

RewriteDomainToPath

We recently needed to move several hundred mail domains from standard http to SSL secured HTTP (HTTPS). To do so, we chose one domain and used `mod_rewrite` to redirect to that domain. To make things more complicated, we also wanted to strip off the first part of the domain name.

If you were doing this for just one domain (or a small number) then you should be using a simple Redirect in a [VirtualHost](#) to accomplish this. However, since we needed to do it for a large number of domains, `mod_rewrite` was necessary to capture the hostname in a dynamic fashion.

As an example, our users were visiting:

```
http://webmail.school.county.sch.uk/
```

to access their webmail and

```
http://admin.school.county.sch.uk/
```

to access their mail administration interface.

Our software only requires the

```
school.county.sch.uk
```

section of the hostname, and so we needed to redirect to

```
https://new_ssl_host/v/school.county.sch.uk/webmail
https://new_ssl_host/v/school.county.sch.uk/admin
```

Our rewrite rules look something like this:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^(web)?mail\.(\.*) [NC]
RewriteRule ^ https://new_ssl_host/v/%2 [R=301,L,QSA]

RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^(mail|site-)?admin\.(\.*) [NC]
RewriteRule ^ https://new_ssl_host/v/%2/admin [R=301,L,QSA]
```

On the SSL virtual host, we then pick up the hostname with the following rewrites:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteRule ^/v/([^/]+)/admin(\.*) /path/to/mail/admin/interface/public_html/$2 [L,E=SCHOOL_HOST:$1]
RewriteRule ^/v/([^/]+)/(\.*) /path/to/our/webmail/interface/$2 [E=SCHOOL_HOST:$1]
```

Hope someone finds this useful, it took me a few hours to find the correct documentation to obtain the `HTTP_HOST` to use in the [RewriteRule](#).