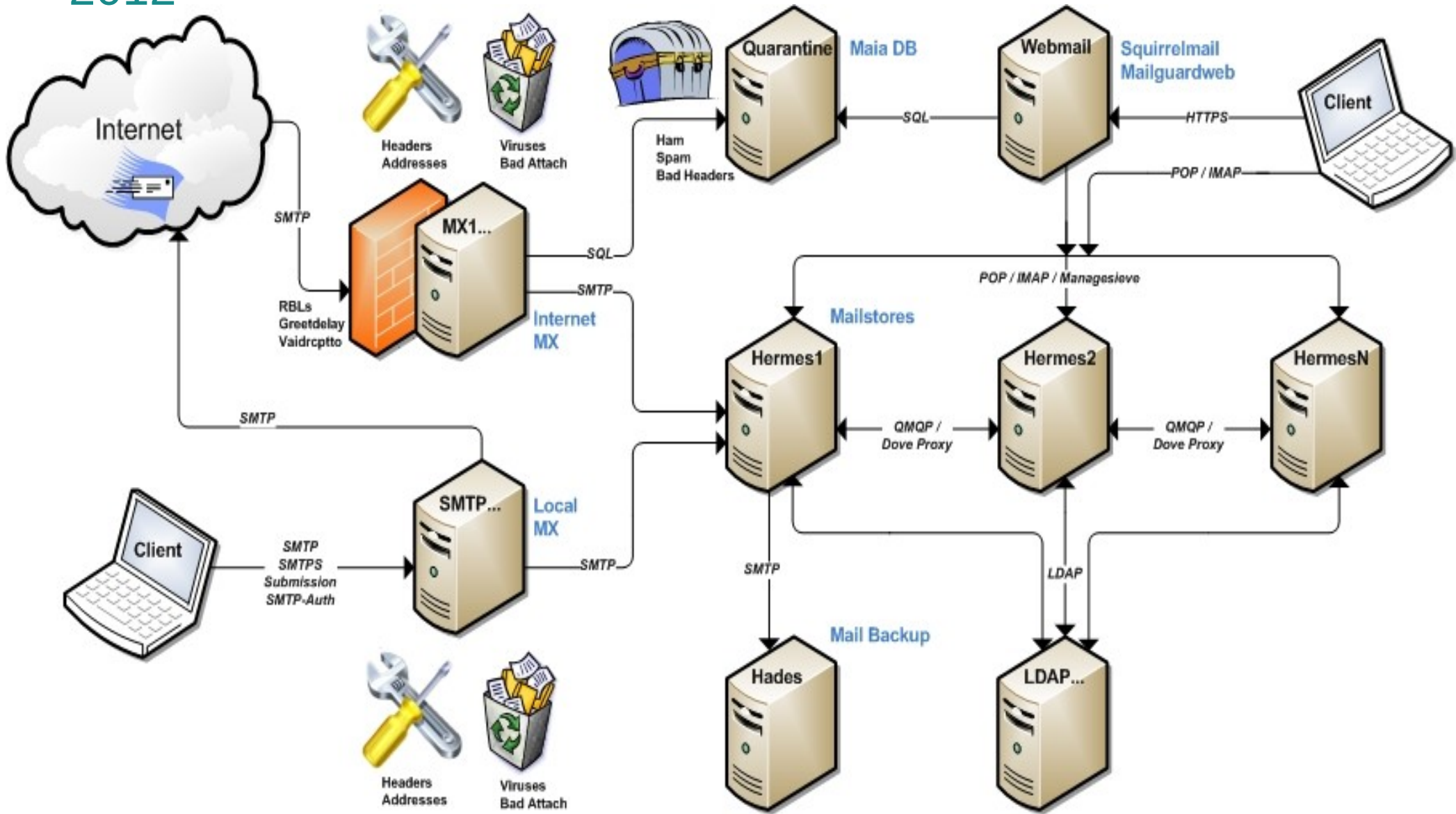
Banner/LDAP Account Synchronization

- Userclass standardization, CASL/WAM

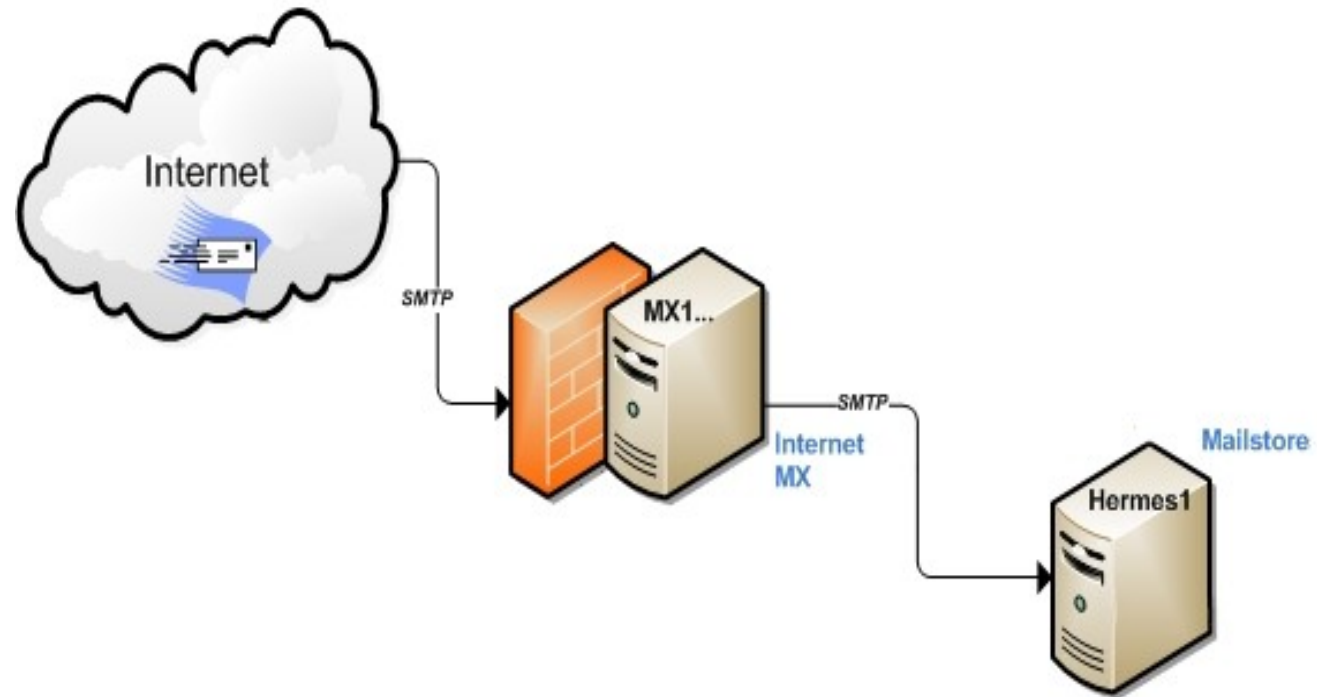
To Cloud or Not to Cloud

- Pros/Cons

2012



2002



Application Design Goals

Open standards

- SMTP, POP/IMAP, ManageSieve

Open-source

- qmail, Dovecot, Amavisd-new/Maia Mailguard, ClamAV, SpamAssassin, MySQL, ...

Scalable

- Horizontal scalability: application cluster

Modular/Flexible

- Swap in/out other technologies, build own tools, federate management

DJB's qmail?

qmail vs Postfix vs Exim vs Sendmail

qmail ?

- no “development” for a decade: qmail-1.03
- hampered by no license until 2007 when entered public domain
- piles of extra patches for modern features (ldap, smtp-auth, tls)

qmail !

- no security issues for a decade
- novel design: mutually untrusting components
- atomic operations guarantee delivery
- invented Maildir
- well-understood, high performance

Qmail Patchsets

Netqmail

- A motley krewe of qmail contributors (see the README) has put together a netqmail-1.06 distribution of qmail. It is derived from Daniel Bernstein's qmail-1.03 plus bug fixes, a few feature enhancements, and some documentation.
- Our standard install, “the” de facto standard install

Qmail-ldap

- A patch to qmail 1.03 to retrieve all user data from a ldap-directory rather than from files on the disk. There is also clustering support builtin making qmail-ldap very well suited for big mail installations at ISPs.
- Mail stores and mail backup

JMS combined patch set

- John M Simpson's patch to qmail-1.03, combining several of the best practice patches, and modern SMTP features such as SMTP-Auth, valid recipient checking, and a few other novel things.
- Mail exchangers

Other DJB Software

daemontools

- collection of tools for managing UNIX services
- supervise: runs, monitors, starts a service -> used to start/init all qmail services
- multilog: logging, log rotation, TAI64 datestamps

ucspi-tcp

- collection of tools for building client-server applications
- tcpserver: network listener -> used as listener for all SMTP services
- rbldsmtpd: blocks mail from listed RBL sites

Other DJB Software: tcpserver

tcpserver

great flexibility to set different configurations for different source IP ranges via environment variables

```
127.:allow,RELAYCLIENT="",RBLSMTPD=""  
137.143.:allow,RELAYCLIENT="",RBLSMTPD=""
```

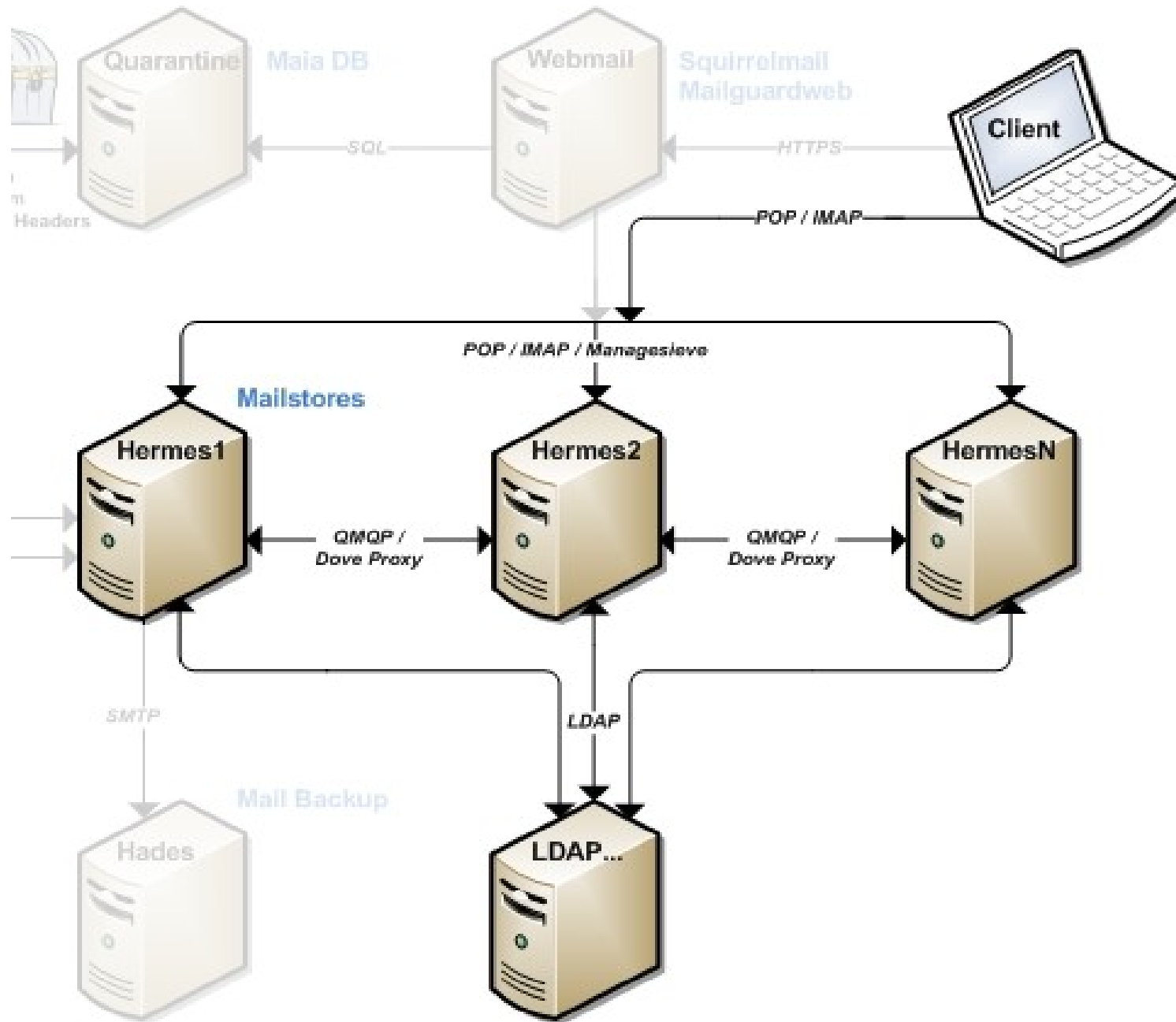
```
# Baddies
```

```
137.143.67.71:deny  
71.16.72.:deny
```

```
# Default
```

```
:allow,VALIDRCPTTO_CDB="/var/qmail/control/validrcptto.cdb",  
VALIDRCPTTO_LIMIT="10",GREETDELAY="30",DROP_PRE_GREET="0",DENY_  
TLS="1",LOGREGEX="1"
```

