

How to change Exim mail server hostname on Debian Linux

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If you have to [configure Exim mail server to act as RELAY Forwarding SMTP through another mail server](#) and nomatter, you set up in **dpkg-reconfigure exim4-config** command a hostname still connecting to localhost port 25 shows a hostname identical as configured hostname for server. You will have to explicitly instruct exim to desired hostname like so:

```
debian:~# cp -rpf /etc/exim4/exim4.conf.template /etc/exim4/exim4.conf
```

Then edit **/etc/exim4/exim4.conf**

Add somewhere in beginning of config file

```
primary_hostname = DESIRED_HOSTNAME.COM
```

To make exim load new settings, restart SMTP:

```
debian:~# /etc/init.d/exim4 restart
```

Stopping MTA for restart: exim4_listener.

Restarting MTA: exim4.

```
debian:~# telnet localhost 25
```

```
Trying 127.0.0.1...
```

```
Connected to localhost.
```

```
Escape character is '^]'.
```

```
220 DESIRED_HOSTNAME.COM ESMTP Exim 4.72 Tue, 19 Mar 2013 19:02:52 +0000
```

```
^]
```

```
telnet> quit
```

```
Connection closed.
```