CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

GatorLink E-mail Users Can Now Send from Any ISP

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Table of Contents

GatorLink E-mail Users Can Now Send from Any ISP ................................................3
The CNS Open Systems Group extended the campus-wide open-access SMTP Relay Service (smtp.ufl.edu) to include support for SMTP Authentication (RFC2554) and STARTTLS (RFC2487). This upgrade happened in early December 2002.

SMTP is an acronym for "Simple Mail Transfer Protocol," which is the standard that defines how e-mail is sent. We added an authentication option to the SMTP service to allow GatorLink customers to send e-mail from any IP address. This means that people with GatorLink accounts who connect to the Internet via non-UF Internet Service Providers (AOL, Cox Cable, GRU, ISPs local to other cities, etc.) will still be able to send mail via smtp.ufl.edu. It will no longer be necessary to use your ISP's outgoing mail server.

This service gives us a way to provide an outgoing mail option to the UF community without opening our server to misuse by spammers who want to send messages that pretend to be from the UF server.

The SMTP AUTH options will only be presented to systems and users connecting from off-campus sites. UF users who use smtp.ufl.edu will not see a change.

There is a small percentage of customers who may experience a problem after the conversion. Some builds of the Netscape 4.7x mail client implement the SMTP AUTH feature incorrectly and also implement the user interface to the feature very poorly.

Those Netscape mail clients present themselves to the SMTP server in an ambiguous way. And since it is not possible for the server to tell the difference between an end-user and a foreign server relaying mail to ufl.edu recipients, those clients may be refused.

This problem can be corrected by upgrading to a more current version of the Netscape software.

If you need assistance with this or other e-mail problems, please call the UF Computing Help Desk [http://helpdesk.circa.ufl.edu/] at (352) 392-HELP.

Systems administrators and departmental IT contacts with questions should contact the Open Systems Group at open-systems-l@lists.ufl.edu [mailto:open-systems-l@lists.ufl.edu].

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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