Mailstores



Account Home

We configure qmail-ldap to create home and Maildir at time of delivery.

```
/home/hardyjm/Maildir  
                        /cur    /new    /tmp
```

- Every message is an individual file
- Message moved from delivery queue to tmp
- Message moved from tmp to new
- POP/IMAP client moves from new to cur

```
/home/hardyjm/.sieve/
```

- Storage location for sieve scripts: server-side filtering

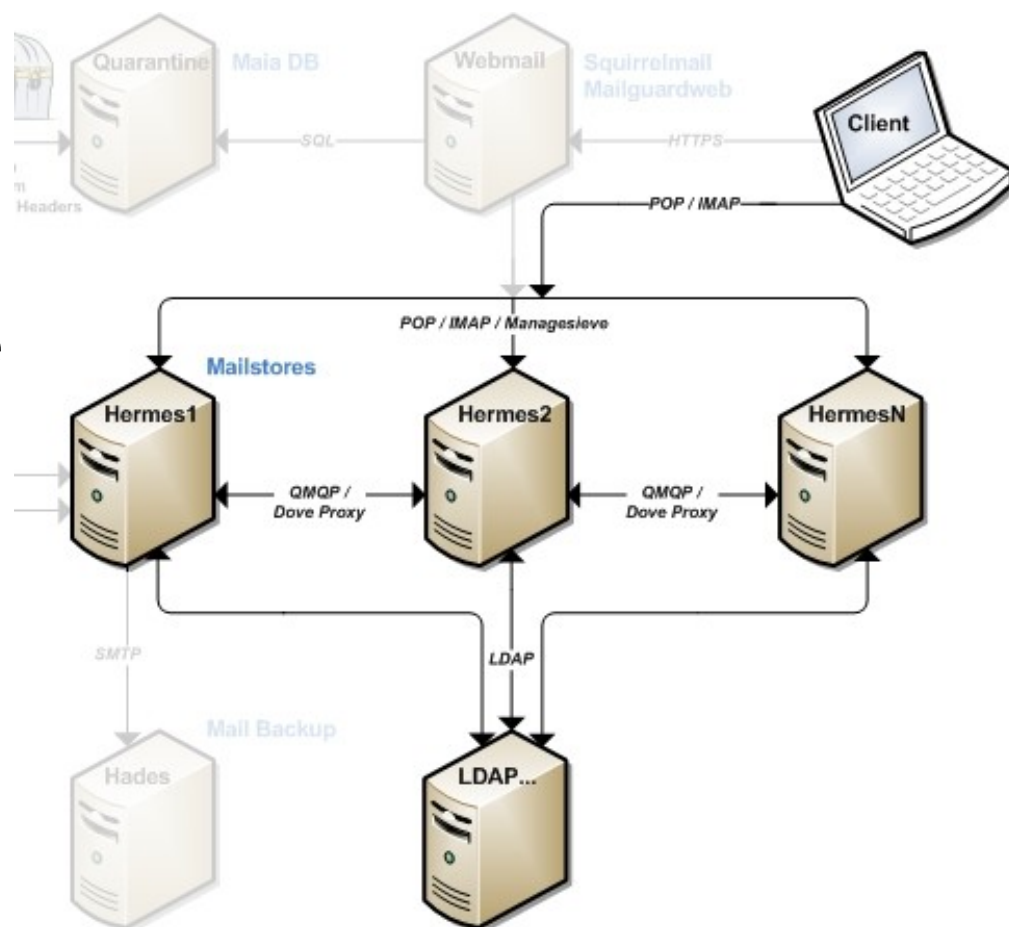
qmail-ldap

```
dn: uid=hardyjm,ou=People,o=madstop.edu
-----
objectClass: top
objectClass: account
objectClass: posixAccount
objectClass: sambaSamAccount
objectClass: person
objectClass: organizationalPerson
objectClass: inetorgPerson
objectClass: spotperson
objectClass: qmailuser
objectClass: sunyPerson
mail: hardyjm@madstop.edu
mailAlternateAddress: hardy@madstop.edu
mailAlternateAddress: hardyjm-null@madstop.edu
uid: hardyjm
accountStatus: active
mailHost: hermes.madstop.edu
homeDirectory: /mnt/home/hardyjm
aliasEmpty: using default
qmailDotMode: both
uidNumber: 16814
gidNumber: 100
mailQuotaSize: 0 (unlimited)
mailQuotaCount: 0 (unlimited)
mailSizeMax: 0 (unlimited)
mailReplyText: undefined
```

- objectClass: qmailUser
- mail
 - key for all mail delivery
- accountStatus
 - controls message receipt
 - active/disabled/deleted
- mailHost
 - specify cluster host
 - forwards via qmqp
- mailAlternateAddress
 - secondary recipient address aliases for user

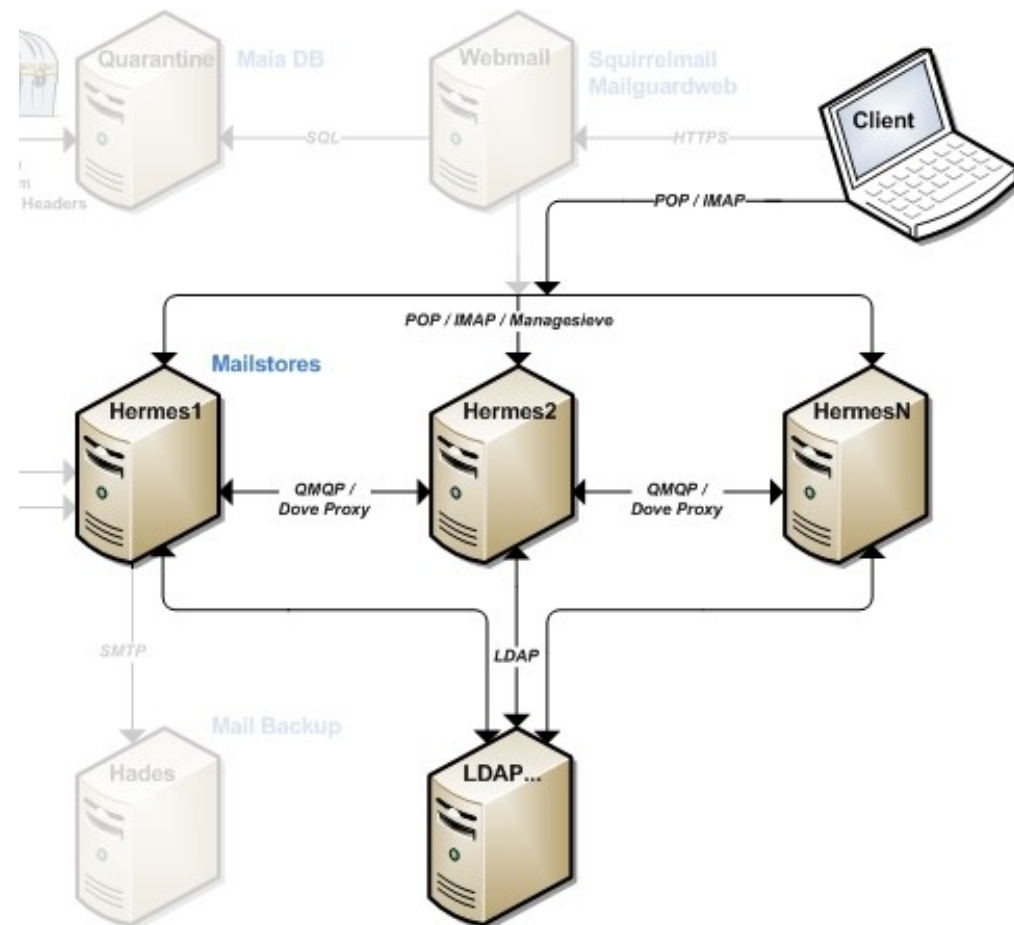
Mail Reception Clustering

- rcptto: hardyjm@potsgdam.edu
- Any ldap aware qmail that receives this message conducts ldap search for hardyjm@potsgdam.edu to find the user uid of the recipient
- If user mailhost attribute is equal to this host, delivered locally to user Maildir
- Otherwise, forwarded via qmqpd directly into the queue of the mailhost for that user
- More users, more mailhosts
- Balance flexibility: RR DNS, forwarding frontend(s), MX qmqp

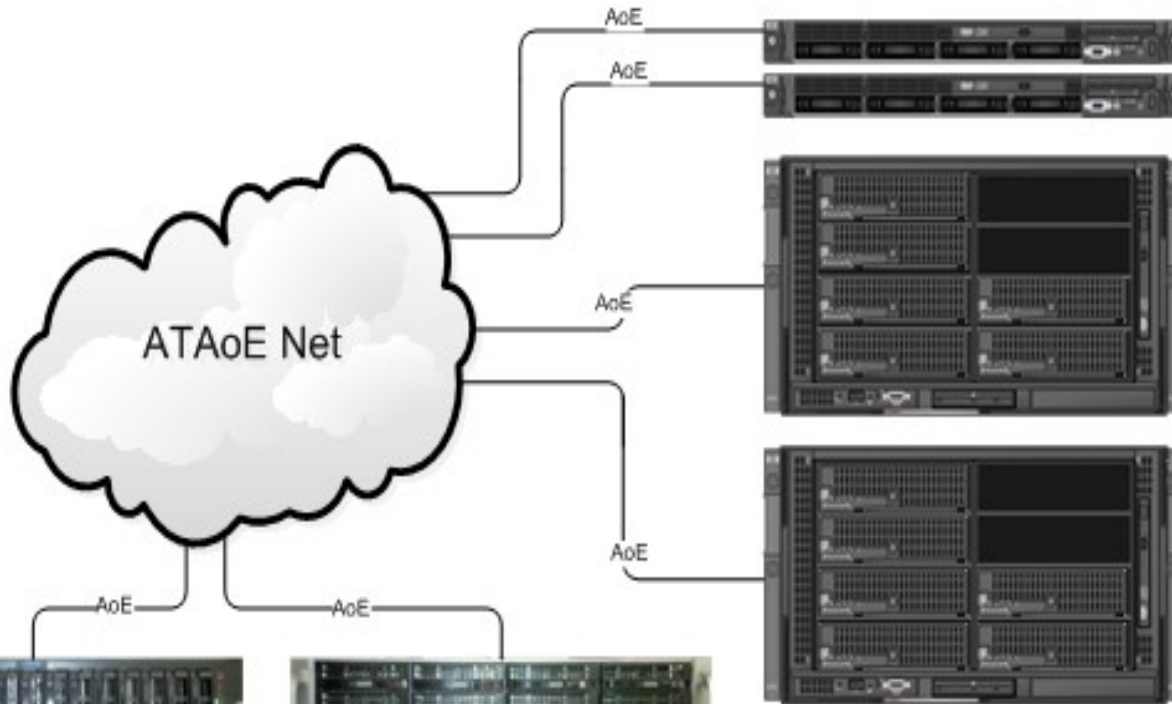


POP/IMAP Proxying

- Dovecot
POP/IMAP/Managesieve
- Dovecot is configured to use checkpassword auth and our own perl chkpassldap script
- Chkpassldap sets environment variable 'host' to the LDAP attribute mailHost, and enables proxying to this host. Completely transparent login and configuration for users
- Login script adds user home and Maildir at time of POP and IMAP login, and touches a lastlogin file for user tracking



Storage: ATA over Ethernet



AoE LUNS are exposed to servers/initiators on a private VLAN with jumbo frames enabled.

