

Certificate issues

Disable Certificate Verification in Joomla (Not Recommended for Public Mail)

- If your mail server uses a self-signed certificate and you cannot change it, you can force Joomla to skip the certificate validity check.
- Note: Joomla does not have a toggle in the dashboard for this, so it requires a minor file edit. This will be overwritten during Joomla core updates.
- open the file: `/libraries/vendor/phpmailer/phpmailer/src/PHPMailer.php`
- Locate the function where the SMTP connection is configured, or add a custom default configuration array for `SMTPOptions`. You want to inject this rule into the `PHPMailer` instance:

```
$this->SMTPOptions = array(  
    'ssl' => array(  
        'verify_peer' => false,  
        'verify_peer_name' => false,  
        'allow_self_signed' => true // not necessary unless you have a  
self signed certificate  
    )  
);
```

The Zero-SSL LAN Route (Alternative)

- Since the mail server is on the same local network, sending unencrypted traffic within your private LAN is perfectly secure if your network perimeter is tight.
- In Joomla's Mail Settings, change SMTP Security to None and switch the port to 25 (or the unencrypted port your mail server listens on).
- Ensure your mail server is configured to accept authenticated SMTP traffic without TLS from internal LAN IP addresses.

Force PHP to Trust the Mail Server's Self-Signed / Internal Certificate

- If your mail server uses a self-signed certificate, a private enterprise CA, or an internal domain name (e.g., `mail.local`), PHP will always reject it by default. Instead of turning off verification completely within Joomla, you can tell the Joomla server's operating system to explicitly trust this specific certificate.
- Download the mail server's current public certificate directly from your Joomla server via the LAN:

```
openssl s_client -connect INTERNAL_MAIL_SERVER_IP:587 -starttls smtp  
</dev/null | sed -ne '/-BEGIN CERTIFICATE-/,/-END CERTIFICATE-/p' >  
/usr/local/share/ca-certificates/mail-server.crt
```

- (Note: Change `INTERNAL_MAIL_SERVER_IP:587` to your mail server's LAN IP and port. If you use port 465, remove `-starttls smtp`).
- Update the system's trusted store:

update-ca-certificates

- Restart your PHP/Apache services. PHP will now inherently trust the mail server's certificate without needing any code modifications.

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