

Setting Up Mailgun

For the vast majority of projects, we'll need to make use of email in some way. At the very least, projects where users have accounts will need the ability to reset their passwords via their email inbox.

Vegan Hacktivists uses [Mailgun](#) to send emails for all of our projects, so here's how to set that up.

⚠ Notes

- This guide should likely be followed by the project's team leader.
- You will need access to Laravel Forge, Mailgun, and Cloudflare. If you don't have access to them, reach out to David to get Forge [credentials](#) to get added as a collaborator to the other accounts.
- The project should already be [set up on Cloudflare](#).

Add the Domain

The first step will be adding the domain to Mailgun. Head to Mailgun's website and log in. To do that, click on "Sending" in the sidebar, then "Domains," and then "Add New Domain."

The screenshot shows the Mailgun web interface. In the top right, there is an 'Upgrade' button and a user profile for Gerard Michael O'Neill. The left sidebar contains navigation items: Dashboard, Reporting, Sending (highlighted with a red box), Domains (highlighted with a red box), Overview, Logs, Analytics, Templates, Suppressions, Webhooks, and IPs. The main content area is titled 'Domains' and features a search bar and a table of domains. The 'Add New Domain' button is highlighted with a red box. The table lists three domains:

Name	Accepted(Dec)
veganbootcamp.org	1,292
mail.fastcommunity.org	339
mail.veganlinguists.org	307

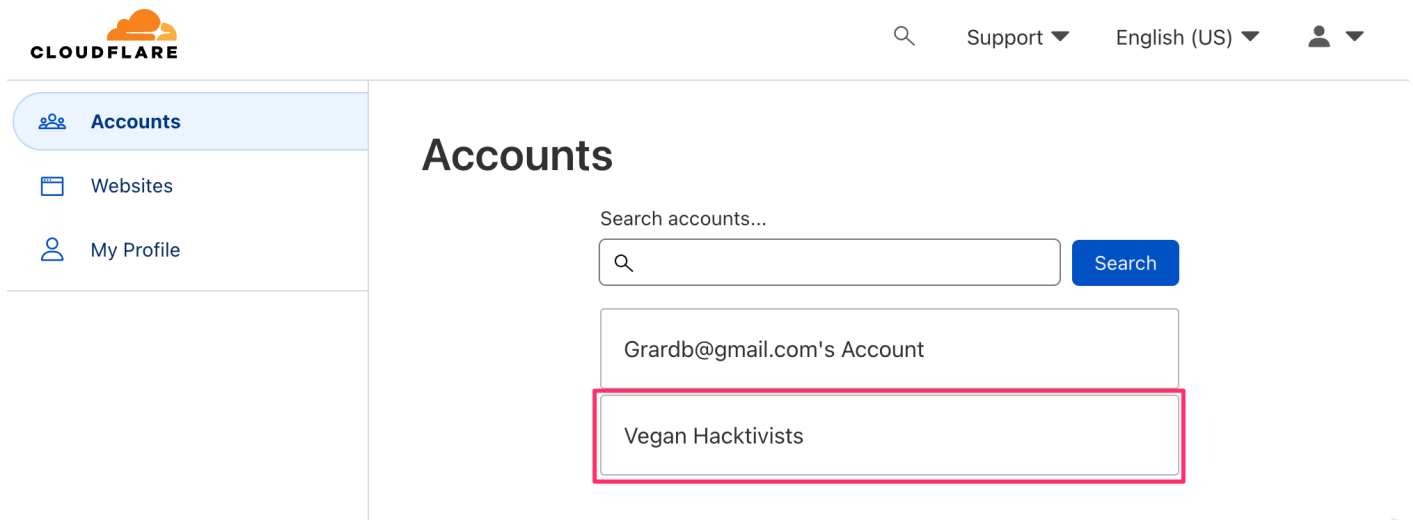
Like Mailgun says, it's recommended to add a subdomain, rather than the root domain. The convention we use is prepending the project's domain with `mail.`, so for `veganlinguists.org`, we added

mail.veganlinguists.org to Mailgun.