Most servers connect directly to raw AoE LUNs exported from the shelves on the backend AoE Net.

They make use of the block devices in a variety of ways: LVM, EXT3, EXT4, GFS, OCFS, XFS, etc.

These are employed in everything from VM images, to data storage, to backups, to database files, etc.

- All mail on SAN
- Mailstores mount SAS RAID10 LUNs
- LVM VGs, XFS

- No quotas
- 10K users, 3.6TB

active employees: 1185, 1.3TB

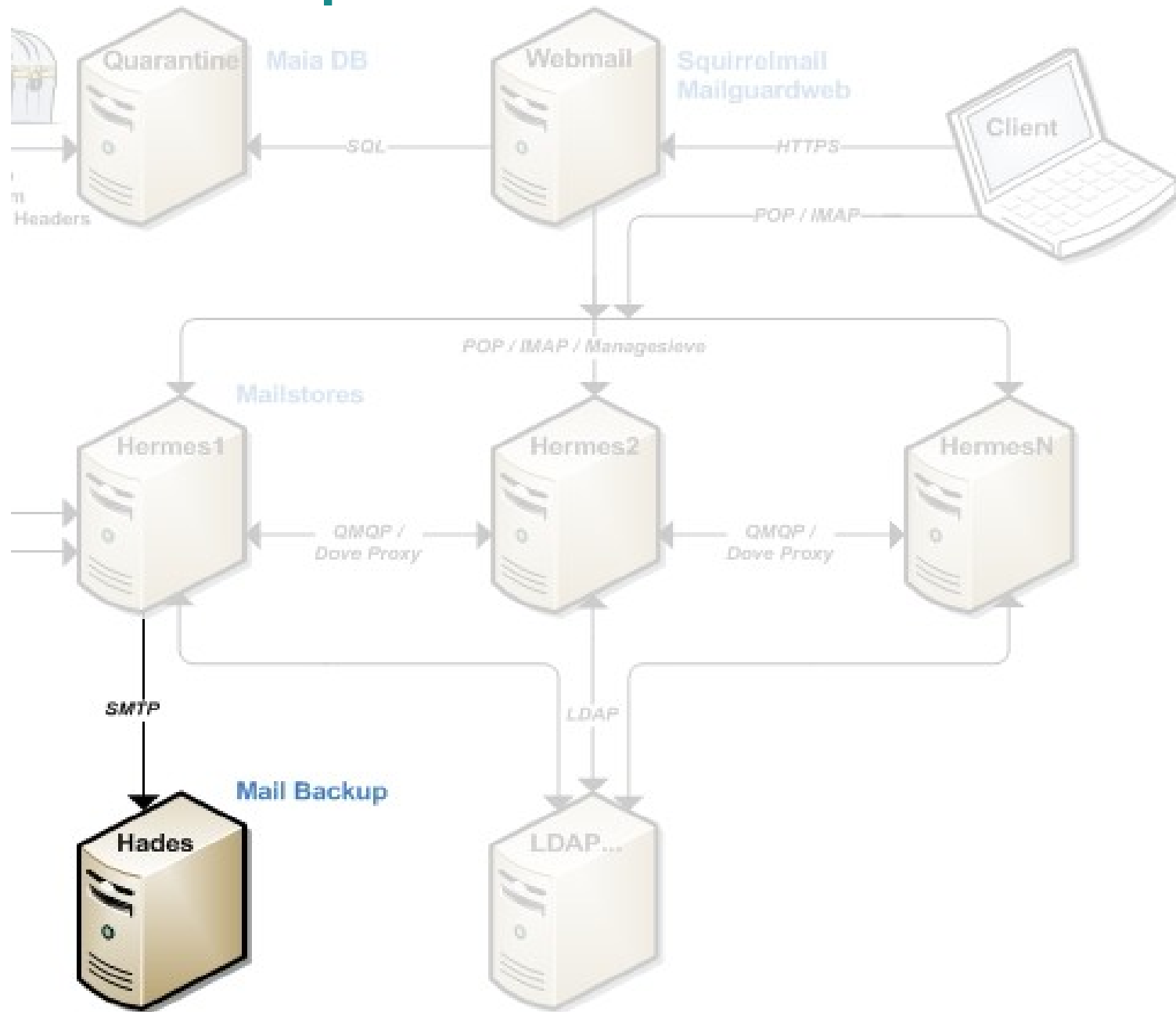
emeriti: 91, 50GB

active students: 4301, 0.6TB

inactive students: 628, 0.7TB

alumni: 3701, 1.4TB

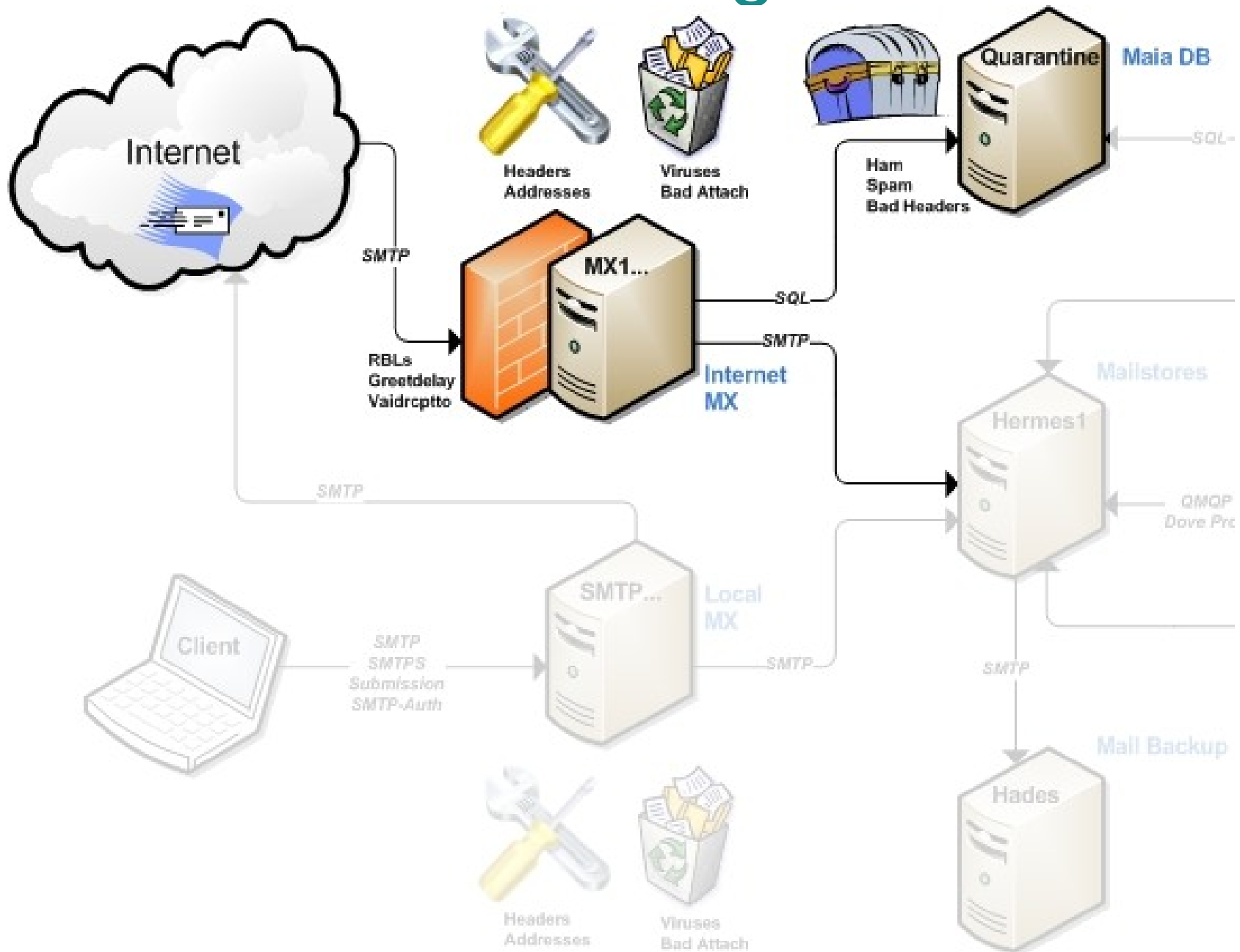
Mail Backup



Mail Backup

- Mail backup is conducted via double-delivery from the mailstores
- Second qmail instance on each mail store injected with copy of message, and routes all mail to the backup box
- In addition to double-delivery of all received mail, script copies Sent folder nightly
- All mail older than 30 days is culled from backup set

Internet Mail Exchangers



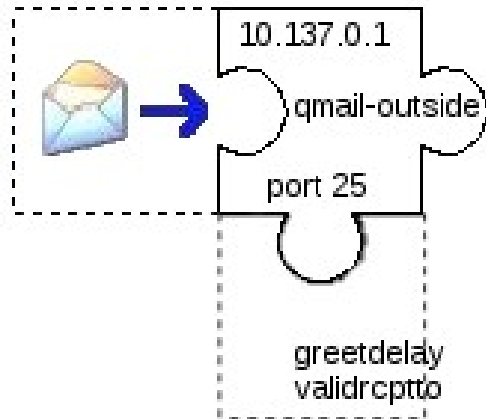
Mail Exchangers

The Internet mail exchangers provide an array of features geared towards handling the never-ending onslaught of Internet mail:

- Real-time blacklists
- SMTP tricks
- Valid recipient checks
- Antivirus scanning
- Anti-spam examination
- Message quarantine

DNS MX records for the domain will point to these machines.

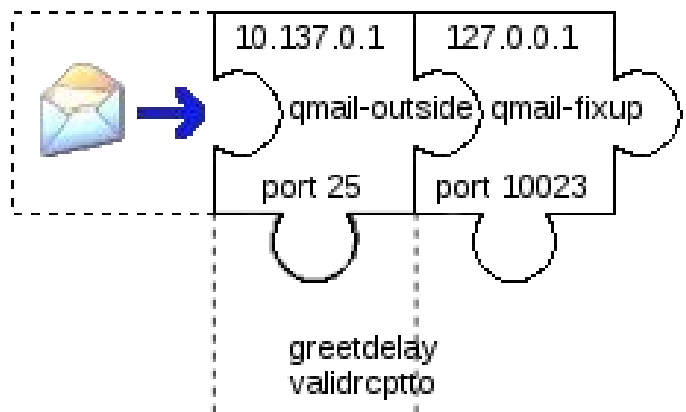
Mail Exchangers: qmail-outside



JMS qmail instance offering SMTP on Internet-facing port 25

- Takes full brunt of all incoming mail to the domain
- Provides greetdelay connection slowdown
- Provides validrcptto checking
- Host of other patches offering modern SMTP features
- SMTP routes all mail to qmail-fixup on port 10023

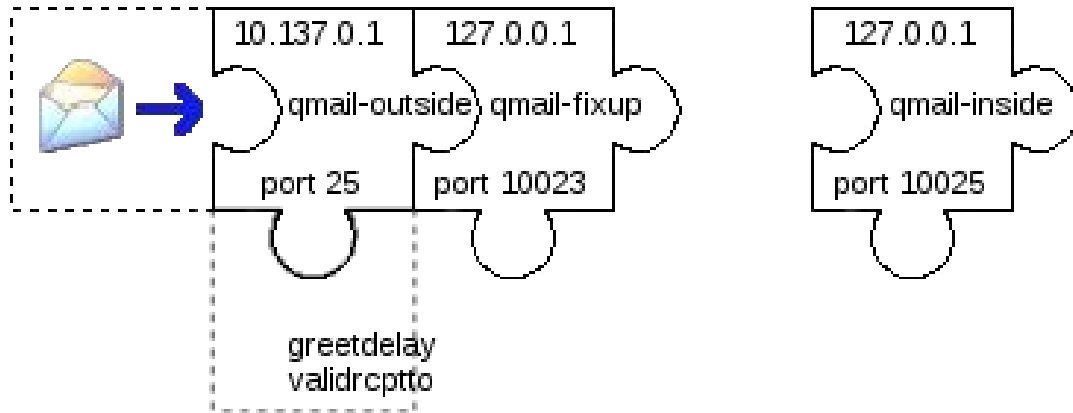
Mail Exchangers: qmail-fixup



Netqmail instance offering SMTP on localhost port 10023

- Uses ofmipd in place of qmail-smtpd: “Old-fashioned Mail Injection Protocol Daemon”
- Offers rewrite features to collapse various domains down to the potsdam domain in headers (ex: hardyjm@mail.potsdam.edu -> hardyjm@potsdam.edu). This is essential to unify addresses for the user before mail hits quarantine database
- SMTP routes all mail to amavis/maia on 10024

