

## Removing exim and installing gmail / Generate and install pseudo mta dummy package on Debian / Ubuntu etc. .deb based Linux

Author : admin



If you happen to be installing **Qmail Mail** server on a Debian or Ubuntu (.deb) based Linux, you will notice by default there will be some kind of MTA (Mail Transport Agent) already installed **mail-transfer-agent** package will be installed and because of Debian .deb package dependency to have an MTA always installed on the system you will be unable to remove **Exim MTA** without installing some other **MTA (Postix / Qmail)** etc.

This will be a problem for those like me who prefer to compile and install **Qmail** from source, thus to get around this it is necessary to create a dummy package that will trick the **deb** packaging dependencies that actually **mta-local** MTA package is present on the server.

The way to go here is to use **equivs** (*Circumvent debian package dependencies*):

```
debian:~# apt-cache show equivs|grep -i desc -A 10
```

Description: Circumvent Debian package dependencies

This package provides a tool to create trivial Debian packages.

Typically these packages contain only dependency information, but they can also include normal installed files like other packages do.

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One use for this is to create a metapackage: a package whose sole purpose is to declare dependencies and conflicts on other packages so

that these will be automatically installed, upgraded, or removed.

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Another use is to circumvent dependency checking: by letting dpkg think a particular package name and version is installed when it

Btw creating a .deb dummy package will be necessary in many other cases when you have to install from some third party debian repositories or some old and already unmaintained deb-src packages for the sake of making some archaic software to resurrect somewhere, so sooner or later even if you're not into Mail servers you will certainly need **equivs**.

Then install **equivs** and go on proceeding creating the dummy **mail-transport-agent** package

```
debian:~# cd /tmp
debian:~# cp -rpf /usr/share/doc/equivs/examples/mail-transport-agent.ctl .
debian:~# equivs-build mail-transport-agent.ctl
```

Above command will build and package **/tmp/mta-local\_1.0\_all.deb** dummy package.  
So continue and install it with dpkg as you use to install debian packages

```
debian:~# dpkg -i /tmp/mta-local_1.0_all.deb
```

...

From then on you can continue your standard **LWQ** - Life with Qmail or any other source based qmail installation with:

**./config-fast mail.yourmaildomain.net**

...

So that's it now .deb packaging system consistency will be complete so standard security package updates with **apt-get** and aptitude updates or **dpkg -i** third party custom software insatlls will not be breaking up any more.

Hope that helped someone :)