

## How to solve crashing spamassassin spamd service preventing QMAIL mail server to properly deliver mails / Setting spamd work via daemontools

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On my *home router configured qmail install*, I have recently noticed I receive e-mails only sent via contact forms on the few websites hosted there. I'm *subscribed to Debian newsletter*, as well as usually receive about 10 emails and few spam mails every day, so after a few days of reduced emails on my email (receiving only e-mail notification about blog issued comments), I logically suspected something is not properly working with the qmail installation.

My first logical guesses was the [usual Qmail problems I've previously experienced through the years](#), [earlier I blogged about most common problems / causes and solutions with qmail mail here](#)

First thing I did as usual is to send a test e-mail from Gmail to my Mailboxes on the mail server, the *test mail* was not received and in Gmail a failure to delivery notice was returned, I paste the TXT content of it as taken from Gmail's webmail -> **Show Original** menu:

```
Delivered-To: hipodilski@gmail.com Received: by 10.112.27.135 with  
SMTP id t7csp919611bg; Mon, 29 Oct 2012 11:08:28 -0700 (PDT)  
Received-SPF: pass (google.com: domain of designates 10.60.171.72 as permitted sender) client-ip=10.60.171.72 Authentication-Results: mr.google.com; spf=pass (google.com: domain of designates 10.60.171.72 as permitted sender) smtp.mail=; dkim=pass header.i= Received: from mr.google.com ([10.60.171.72]) by 10.60.171.72 with SMTP id as8mr17839903oec.140.1351534106946 (num_hops = 1); Mon, 29 Oct 2012 11:08:26 -0700 (PDT) DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=gmail.com; s=20120113; h=mime-version:from:to:x-failed-recipient
```

ients:subject:message-id:date :content-type:content-transfer-encoding; bh=GOkkrGPurYWG9obiJDBWq6v3JHXdHlUebhVco7rIE73E=; b=mQemNDUulWl7d/VoIseXgXFbL0SdwMIY4MZH9Gom8TuRSVaU8oz80wdWt93zJTt/DR TEYTT6VRxUaDRAE2igBRLqjiSXdpZAJuBhoNA+bOTPwU53v+eaAUaV/7uHVHG0SYvF6u rkpc1Rbf41VYIDLthm+e7X8vFdaxqiYFiiHcih2stsAzgI9jAQy62SLlBytYRZeDc3po BXsb4SLm3+4kF4PuBlmhnCL+ba0hR3vQE5yC8/et0lPaxdSaJk0bHFkrjtmvg00fkyXoPv+0dPJHvAInzHlPGtL+XHuvjZCq5XD5ZJjsajyAlG6J64z9dmziz8YM+qqA0KpNaF8+ CVrA== Received: by 10.60.171.72 with SMTP id as8mr17839903oec.140.1351534106944; Mon, 29 Oct 2012 11:08:26 -0700 (PDT) MIME-Version: 1.0 Return-Path: Received: by 10.60.171.72 with SMTP id as8mr2075523loec.140; Mon, 29 Oct 2012 11:08:26 -0700 (PDT) From: Mail Delivery Subsystem To: hipodilski@gmail.com X-Failed-Recipients: hipo@pc-freak.net Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure) Message-ID: Date: Mon, 29 Oct 2012 18:08:26 +0000 Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1 Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently: hipo@pc-freak.net Technical details of permanent failure:=20 Google tried to deliver your message, but it was rejected by the recipient = domain. We recommend contacting the other email provider for further information about the cause of this error. The error that the other server returned was: 451 451 qq temporary problem (#4.3.0) (state 17). ----- Original message ----- DKIM-Signature: v=3D1; a=3Drsa-sha256; c=3Drelaxed/relaxed; d=3Dgmail.com; s=3D20120113; h=3Dmime-version:date:message-id:subject:from:to:content-type; bh=3D0a09B20Z1YJl9nwzUGkqXFVmVnakcfMdp7uWlTTA/u4=3D; b=3DQGaakOgrnXxSa7X0ZjdmbG2/CWDPK10czq4n0YxHLRfX8N+pzJLHWXBFWmVWUNT= yte r s8VrYu0BkdAE18MXS3x6lcklvi/gk/eCUTzTm+L8fRu/Iiy6pZCr8S3Y6BWBn+5F1= dm 1LkL0mTpSHqVIoMB/fZwHIzz6q5tTqYSSNHX+hapu30eI5liYK5rbf2/4T9BhJ1VM0= v+ 6NwupzAJK12jniKD8q9b4qJEhEoEqKKZrLKbTYiflHkAVMsg/C3v5zzwH+KZqsHP4W= Us Tl/sHUCeErXWorylOrQXLNYR2K9vgqVdBUS5aoU2Jy1FgxbL/t5+XzB3tUK2mv43ttX= 0k wWbw=3D=3D MIME-Version: 1.0 Received: by 10.60.171.72 with SMTP id as8mr10945566oec.140.1351262651282; Fri, 26 Oct 2012 07:44:11 -0700 (PDT) Received: by 10.182.41.232 with HTTP; Fri, 26 Oct 2012 07:44:11 -0700 (PDT) Date: Fri, 26 Oct 2012 16:44:11 +0200 Message-ID: Subject:=20 From: Georgi Georgiev To: hipo@pc-freak.net Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=3Dbaec54edff653f66804ccf75ab= 9 http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2012/sep/04/jesus-vs-mao-interview-yua= n-zhiming/ --=20 Georgi Georgiev Mobile: +31644943358