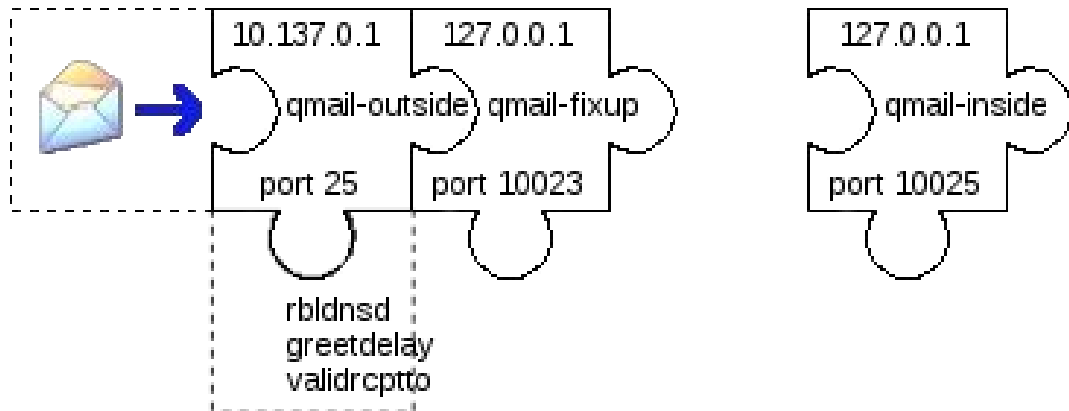
Mail Exchangers: qmail-inside



Netqmail instance offering SMTP on localhost port 10025

- SMTP delivery off-box to domain mailstores / Internet

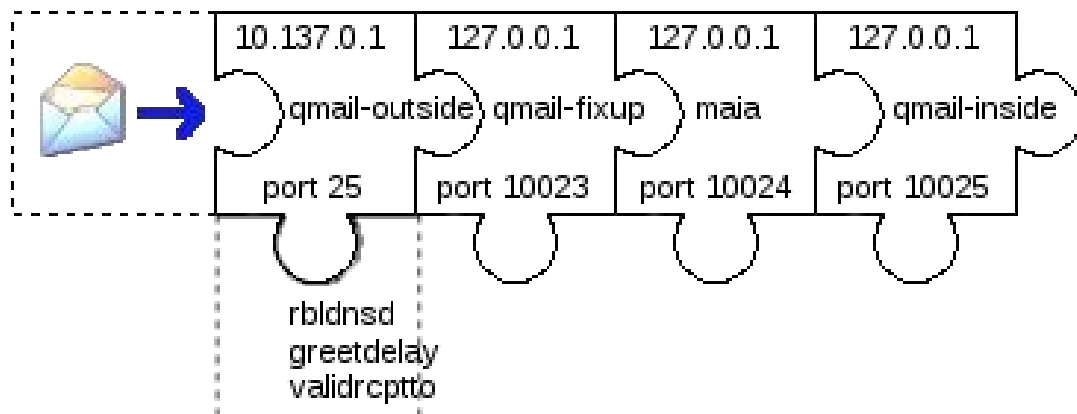
Mail Exchangers: RBLs



Add RBL checking to qmail-outside

- Add call to `rblsmtpd` in the `qmail-smtpd` run script
- Uses `rblndsd` to look up sending IP address. Machine also setup as as a local caching nameserver with BIND, both to spare the domain DNS infrastructure from queries, and to enable spam checks against the RBLs
- Scales to any number of RBLs
- Spamhaus subscription

Mail Exchangers: Maia Mailguard



Maia Mailguard / Amavisd on localhost port 10024

- Takes messages in on SMTP
- Breaks message apart at MIME boundaries and does header, attachment, antivirus, and anti-spam checks
- Quarantines all mail to database for later review, so false negatives can be Bayes-trained as spam, and false positives can be rescued (and Bayes-trained as ham)
- Good mail forwarded on to gmail-inside instance for delivery to the mailstores

Amavis vs Maia Mailguard

Amavisd-new is the current branch that is actively developed. As such, the project name Amavis is largely interchangeable with amavisd-new.

- Virus scanning, spam scanning, file-based quarantine, later a database quarantine
- We ran Amavis for years doing virus scanning, later spam tagging
- Current version: amavisd-new-2.7.1 (2012-04-29)

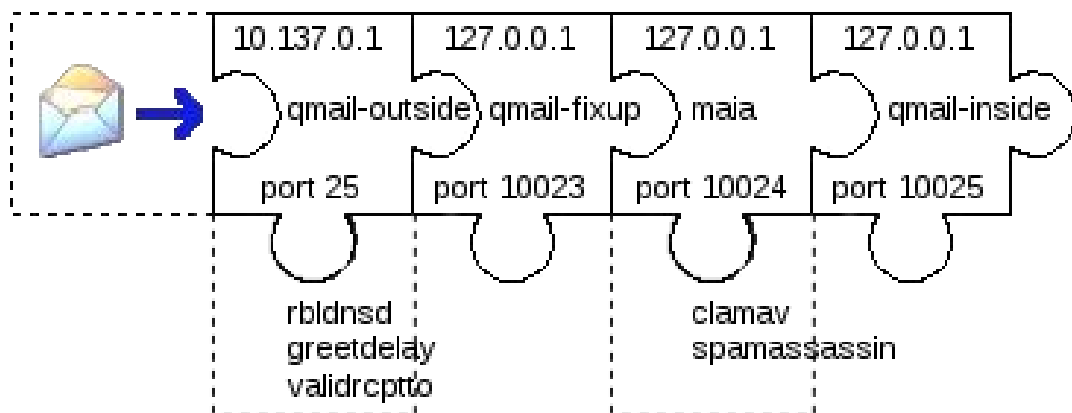
Maia Mailguard is a patch/fork of Amavis.

- Patch to amavisd-new-2.2.1
- All the features of Amavis with a concentration on user database preferences and quarantine, plus a web frontend
- Current version: maia-1.02c (2011-04-14)

Amavis vs Maia Mailguard

- Amavis was mostly geared toward central sysadmin control of spam thresholds and quarantine, with less/no reliance on database
- Maia Mailguard is geared towards putting users in control of spam decisions and quarantine management
- Disagreement over how to reconcile the two goals led to the entirely new project
- Over the last several years, Amavis has trended towards providing more and more of the features that Maia Mailguard offers
- Several different frontends for Amavis quarantine and settings are now available
- Maia Mailguard development a question, though basically feature-complete, and there is still list traffic

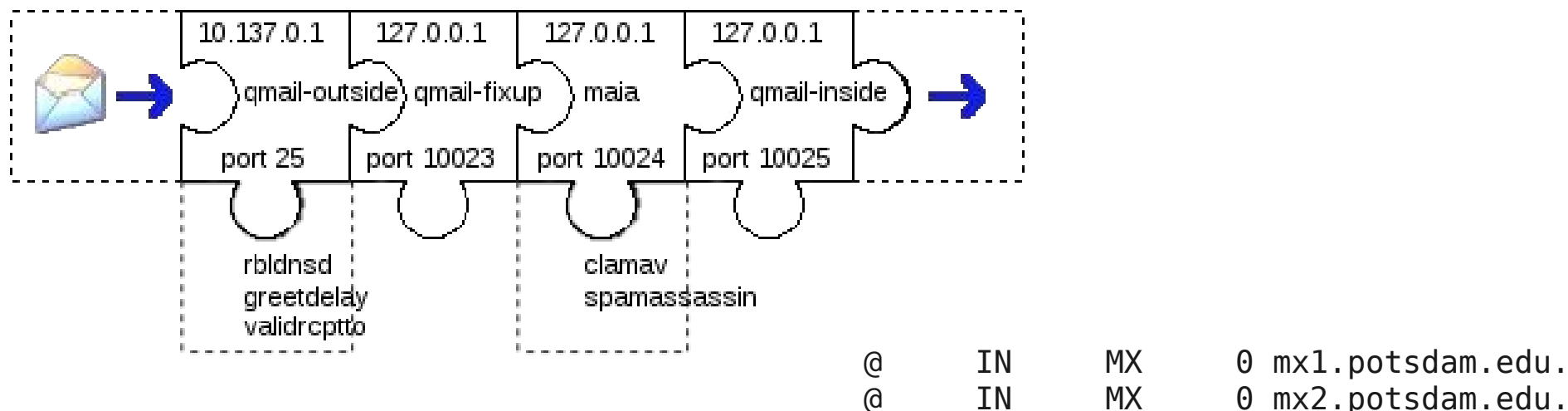
Mail Exchangers: AV, Antispam



Maia Mailguard / Amavis requires external engines for antivirus and anti-spam

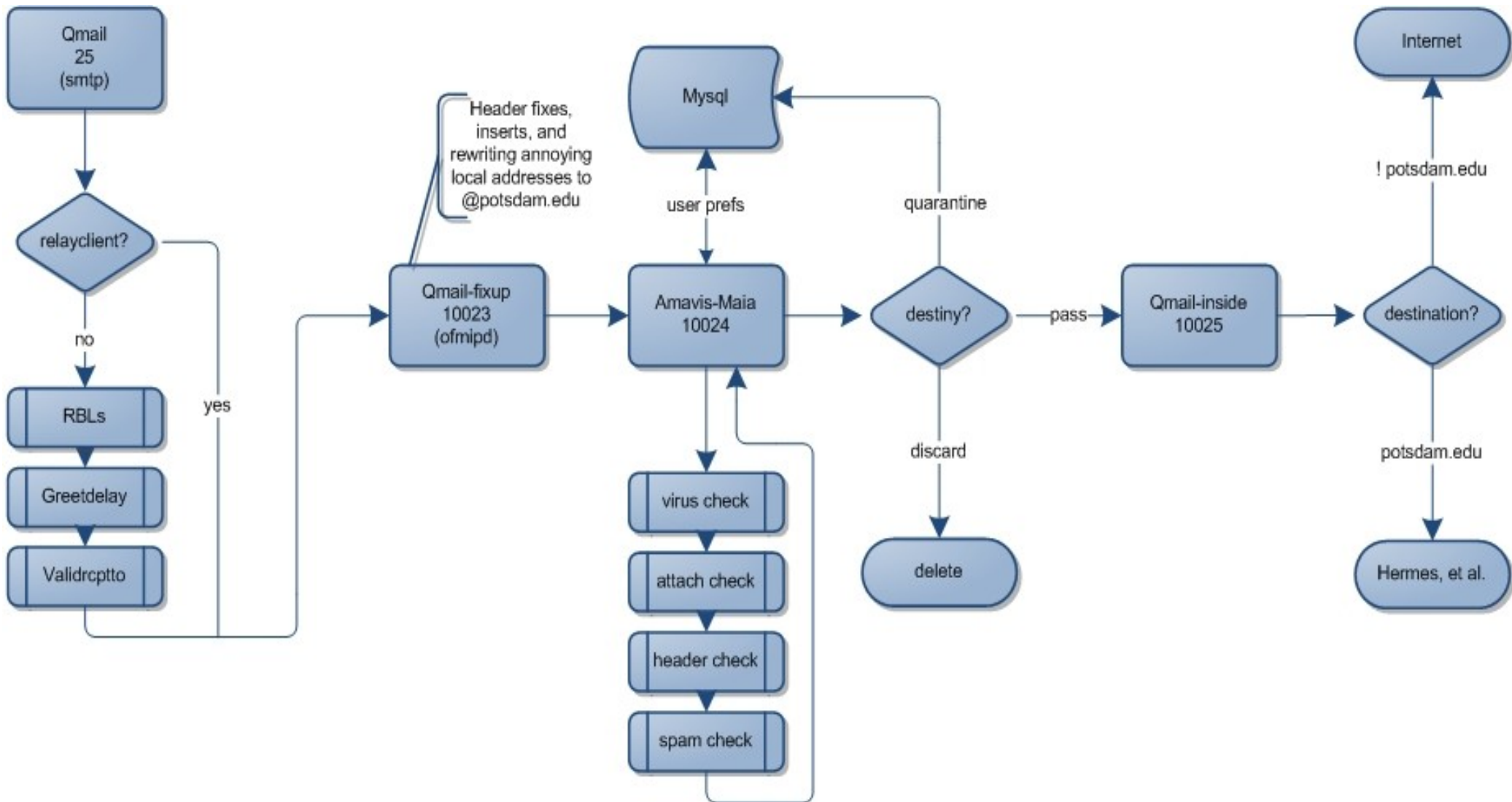
- ClamAV is open-source and widely used, but you can use several external antivirus packages at once. Can fall back to non-daemonized versions (not recommended)
- SpamAssassin is required for spam intelligence, and Maia/Amavis use its modules internally to preserve performance
- Both ClamAV and SpamAssassin require definition/rule updates to be effective, and we use some external sources as well

