Simple Mail Transport Protocol

Introduction
Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)

MUA: Mail User Agent  e.g. Thunderbird, Outlook, etc.
MTA: Mail Transport Agent  e.g. exim, postfix, Exchange, etc.
MDA: Mail Delivery Agent  e.g. exim, postfix, Exchange, etc.
Remote Mailbox Server (no acronym)  e.g. Exchange, Imapd, etc.
Mailbox: Storage for messages  e.g. mbox, maildir, MSQl, etc.
System Administration

Simple Mail Transport Protocol

SMTP

Sending Message to bob@dsutux.us

user (Alice) → Mail User Agent (MUA) → Mail Transport Agent (MTA) → DWS → Internet

Receiving Message from alice@horgoth.com

Internet → Mail Transport Agent (MTA) → Mail Delivery Agent (MDA) → Mail Box → Mail User Agent (MUA) → User (Bob)
System Administration

SMTP - MTA - outgoing - DSU

The real story

campus firewall

Internet

MTA

SMTP out

stumail.cs.dixie.edu
- Locate destination of message with DNS:
  MX first
  A second

- Direct vs. smart host
  firewall circumvention

- System mail name
  @hostname part of from address

- Relay only for self. (SPAM protection)
- Publish MTA location via DNS.
  MX - first
  A - second

- Receive to public IP address

- Identify hostname portion we store locally.
  After the @.
  Hostname, domain name, etc.