

How to fix "Could not instantiate mail function", PHPMAILER_RECIPIENTS_FAILED and PHPMAILER_FROM_FAILED on Joomla and RSforms

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I've used the [RSForms](#) to build some custom Joomla Contact forms.

The *RSForms* was recommended to me by a friend and actually it's a pretty cool and quick way to create forms.

I've installed it and played a bit with it to create a custom forms for one of the website I had to bring up just recently.

After the contact form was ready however there was a problem with sending emails. It took me quite a while to find out how to solve the problem with contact not able to mail whatever is filled in.

First time I tried the [RSForms](#) after filling in the details and pressing the submit button, I got the error message;

Could not instantiate mail function.

I should say that, I'm running a **QMAIL email server** on the server where I have the Joomla & RSForms installed and configured.

I've came up with a solution to this issue after some research in *Google*

In order to solve that you will have to login to your Joomla administrator and Navigate to:

Site -> Global Configuration -> Server

Whenever it opens up you should be seeing the **Mail Settings** on the bottom right corner;

From there you will have to change the *Mailer* from **PHP Mail Function** to **SMTP Server**

To give you a better idea check out the screenshot of the Mail Settings below:

Mail Settings

Mailer	SMTP Server
Mail from	
From Name	
Sendmail Path	/usr/sbin/sendmail
SMTP Authentication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
SMTP Security	None
SMTP Port	25
SMTP Username	
SMTP Password	
SMTP Host	127.0.0.1

Changing this simple setting resolved the **Could not instantiate mail function** for me.

Right after I tested the RSForms to send my filled in form content but this time the **PHPMAILER_RECIPIENTS_FAILED** message was there;

This error was caused actually by a mistake I made in the configuration of the Custom RSForm I have prepared;

In **Components -> RSForm!Pro -> Manage forms** whenever I was preparing my form I've made a mistake in the **User Emails** customized field in my custom prepared form in the **To:** field I had a wrong variable set (a different value was set from the E-mail caption I've set on).

Solving this solved the issue. Even though the **PHPMAILER_RECIPIENTS_FAILED** was gone now, next I was unpleasantly surprised by another error message which prevented the Contact form to properly send the input data:

Now I had to fight with the error;

PHPMAILER_FROM_FAILED

It took me a while and a lot of forums reading before I figure it out again my custom prepared RSForm had an issue;

The problem was in the **Admin Emails** customization of the form in the **From:** fill in box I had mistakenly typed in proper email, setting a proper email there solved the issue;

I've red online many suggested solutions to the issue which dealt with changes in the the file **joomla/components/com_contact/controller.php** around line 112, 162 etc.

I should say that before I found and solved the actual problem I've tried modifying this file also but with zero success.

Sometimes Linux is so complicated, it really pisses me of, why is not life easier? :|