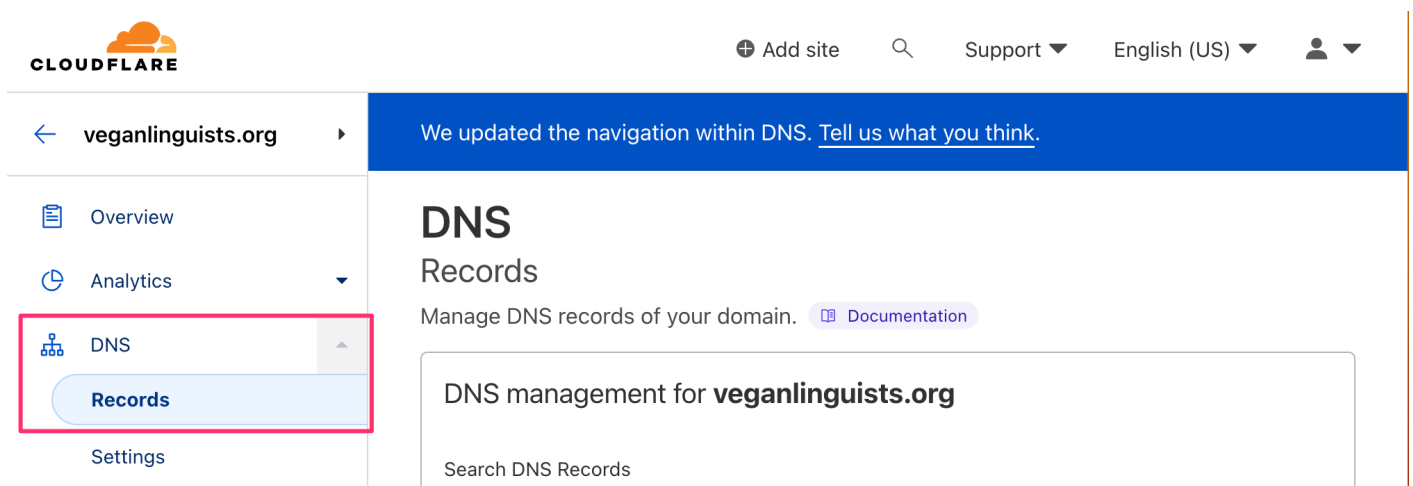
As for the region, it doesn't really matter.

Setting DNS Records

After adding the domain, you will be shown a list of DNS records we must add in our DNS settings. For this, head over to [Cloudflare](#) and go into the Vegan Hacktivist account:



Find your project's domain name in the list of domains or use the search bar to help. Once found, click on the domain, and then click "DNS" on the sidebar:



Now, it's time to add the DNS records that Mailgun provides, of which there should be five. Go down the list on Mailgun and add each one by clicking the "Add record" button and filling out the form with the values that Mailgun provides. Below are a couple of examples:

2. Add DNS records for sending

Collapse ^

Type	Hostname	Enter This Value	Current Value
✖ TXT	mg.veganlinguists.org	v=spf1 include:mailgun.org ~all	None found
✖ TXT	pic._domainkey.mg.veganlinguists.org	k=rsa; p=MIGfMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBgQDMRANDIAWP2YHMGFyGjAmdRdh1eIMPinsiazXb/OYTxqHUoQFwhgJEHitWGIAnzPrUuEa3aU1YNNpgYNr+5UF1Vemt1Xn4rwNuSzsM9jra1pdwQokXM7ijL//7Si6AuZQzgCf6D5uH5qEitHuzF0qRA9FqCM+qKyIwYQefr9+RwIDAQAB	None found

MX records are recommended for all domains, even if you are only sending messages. Unless you already have MX records for this domain pointing to another email provider (e.g. Gmail), you should update the following records. [More info on MX records.](#)

Type	Hostname	Priority	Enter This Value	Current Value
? MX	mg.veganlinguists.org	10	mx.a.mailgun.org	None found
? MX	mg.veganlinguists.org	10	mx.b.mailgun.org	None found

DNS management for **veganlinguists.org**

Search DNS Records

Search

Advanced

+ Add record

mg.veganlinguists.org has a record with content **v=spf1 include:mailgun.org ~all**.

Type	Name (required)	TTL
TXT	mg.veganlinguists.org Use @ for root	Auto
Content (required)		
v=spf1 include:mailgun.org ~all		

Cancel

Save

DNS management for **veganlinguists.org**

Search DNS Records

Search

Advanced

+ Add record

mx.mailgun.org handles mail for **mg.veganlinguists.org**.

Type	Name (required)	Mail server (required)	TTL	Priority (required)
MX	mg.veganlinguists.org Use @ for root	mx.mailgun.org	Auto	10 0 - 65535

Cancel

Save

Once all of the DNS records are added, go back to Mailgun and click on one of the "Verify DNS settings" buttons:

4. Wait for your domain to verify

Collapse ^

Once you make the above DNS changes it can take 24-48hrs for those changes to propagate. We will email you to let you know once your domain is verified.

