[LMS] How to use Gmail as your SMTP server

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Introduction

A little-known feature about Gmail and Google Apps email is Google's portable SMTP server. Instead of having to manage your own outgoing mail server on your LMS, you can simply configure Google's SMTP server settings in 'Mail Relay'. All you need is either a (i) free Gmail account or (ii) paid Google Apps account.

Benefits

You have the option of having Google store and index the emails you send via its SMTP server, so all your sent emails will be searchable and backed-up on Google's servers. If you elect to use your Gmail or Google Apps account for your incoming email as well, you'll have all your email in one convenient place. Also, since Google's SMTP server does not use Port 25, you'll reduce the probability that an ISP might block your email or flag it as SPAM.

Settings

Google's SMTP server requires authentication, so here's how to set it up:

1. Go to https://www.google.com/settings/security/lesssecur... and 'Turn on' access for less secure applications

2. Sign in to your LMS domain with Super Admin privileges, and click on 'Mail Relay' under 'Account & Settings'
3. Select 'No' for 'Use BrainCert Mail Server'
4. From Name is your Name that you want to appear in the email sent
5. From E-Mail Address is your Gmail address
6. SMTP Mail Server Hostname (i.e., outgoing mail): smtp.gmail.com
7. SMTP port: 587
8. Use Secure Connection: TLS
9. SMTP username: Your full Gmail or Google Apps email address (e.g. example@gmail.com or example@yourdomain.com)
10. SMTP password: Your Gmail or Google Apps email passwordIn order to store a copy of outgoing emails in your Gmail or Google Apps *Sent* folder, log into your Gmail or Google Apps email *Settings* and:
11. Click on the *Forwarding/IMAP* tab and scroll down to the *IMAP Access* section: IMAP must be enabled in order for emails to be properly copied to your sent folder.

NOTE: Google automatically rewrites the *From* line of any email you send via its SMTP server to the default *Send mail as* email address in your Gmail or Google Apps email account *Settings*. You need to be aware of this nuance because it affects the presentation of your email, from the point of view of the recipient, and it may also affect the Reply-To setting of some programs.

Workaround: In your Google email *Settings*, go to the *Accounts* tab/section and make "default" an account other than your Gmail/Google Apps account. This will cause Google's SMTP server to re-write the *From* field with whatever address you enabled as the default *Send mail as* address.

Sending Limits

Google limits the amount of mail a user can send, via its portable SMTP server. This limit restricts the number of messages sent per day to 99 emails; and the restriction is automatically removed within 24 hours after the limit was reached.