SMTP Open Relay Mail – Telnet Test Procedures

If your SMTP server accepts incoming TCP connections from the Internet, your server can be used by spammers as a mail relay engine. Mail relays can distribute their messages (SPAM) all over using your server as an open relay.

To test for open relay telnet into your mail server as follows:

```
C:\>telnet mailserver.domainname.com 25
```

220 mailserver.domainname.com ESMTP server (InterMail vK.4.04.00.00) ready Mon, 11 Mar 2002 13:56:00 -0500

```
helo
```

250 mailserver.domainname.com

```
mail from:<sender@xyz.com>
```

250 Sender <sender@xyz.com> Ok

```
rcpt to:<receiver@abc.com>
```

250 Recipient <receiver@abc.com> Ok

```
data
```

354 Ok Send data ending with <CRLF>.<CRLF>

```
hello this is a test
```

.

250 Message received: 20020311193728.DLVD25322.mailserver@[123.45.98.765]

```
quit
```

221 mailserver.domainname.com ESMTP server closing connection

You've just sent an anonymous e-mail using open relay.

Some systems may require you to enclose e-mail addresses with < >

If you get a message similar to the one below after typing RCPT TO: address:

```
550 5.7.1 Unable to relay for receiver@abc.com
```

The mail server does not allow open relay and won't forward spam all over the net.