Mail Exchangers: Full Picture

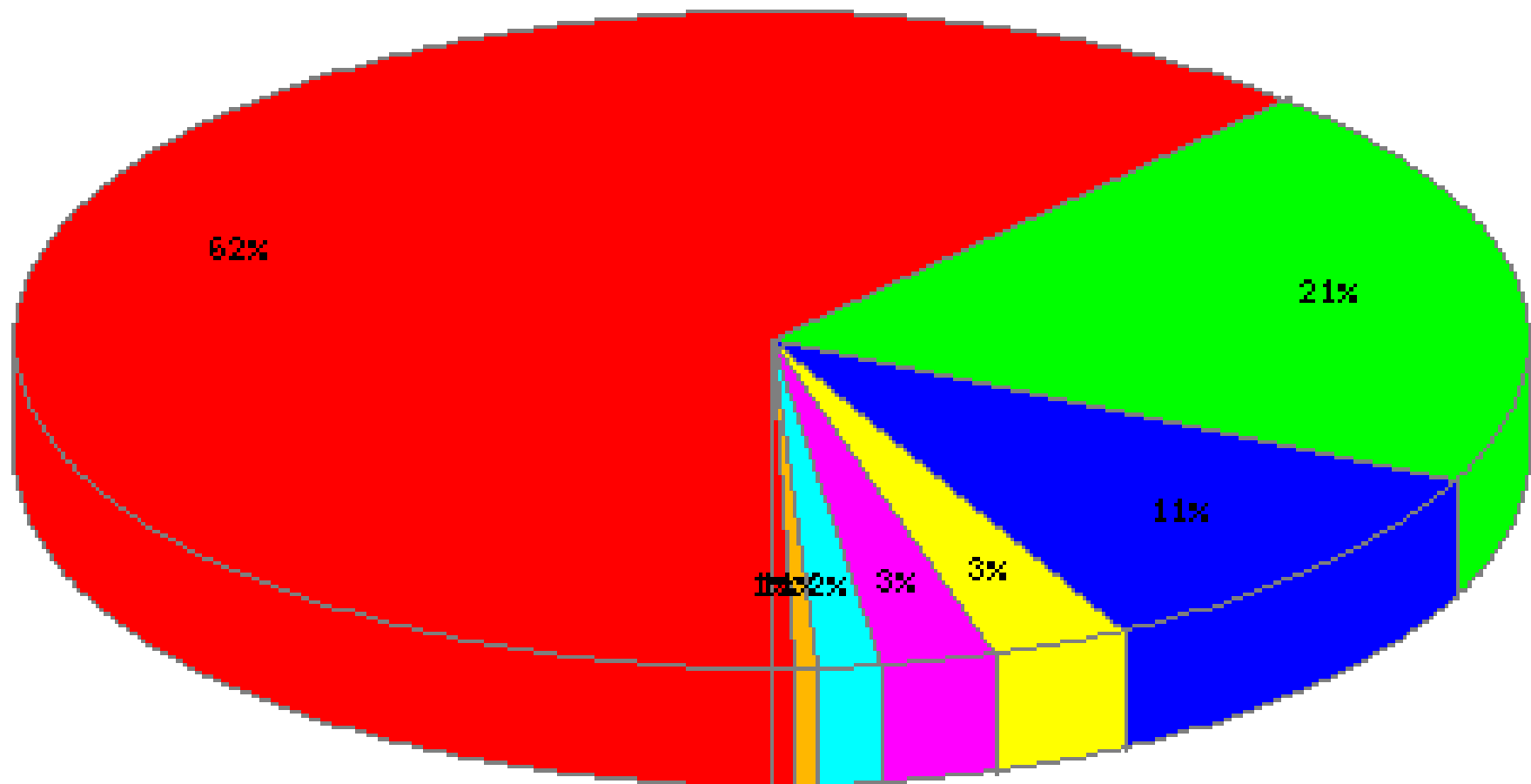


- DNS-listed mail exchangers for the domain
- Qmail-outside subjects connections to tcpserver restrictions and RBL check of sending IP. SMTP session subject to greetdelay to fake a slow SMTP server, badhelo, badmailfrom, valid recipient checking, etc
- Qmail-fixup rewrites headers to unified domain potsdam.edu
- Maia/Amavis is responsible for content-scanning, antivirus, anti-spam according to user database preferences, quarantine to database
- Qmail-inside delivers surviving mail to users at the mailstore
- Open-source Barracuda

Mail Exchangers: Detailed Picture



Top 10 e-Mail Fates in 7 Days: 2,062,591 Total



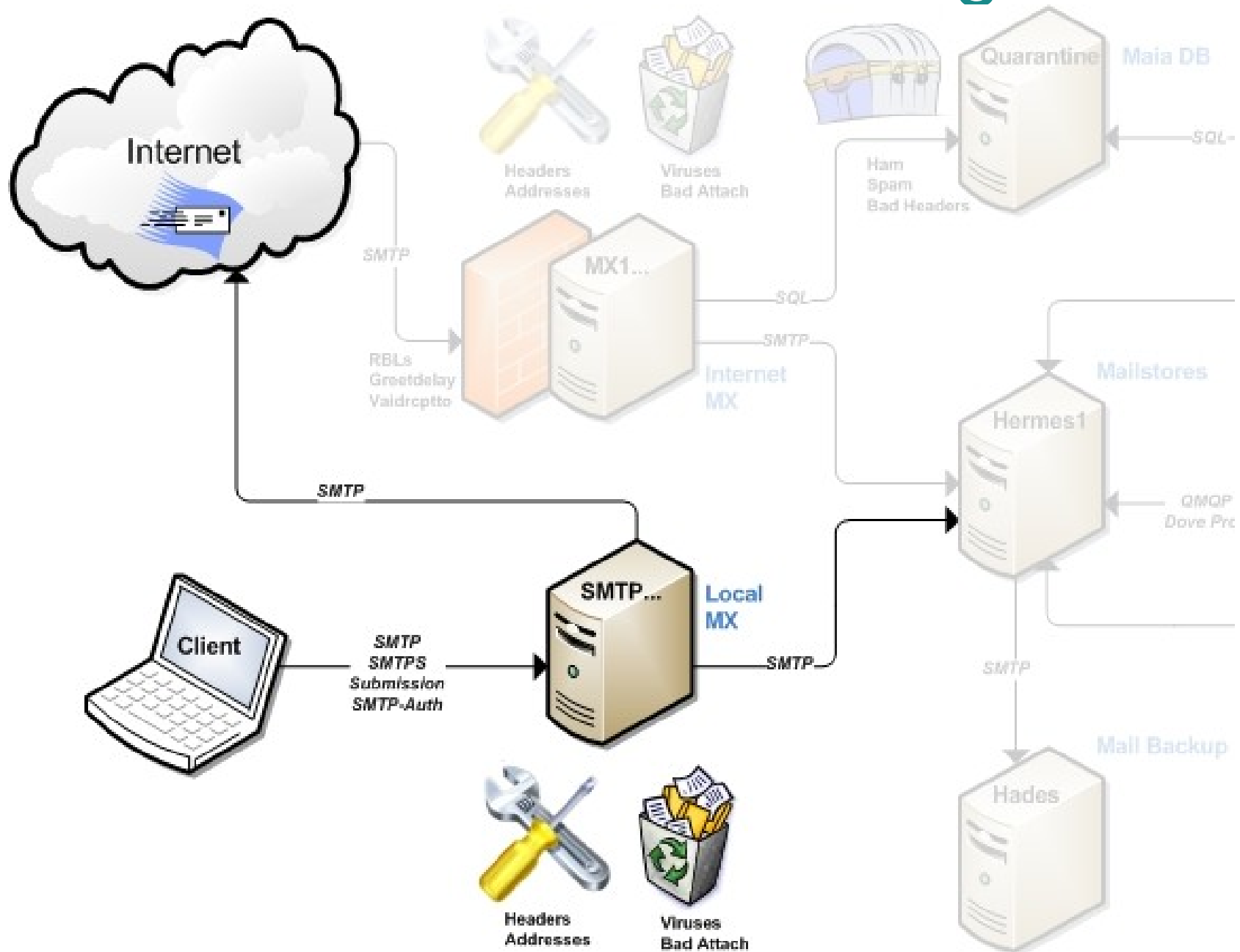
- SPAMMER BLOCKED - 1,278,167
- OK - 414,707
- SPAMMER DISCONNECTED - 210,188
- INVALID RECIPIENT - 61,624
- SPAM - 50,083
- BADHEADER - 27,597
- INFECTED - 11,020
- BAD HELO - 8,827
- BANNED - 378

Top 10 e-Mail Viruses in 317 Days: 357,600 Total



- MBL_303159 - 25,126
- Email.Trojan-234 - 25,053
- Email.Trojan.G2C - 21,620
- Email.Trojan-108 - 21,332
- Email.Trojan-256 - 13,665
- Suspect.Bredozip-zippwd-2 - 13,311
- Suspect.Bredozip-zippwd-10 - 12,328
- winnow.malware.ts.jscript.4 - 11,432
- winnow.malware.ts.jscript.3 - 9,130
- Email.Trojan-127 - 7,377

