MailChimp

How Mailchimp Scales Reliably with PowerMTA™

BUSINESS BENEFITS TO MAILCHIMP

- Efficient Execution and Reliability
- Sophisticated Bounce Categorization
- Efficient Injection Rates
- VirtualMTA Utilization

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

With over 5 million users, and delivering over 15 billion emails per month, MailChimp is one of the most highly regarded Email Service Providers, especially among those focused on small and medium sized businesses. In order to serve customers effectively, MailChimp required a solution that could scale cost-effectively and execute email sends reliably for its expanding user base. When a colleague requested information regarding PowerMTA™, MailChimp responded with the following:

RELIABILITY

We use PowerMTA™ and this is what I can say…It's reliable! The only thing I will tell you is to make sure you are running on bare metal. Don't use any cloud/ virtualization stuff, and make sure you've got plenty of RAM. We license several instances of PowerMTA™ delivering well over 15 billion emails per month. We run 18 processors with 48 GB of RAM in each box. With PMTA, make sure that the maximum amount of RAM it can use is LESS than the total RAM on the OS; otherwise, you will get into situations (when volume is really high) where the queues get wonky. Also, make sure that you limit your bandwidth out.

BOUNCE CATEGORIZATION

The bounce categorization engine out of the box is improving. PowerMTA™ currently has over 17 different "baked in" categories, and users have the ability to define custom categories based on their own sending experiences. Boogietools is an excellent resource for bounce categorization as well. But if you have time and love regex's, you can make PMTA's bounce categorization work very well.

INJECTION RATES

MailChimp has hours where we send about 2.5 million emails (sometimes more). We limit how many campaigns we have going simultaneously, but we inject 100,000 payloads an hour. We allow for up to 2.5 million recipients to be going out of an MTA at one time, and on high volume days we have 10 - 12 hours where we remain over 15 million every hour. PowerMTA™ can take what you throw at it but you don't want to let the queues get overwhelmed. So, you need to use some logic and common sense and back off when you are reaching 65 - 70% of the MTA's total volume.

VIRTUALMTA™ UTILIZATION

VirtualMTA is awesome. Authentication, configuration, backoff algorithms, pause queues, force queues to clear, etc. On several MTA boxes we've installed, we have a bunch of IPs on each box and it pretty much manages itself. And the configuration stuff is straightforward.

Honestly, I cannot say enough good things about the PMTA software; it's unbelievable for the price. But what really keeps us going with PMTA is their support. They always, always have an answer and they really know their stuff.

ABOUT PowerMTA™
BY SPARKPOST

SparkPost's PowerMTA™ product delivers industry-leading performance and a constantly evolving feature set to meet the demands of today's email delivery ecosystem. PowerMTA™ is trusted by some of the world's largest senders like Microsoft, MailChimp, ActiveCampaign, and Mailkit to deliver communications that are critical to business success. PowerMTA™ streamlines sending management to maintain and build your reputation so that you can provide an exceptional customer experience.

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