MTA-STS policy

The question

Incoming mail needs delivery rules

MTA-STS tells supporting senders which mail servers to use and whether authenticated TLS is required.

01 Understand

02 Observe

03 Verify

A practical briefing for the people who own your domain.

MTA-STS policy

The mechanism

DNS points to an HTTPS policy

The policy lists permitted MX names, mode and lifetime. Supporting senders use it when deciding how to deliver.

01 Sender discovers TXT indicator

↓

02 HTTPS policy names MX hosts

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03 Supporting sender requires SMTP TLS

The scanner observes the first two stages. It does not perform the SMTP delivery stage.

MTA-STS policy

The evidence

Publication is what we measure

> Our probe checks the indicator, HTTPS policy and MX coverage. It does not test SMTP TLS or deliver email.

PUT THE OBSERVATION IN CONTEXT

Public signal

Service context

Operational validation

Use the finding to start an owned review.

MTA-STS policy

The handoff

Confirm every receiving route

Have your mail provider validate primary and backup servers. Review testing results before enabling enforcement.

BRING THE RIGHT OWNERS TOGETHER

01 Mail hosting provider and email operations

02 Email owner with DNS and web administrators

MTA-STS policy

Your checklist

Keep the delivery checklist

- ✓ Confirm MX coverage
- ✓ Test certificates
- ✓ Assign policy hosting and renewal
- ✓ Monitor delivery

> Read the MTA-STS explainer before rollout.
>
> **/learn/mta-sts**