Local SMTP / Mail Exchanger



Local SMTP / Mail Exchanger

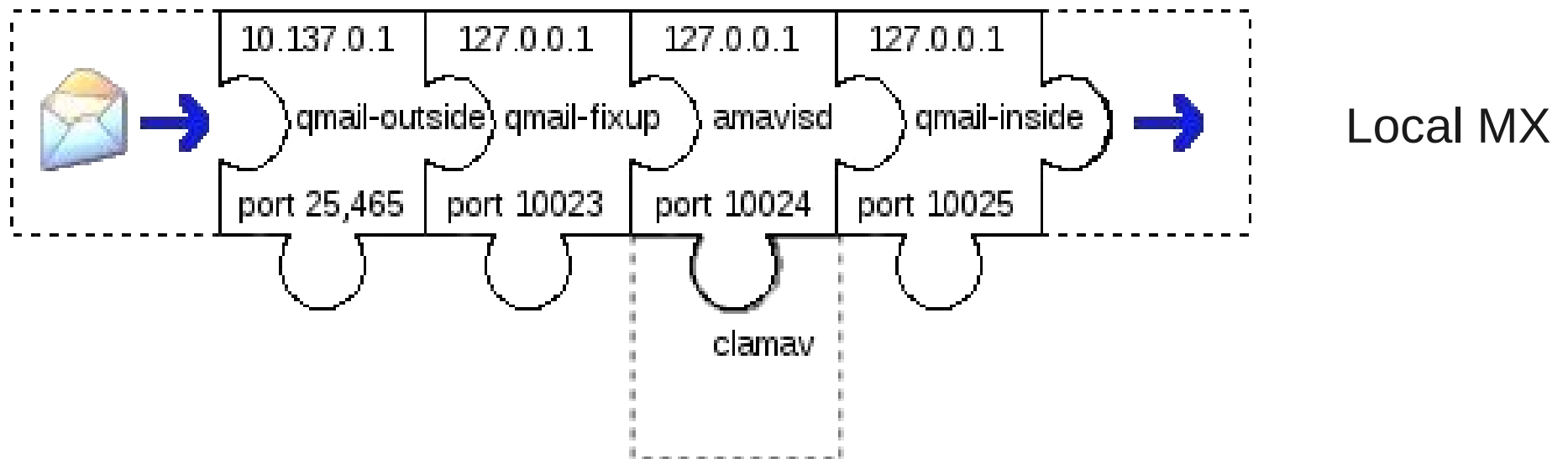
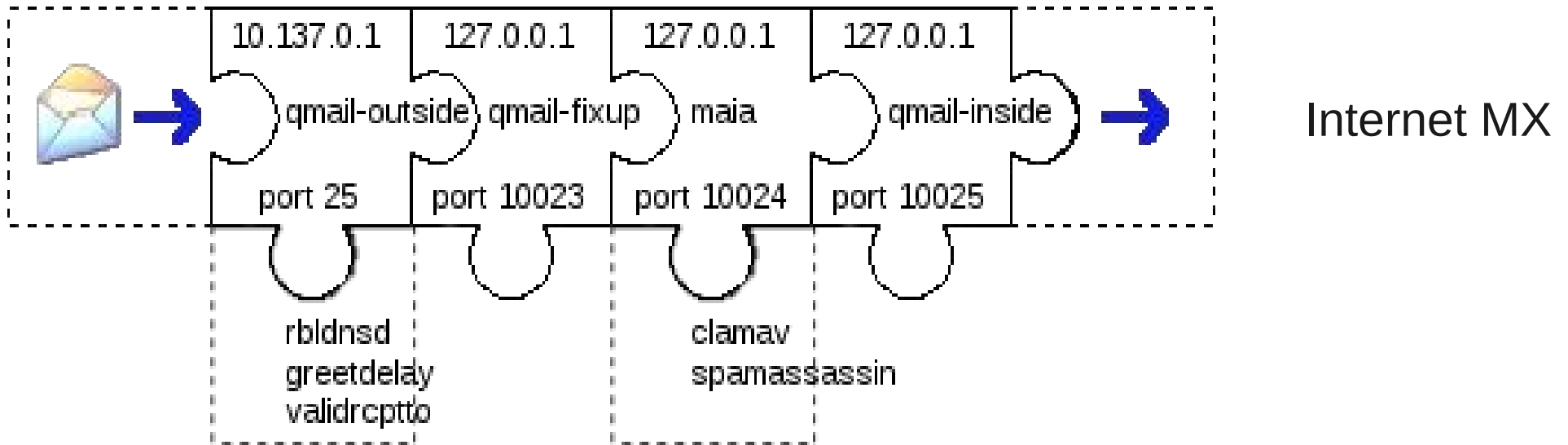
The local mail exchangers exist to concentrate SMTP user delivery services. Nearly identical to Internet mail exchangers, with some key differences:

- Standard SMTP on port 25, blocked from Internet
- SMTP-Auth via SSL on port 465
- SMTP-Auth via SSL on port 587 (STARTTLS would be better)
- Antivirus scanning only

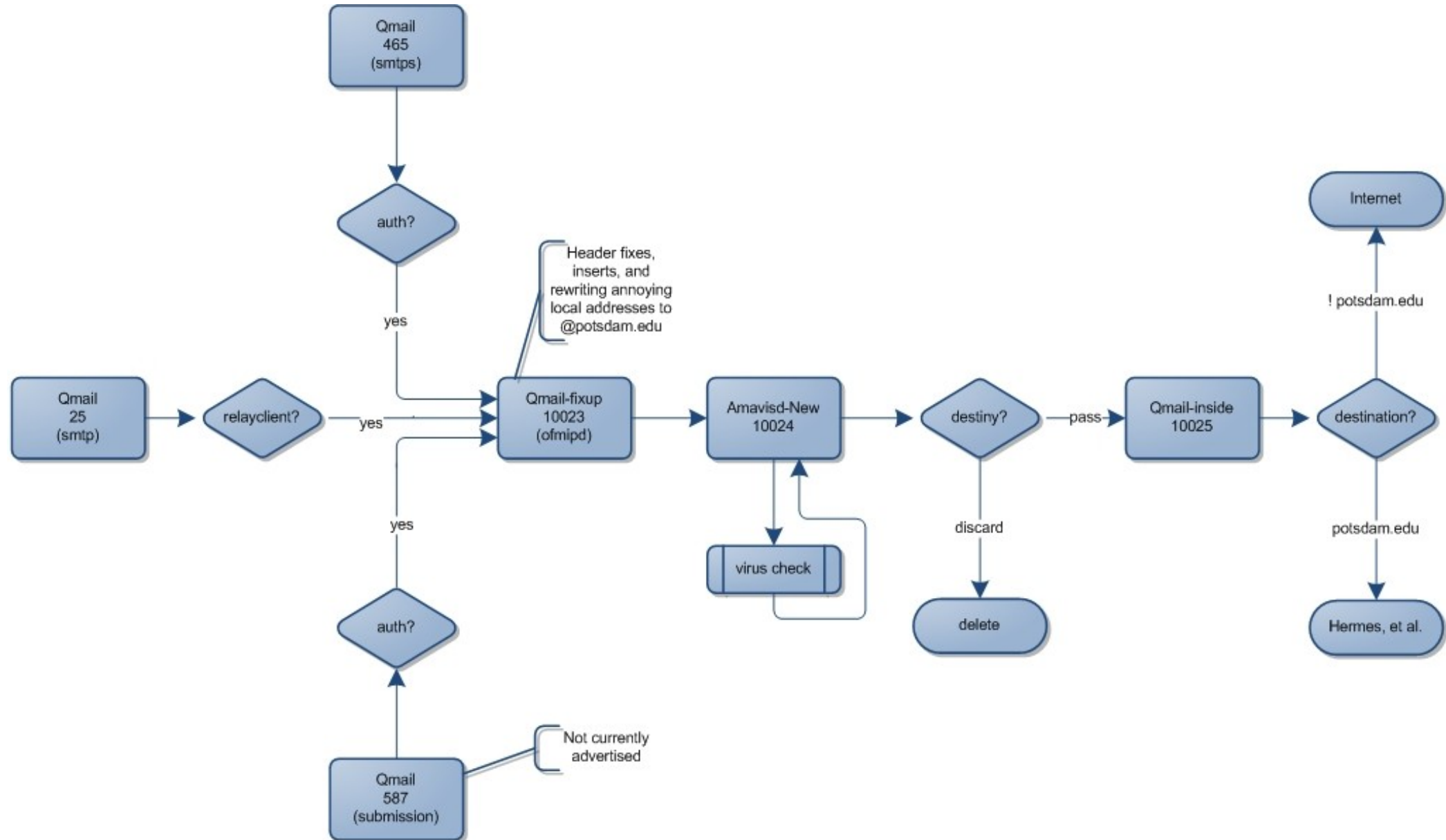
Users will use these machines for their outgoing SMTP server in their email clients.

With split-zone DNS, also advertise these as the mail exchangers for on-campus machines.

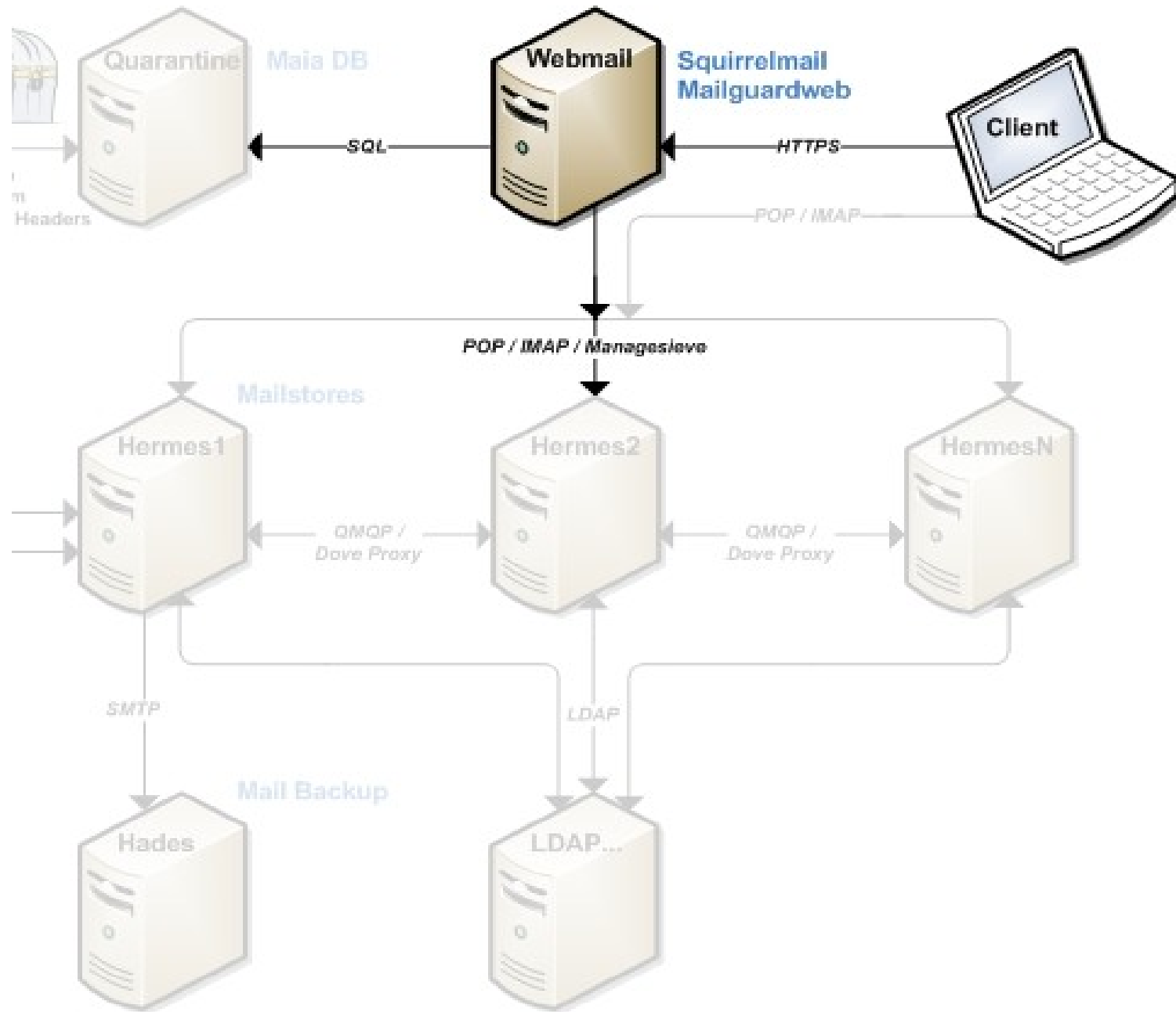
Internet MX / Local MX Comparison



Local SMTP / MX: Detailed Picture



Webmail



Webmail: Squirrelmail / Mailguard

Squirrelmail is an IMAP webmail client written in PHP. Pure HTML, no JavaScript required.

- No frills install with a selection of desired plugins for appearance enhancements, sysadmin relief, and logging visibility
- One key plugin: Avelsieve for server-side filtering via Managesieve protocol on mailstores
- Venerable, stable interface. Soon to be replaced by next-gen calendar web interface

Maia Mailguard has its own PHP frontend to enable user management of preferences and quarantine.

- Standard install
- Add local patch to share PHP session with Squirrelmail login: poor man's single-sign-on

Phish

Scenario: Account compromised

Behavior: Spam sent via webmailer or SMTP-Auth

Result: Reputation hit for domain

Some patterns have emerged with regard to the use of compromised accounts to send spam email:

- Account logins often originate from different countries in a relatively short amount of time
- Sending mail where envelope-sender does not match from header, and there is a large number of recipients

Phish: Phishhook

Phishhook SquirrelMail plugin

- Attached both to SquirrelMail login and to email send

On login:

- If this login outside North America
- If last login inside North America (parses log)
- If time difference between two logins < 8 hours
- SNAG!

On send:

- If envelope-sender != from header and > 100 recipients
- SNAG!

Phish: qmail-skim

Qmail-skim qmail queue replacement

- Attached to mail exchanger qmail-outside at queue time

Checks SMTP-Auth login:

- If this login outside North America
- If last login inside North America (parses log)
- If time difference between two logins < 8 hours
- SNAG!

Checks from and number of recipients:

- If envelope-sender != from header and > 100 recipients
- SNAG!