After evaluating on *qmail* logs and various *qmail* components and basic *qmail* configurations, noticed the *spamassassin spamd* process is not running on the host. I've figured it out from *qscanner-scanner.pl* in */var/log/qscan/qmail-queue.log*, there were records saying, *qmail-scanner* can't pass incoming scanned mail to *spamd* and thus failing

I onwards check in *proclist* to make sure *qmail-queue.log* suggestion is right, i.e.:

```
qmail:~# ps aux|grep -i spamd|grep -v grep
qmail:~#
```

As you see from my paste *qmail* scanner logs were right, *spamd* process died due to some memory leak bug or whatever. To temporary solve the problem I first launched *spamd*, via its init script:

```
qmail:~# /etc/init.d/spamassassin start
```

....

However it was clear, that in future *spamd* might unexpectedly terminate and this might ruin whole email receive processing again.

I've encountered on few *qmail* servers issues like this, so I knew of 3 work-arounds.

- One is to use a tiny script set to run via cron job with superuser which checks every few minutes if *spamd* is running and if not re-launch it via the init script.

In some *qmail* installations, I've solved issues by using a tiny shell script - [here you can download the script restart\\_spamd\\_if\\_crashed.sh](#)

To use it download it to any directory lets say in */usr/local/bin* and set cron job like:

```
qmail:~# crontab -u root -e
```

```
*/5 * * * * /usr/local/bin/restart_spamd_if_crashed.sh >/dev/null 2>&1
```

- Second possible solution is to *monit service* to monitor *spamd* and restart it whether it finds its not working, I've written prior similar article explaining [how to monitor and restart Apache, MySQL, Bind in case of crashes](#). You can analogously easily configure *monit* to take a look at *spamd*.

- Third and in my view best **spamd crashes work-around** is to **configure spamd to be constantly monitored and respawned whether found missing via daemontools**.

To do so [download those spamd daemontools supervise script.tar.gz archive](#) and place it in **/var/qmail/supervise** (or wherever qmail/supervise dir is located) and create directory for spamd daemontools monitoring logs

```
qmail:~# cd /var/supervise
qmail:/var/supervise:# wget -q http://www.pc-freak.net/files/spamd_daemontools_supervise_script.tar.gz
qmail:/var/supervise:# tar -zxvf spamd_daemontools_supervise_script.tar.gz
....
qmail:/var/supervise:# chmod +t spamd/
qmail:/var/supervise:# mkdir /var/log/spamd
qmail:/var/supervise:# chown -R qmail:root /var/log/spamd
qmail:/var/supervise:# touch /var/log/spamd/current qmail:/var/supervise:# chown qmail:nofiles /var/log/spamd/current
```

It is also generally good idea to check the content of scripts **spamd/run** and **spamd/log/run**, a common problem with those scripts is *spamassassin* might be custom installed in */usr/local/bin/spamd* and not in the usual */usr/bin/spamd* - *spamd* location is defined in *spamd/run*; as well as location of daemontools logging tool **multilog** might be not */usr/bin/multilog* but in */usr/local/bin/multilog* - depending on what kind of Qmail guide was used on qmail install time.

Finally, to make daemontools schedule for monitoring *spamd* service link it in **/service** dir:

```
qmail:~# ln -sf /var/supervise/qmail/ /service/qmail
qmail:~# ls -al /service/spamd lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 27 Nov 8 14:38 spamd -> /var/qmail/supervise/spamd/
```

To *check whether daemontools, started and watch over spamd* check what is in **/var/log/spamd/current** and check the status of daemontools:

```
qmail:~# tail -n 5
qmail:~# ps ax|grep -i readproc|grep -v grep 27916 ? S 0:00 readproctitle service errors:
.....
qmail:~# tail -n 5 /var/log/spamd/current |tai64nlocal 2012-11-12
```

Whether, you're sure daemontools, now handles spamd, startup it is also recommended, you stop the on boot time */etc/init.d/spamassassin* start-up.

```
qmail:~# mv /etc/rc2.d/S18spamassassin /etc/rc2.d/K81spamassassin
```

Of course if spamd is crashing due to some newly included anti-spam rule, which prevents spamassassin from starting, suggested fixes and even daemontools will be unable to "respawn" spamd. In most cases however, implementing any of above "fixes" will assure you a peaceful sleep.