Linux "bash: mail: command not found" error fix - Installing mail cli on Fedora, Debian, CentOS, Ubuntu

Author : admin

If you just **hired a cheap VPS** with some kind of Linux OS installed or just installed a **home Linux test system environment** inside a Virtual Machine (such as VirtualBox) on your notebook and you **want to read system email reports delivered by services** (e.g. track possible errors with the OS) or simply test whether **Email relaying is configured properly**

and you end up with **shell error:**

bash: mail: command not found

because **mail** command is missing and you wonder what Linux package you have to install in order to have the lovely **mail / mailx** command back on the OS ... this article will help you how you can easily solve it by installing the **mailx** binary file (e.g. install the package providing it depending on the *Linux Distribution Operating System you* face the problem on.

1. Install mailx command on Debian / Ubuntu / Mint and other .deb based Linux

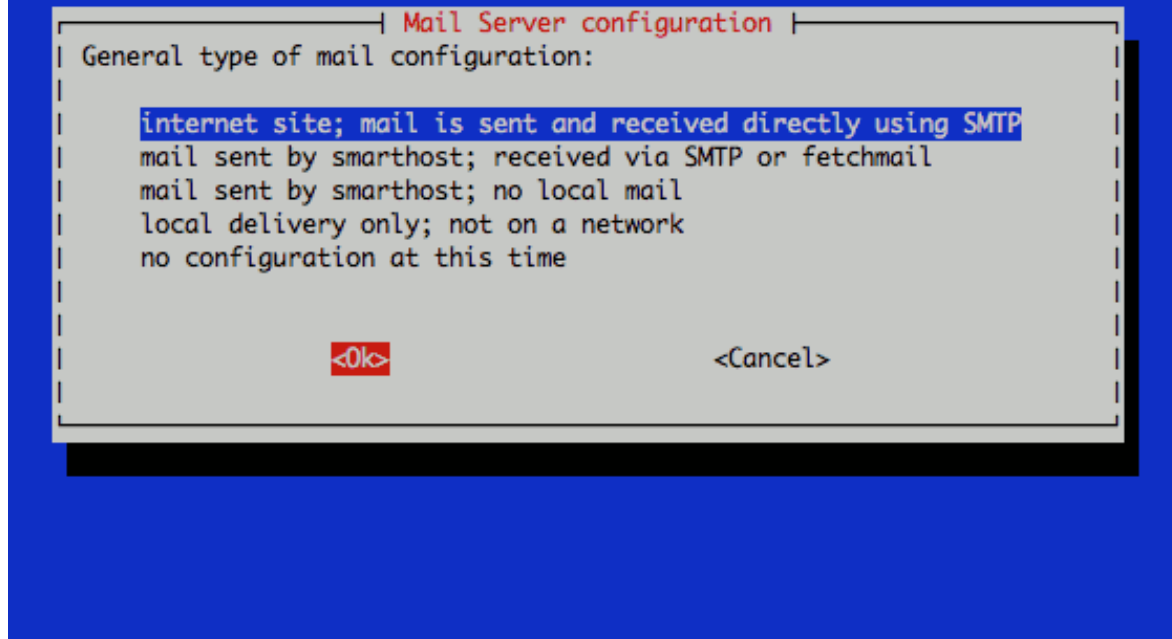   **root@linux:~# apt-get install --yes bsd-mailx**

...

An alternative way to install the **mailx** system binary is to install **mailutils package**

which will set up the system with essential mail related programs and **set up a light Exim MTA** and *common server Email surrounding* so you can easily configure default installed Exim Mail Server to serve as an SMTP relay **(through dpkg-reconfigure exim4-config)** command

> **root@linux~:# apt-get install mailutils**
> *Reading package lists... Done*
> *Building dependency tree*
> *Reading state information... Done*
> *The following additional packages will be installed:*
>   *exim4-base exim4-config exim4-daemon-light guile-2.0-libs libgsasl7*
>   *libkyotocabinet16v5 libmailutils5 libmariadbclient18 libntlm0*
>   *mailutils-common mysql-common*
> *Suggested packages:*
>   *eximon4 exim4-doc-html | exim4-doc-info spf-tools-perl swaks mailutils-mh*
>   *mailutils-doc*
> *The following NEW packages will be installed:*
>   *exim4-base exim4-config exim4-daemon-light guile-2.0-libs libgsasl7*
>   *libkyotocabinet16v5 libmailutils5 libmariadbclient18 libntlm0 mailutils*

> root@linux:~# **dpkg-reconfigure exim4-config**

```
Package configuration

        ┌──────────────┤ Mail Server configuration ├──────────────┐
        │ General type of mail configuration:                     │
        │                                                         │
        │    internet site; mail is sent and received directly using SMTP │
        │    mail sent by smarthost; received via SMTP or fetchmail │
        │    mail sent by smarthost; no local mail                │
        │    local delivery only; not on a network                │
        │    no configuration at this time                        │
        │                                                         │
        │                                                         │
        │          <Ok>                    <Cancel>               │
        │                                                         │
        └─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

2. Install mailx Linux command on Fedora / CentOS / RHEL e.g. Redhat based distros

On *RPM based distrubutions* the package name is different from debians to install it there you have to fetch and install current distro **mailx .rpm**

To install **mail** command on older **CentOS / Redhat 7/6/5** distributions

> [root@centos:~]# **yum install -y mailx**
> **...**

On Fedora 22+ version yum auto-dependency tool was substituted with **dnf**:

[root@fedora:~]# **dnf install -y mailx**

...

3. Send Test Email with mail command

root@linux:~# **echo "Sample Message Body" | mail -s "Whatever ... Message Subject" remote_receiver@remote-server-email-address.com**

...

Check the mailbox, you just sent the sample email, hopefully if MTA is relaying correctly and the SMTP relay is properly delivering the email should be at the recipient address.