Phish Phood

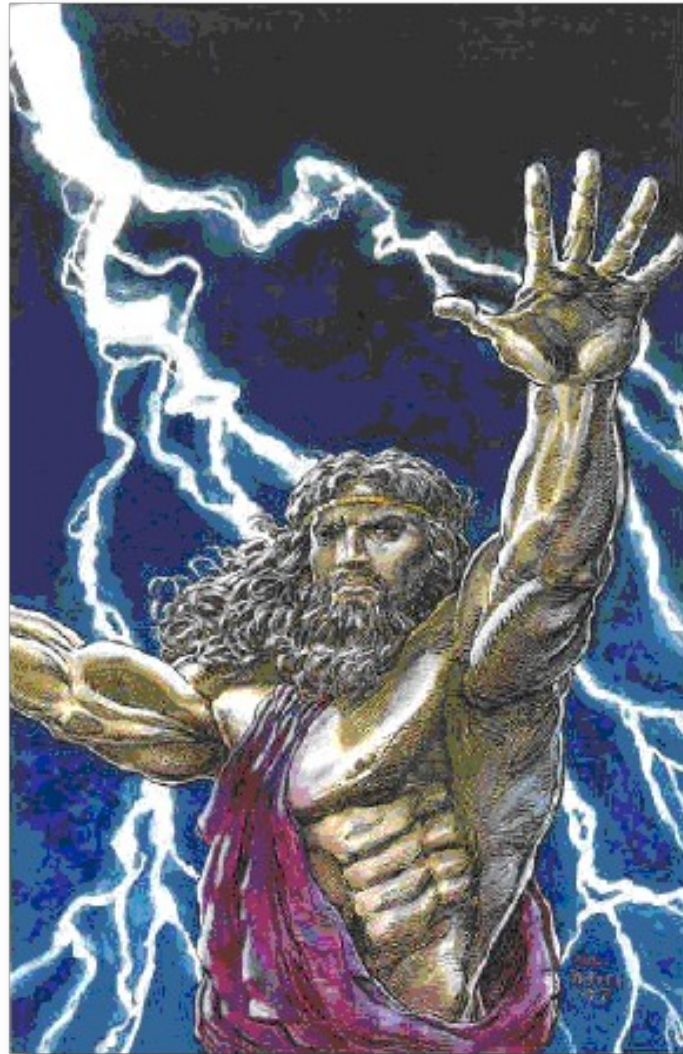
When a phished account is snagged due to one of the criteria:

- Account removed from all service groups
- Account password is scrambled
- Source IP address is blocked at border firewall (expires in one month)
- Ticket created in tracking
- Account added to phish group, flagged as a phish in account management interface so Helpdesk personnel know to counsel the affected user: “you gave your account to criminals”

Generally average a few a week, sometimes surges in dozens.

Not without issue: students/faculty traveling abroad have been snagged. Often this is due to an AUP violation, with friends/family using their account from home.

Federating Management



Postmaster

One staff carries part-time postmaster-ish duties:

- Monitoring mail queue issues
- List/alias administration
- Special requests for forwarding/aliasing
- Campus mass-mailings
- Access to host of command-line tools

Part of larger responsibilities for accounts in-general:

- Employee account management
- DMCA notice handling

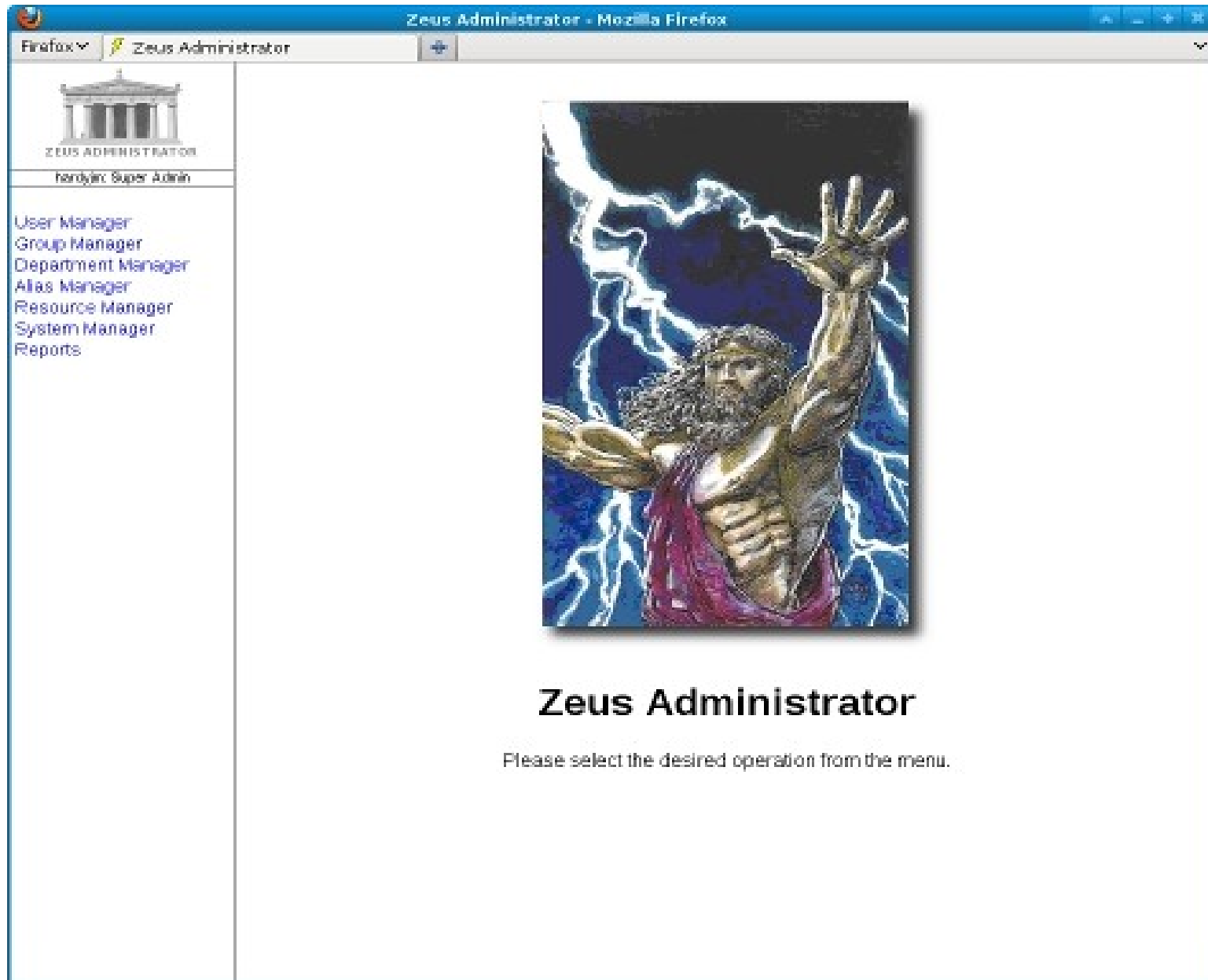
Zeus Administrator

The Zeus Administrator suite is a Perl frontend sandbox to the LDAP infrastructure.

- Modules for users, groups, departments, email aliases, calendar resources, systems, buildings, reports
- Role-based access control

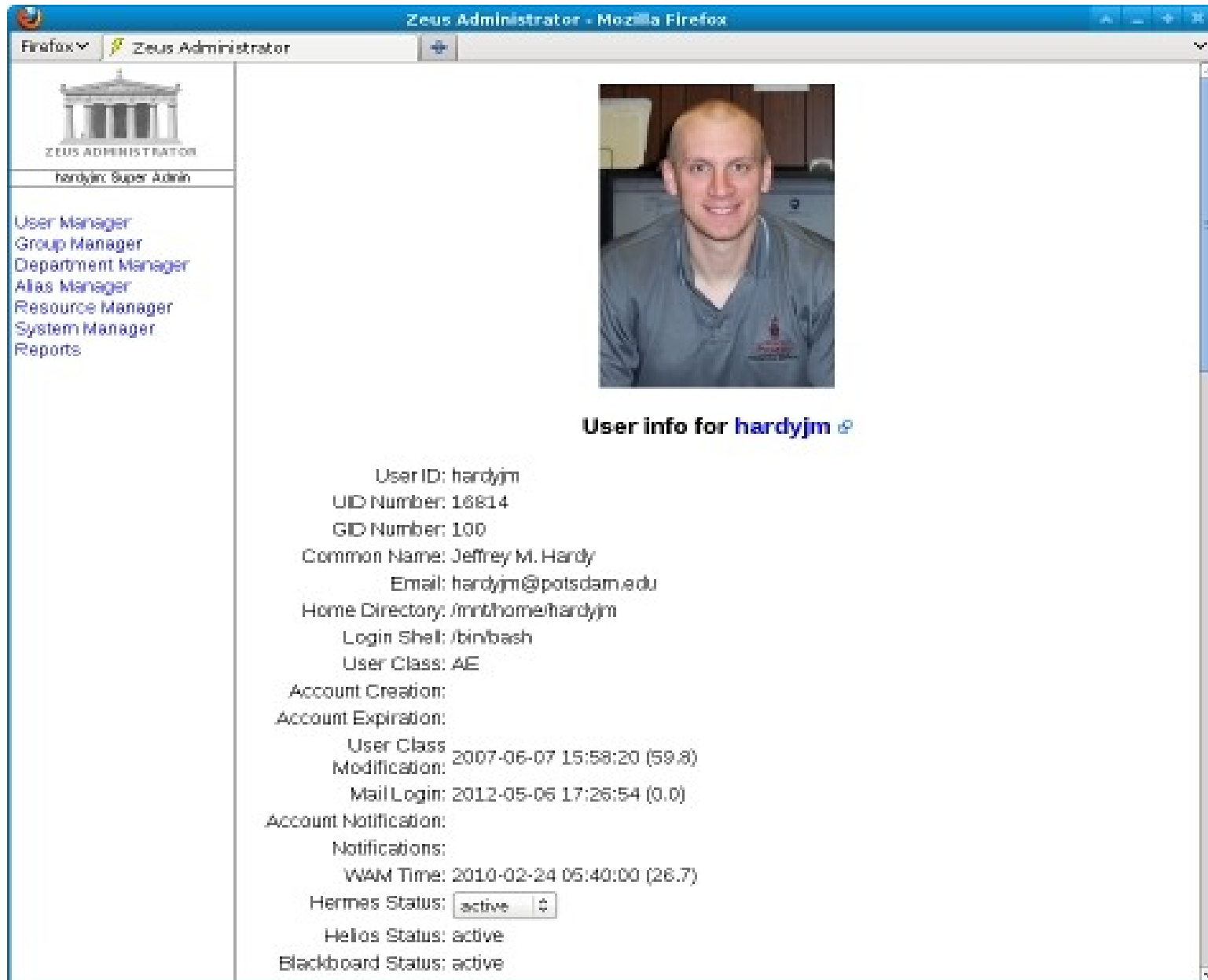
Roles for Helpdesk, student workers, web directory admins, lab managers, super admins: allow/deny access to entire modules and fine-grained control down to individual LDAP attributes and functions (ex: change password).

Zeus Administrator




The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox". The browser's address bar contains "Zeus Administrator". The page layout includes a sidebar on the left with a logo of a classical building and the text "ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR" and "hardy@super-admin". Below the logo is a menu with the following items: "User Manager", "Group Manager", "Department Manager", "Alias Manager", "Resource Manager", "System Manager", and "Reports". The main content area features a large image of Zeus, a bearded man with lightning bolts around him, with his right hand raised. Below the image, the text "Zeus Administrator" is displayed in a bold font, followed by the instruction "Please select the desired operation from the menu."

Zeus Administrator




Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox

Firefox Zeus Administrator


ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR
hardyjm Super Admin

User Manager
Group Manager
Department Manager
Alias Manager
Resource Manager
System Manager
Reports



User info for [hardyjm](#)


User ID: hardyjm
UID Number: 16814
GID Number: 100
Common Name: Jeffrey M. Hardy
Email: hardyjm@potdam.edu
Home Directory: /mnt/home/hardyjm
Login Shell: /bin/bash
User Class: AE

Account Creation:
Account Expiration:
User Class Modification: 2007-06-07 15:58:20 (59.8)
Mail Login: 2012-05-06 17:26:54 (0.0)
Account Notification:
Notifications:
WAM Time: 2010-02-24 05:40:00 (26.7)
Hermes Status:
Helios Status: active
Blackboard Status: active

Zeus Administrator

Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox

Firefox Zeus Administrator


ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR
hardyjm Super Admin

User Manager
Group Manager
Department Manager
Alias Manager
Resource Manager
System Manager
Reports

First Name:

Last Name:

Full Name:

Department:

Title:

Phone:

Fax:

Public Email:

AIM:

Homepage URL:

CV/Resume URL:

Office Location:

Home Phone (EE Only):

Home Address (EE Only):

Home City (EE Only):

Home State and Zip (EE Only):


Bio/Description:

JPG Picture: reuse directory photo

Zeus Administrator

Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox

Firefox Zeus Administrator


ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR
hardy@ Super Admin

User Manager
Group Manager
Department Manager
Alias Manager
Resource Manager
System Manager
Reports

Mail Host (Qmail): hermes.potsdam.edu

Mail Alternate Address (Qmail): hardy@potsdam.edu
hardym-null@potsdam.edu

Mail Forwarding Address (Qmail):

Mail Size Max (Qmail):

Mail Reply Text (Qmail):

Delivery Mode (Qmail): noforward nolocal noprogram reply

Quota: helios:home:9000000:9900000

Group Membership:

sys	CURRENT	AVAILABLE
sys_admins	CLEAR CTS_HNS Domain Admins Domain Users Faculty Printer Admins ctstoolwrite reports	ASS AIS Bursar Office Business Affairs CPS_user CTS_UserServices ClassAdmins ContEd_Reslife

Workstation Restrictions:

CURRENT ADD

Workstation Restrictions: [Empty List] [Empty List] [->]

Password: [Empty Field]
[Empty Field]

Update Info
Delete User

Zeus Administrator

Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox

Firefox Zeus Administrator

ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR
hardyjm Super Admin

User Manager
Group Manager
Department Manager
Alias Manager
Resource Manager
System Manager
Reports

Department info for Computing & Technology Services

Name:

Dept. Alias:

Dept. Head:

Dept. Secretary:

Dept. Address:

Dept. Phone:

Dept. Fax:

Dept. Email:

Webpage:

Dept. Members:

aid:	email:	CURRENT	ADD
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<-

Zeus Administrator

The screenshot displays the Zeus Administrator web interface within a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The page title is "Zeus Administrator - Mozilla Firefox". The browser's address bar shows "Zeus Administrator".

The interface features a sidebar on the left with a logo of a classical building and the text "ZEUS ADMINISTRATOR" and "hardy@ Super Admin". Below the logo is a menu with the following items: "User Manager", "Group Manager", "Department Manager", "Alias Manager", "Resource Manager", "System Manager", and "Reports".

The main content area is titled "Alias info for cts". It displays the following information:

- Alias ID: cts
- Common Name: alias cts
- LID Number: 38307
- GID Number: 100
- Home Directory: /mnt/home/cts
- Hermes Status: active (dropdown menu)
- Sender Confirm: FALSE (dropdown menu)
- Mail Host: hermes.potsdam.edu
- Mail: cts@potsdam.edu
- Mail Size Max: (empty text input field)
- Member Filters: (empty text input field)
- Member Emails: A table with two columns: "CURRENT" and "ADD". The "CURRENT" column contains the entry "helpdesk". There are small icons next to the entries in both columns. Below the table is a left-pointing arrow and an empty text input field.

At the bottom right of the main content area, there are two buttons: "Update Info" and "Delete Alias".

Account Synchronization

Banner

LDAP

Account Sync: Creation/Modification

Account Request Form / Registrar Processes

- Web form for requests to HR for employee accounts in Banner; Admissions/Registrar processing creates student accounts in Banner. Jobs and table triggers kick off CASL processes

CASL: Centralized Authentication System for Linux

- Interprets codes in files FTP'ed from Banner systems to create/modify users in LDAP with given userClass (CASL was once responsible for much much more)

```
# cat 20121112-085737.CC2DC  
+:smithzb196:d3xsqzhn:Smith:Zachary  
E:johnsoae:gfz297yt5:7552:Johnson:Ann:E:P00311393
```

Account Sync: Creation/Modification

WAM: Whack-a-Mole Account Manager

- Software responsible for determining service access for a user based on userClass: the user lifecycle
- Changes users over time: user attributes, group and department memberships, notifications of impending service loss, userClass itself, deletions, etc.

AS=Active_Student

-all services always

IS=Inactive_Student

-notified at 5, service lost at 6, data deleted at 15

-email deleted at 15 months inactivity

GS=Graduated_Student

-email forever

-notified at 5, services lost at 6 (except email), data deleted at 15

-email deleted at 9 months of inactivity, access restored at login

Account Mapping

Banner

GAOEMAL

FACT

ON

LDAP

UserClass

AE: Active Employee

EE: Emeritus Employee

LE: Legacy Employee

XE: Cross-reg Employee

IE: Inactive Employee

DE: Deferred Employee

AS: Active Student

IS: Inactive Student

GS: Graduated Student

LS: Legacy Student

TMP: Temporary Account

WTF: System/Misc Accounts

QFD: Queued for Deletion

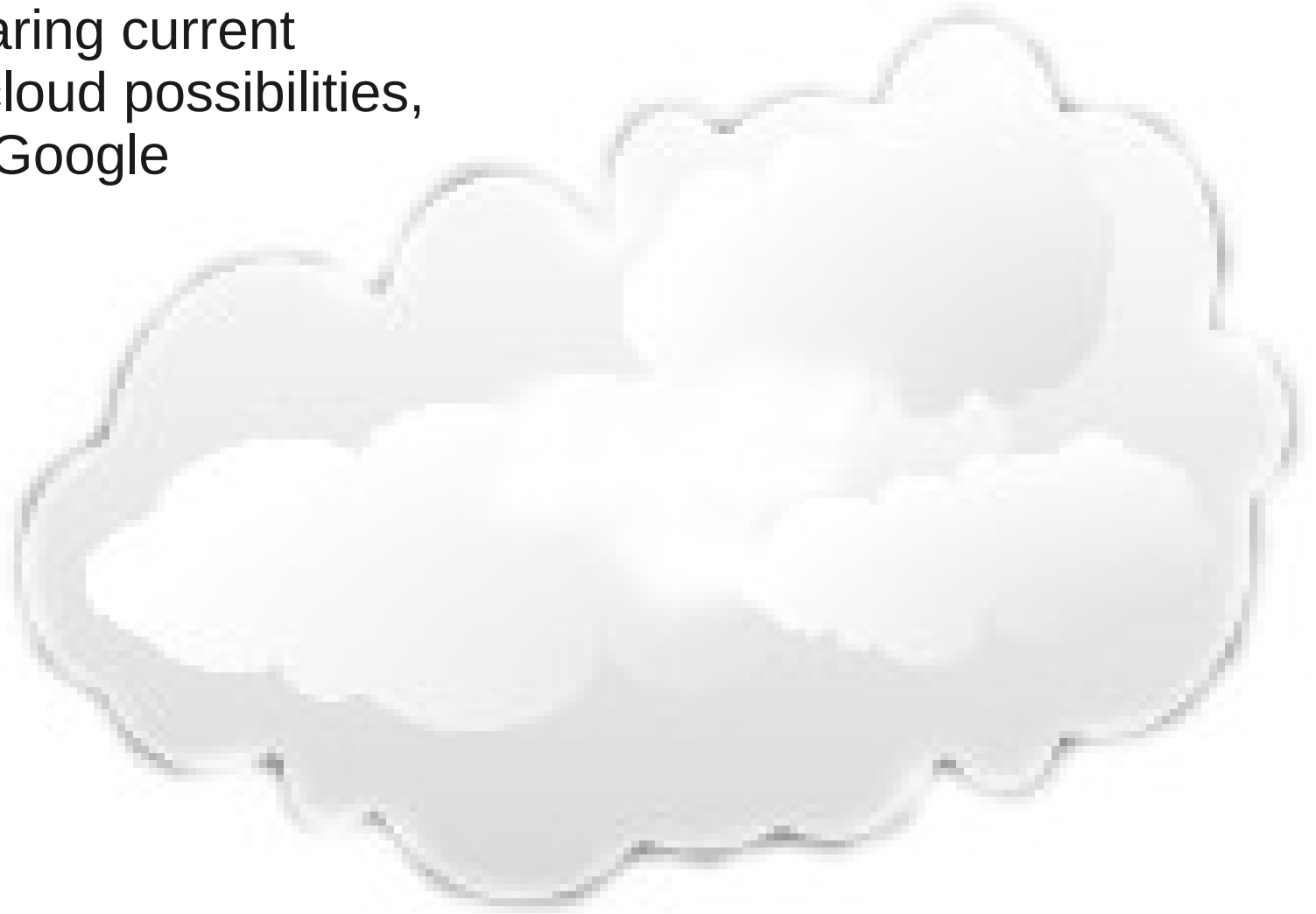
Directory Unification

“Goatpad” workgroup spent five years unifying various directory sources on campus, perfecting workflows, and changing business processes.

- Closed the account gap
 - All departing employees are deleted or granted emeritus
 - All departing students are deactivated or granted alumnus
- HR is the gatekeeper for employee accounts
 - No services granted until account request processed
- Registrar is the gatekeeper for student accounts
 - Any questions about standing: “You must speak to the Registrar”
- Unified the directory beneath desire for online accuracy
 - Employees must be in a department, all departments displayed in online directory. Departments have impetus for this information to be accurate
 - Students can opt-out of directory via Banner

The Cloud

Conducted a study in early 2012 comparing current solution to cloud possibilities, specifically Google



Cloud Comparison

Pros:

- Cost savings – Approximately \$5000 per year in hardware costs and approximately 1 person-week per year of system administrator time
- Phish cleanup – Burden of monitoring, cleanup, and reputation restoration on Google rather than us
- Fewer restrictions on message size and volume during peak business hours
- Possibility for future cost savings on calendar software with bundled apps
- More hardware redundancy on critical systems
- From a staff succession planning standpoint: Less reliance on local staff expertise for some critical systems (however, trending towards a reduction in technical demands may make positions less attractive to qualified applicants.)

Cloud Comparison

Cons:

- Phish damage – Compromised accounts may not be disabled in a timely manner allowing criminal access to confidential information.
- Diminished ability to monitor mail queues to identify blocks or problems with incoming or outgoing mail
- Diminished ability to search logs to determine if messages were sent or received
- Diminished flexibility to manage email accounts with aliases, lists, etc.
- Potential issues with automated processes for account creation and deletion
- Privacy issues: HIPAA, etc.
- Records retention and discovery: DMCA, FOIL, FOIA, etc. subject to Google
- Bandwidth and WAN issues: Email traffic would have to travel over WAN connection subject to WAN outages or bandwidth constrictions. Impact on campus bandwidth is uncertain, as we will see a dropoff in delivery (SMTP) traffic, but a likely increase in reception (IMAP) traffic.
- Any system administrator time savings would be countered by additional time necessary to adapt current systems to new paradigm
- Transition to new systems would require significant staff time, user training and possible disruptions
- No technical support available from Google other than on-line docs

Email Timeline

Email was a struggle for years.

- Storage always the biggest issue. Initial introduction of SAN storage was a balancing act. Things generally ok until each year's new batch of Fall users led to inevitable backlogs.

2007-2008 a particularly bad year. If cloud offerings had been more mature and well-accepted, migration would have been unavoidable.

- Constant load-induced problems on the mailstores led to backlogs
- Introducing spam database quarantine led to delivery delays, tuning, re-adjustment, split-zone DNS, separate exchangers, all in a short time in a cascading difficult transition
- Mailstore instability led to filesystem crashes, re-introduction of direct-attached storage (DAS)

Ultimately, 2008 was a turning point for the better. Living off of interest.

Future Work on Hold

Phish countermeasures and further work on qmail-skim

Outgoing spam filtering

Next generation calendar introduces a new webmail client and doubtless new challenges

Mail storage is resilient, needs work to be redundant:

- HA SAN storage
- Redundant qmail forwarding/Dovecot proxying machines
- Re-visit backup scheme. Lower tier storage means a full restore would take some time.

The Cloud?

Early discussions with ITEC about their email offerings

Transition to anything not driven by mail, but associated services such as calendar

In a position to let the dust settle...