Verify DNS settings

 **Note**

For the final DNS record (the `CNAME` one), make sure to disable proxying after it's been added:

CNAME	email.mail	mailgun.org	DNS only	Auto	Edit
Type	Name (required)	Target (required)	Proxy status	TTL	
CNAME	<input type="text" value="email.mail"/> <small>Use @ for root</small>	<input type="text" value="mailgun.org"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNS only	<input type="text" value="Auto"/>	
Delete				Cancel	Save

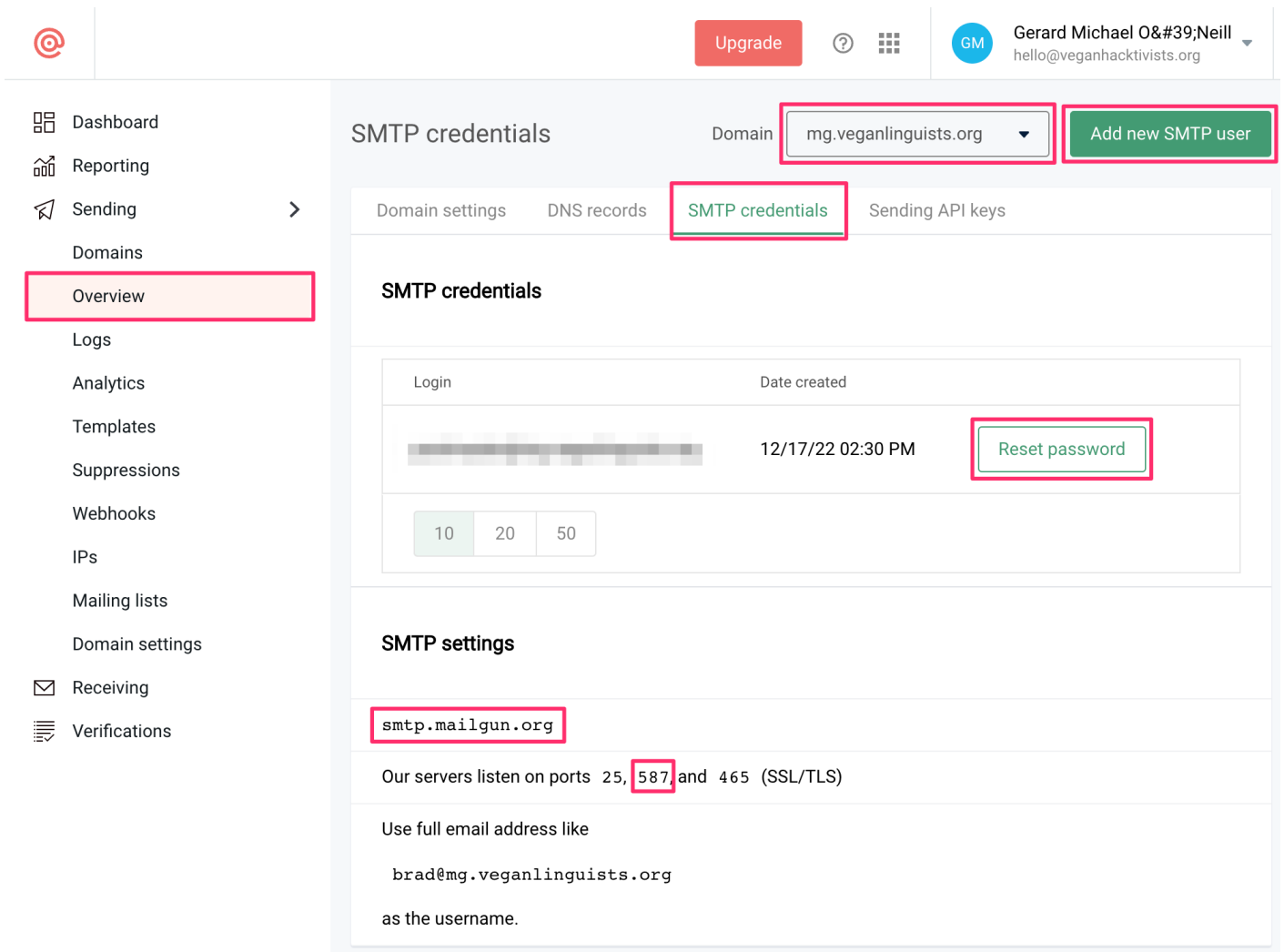
More likely than not, at least one of the records will fail to be verified right away. If this happens, just wait ten minutes or so and try again. If an hour goes by and things are still failing, then you may need to double-check to make sure everything was entered correctly.

Once all of the DNS settings are verified, the page will refresh and you'll be redirected to another page.

Updating Environment Variables

The next step is to get our project to send email using Mailgun. Mailgun's UI is very confusing for this, so let's walk through it.

First, click on "Overview" on the sidebar and then open the "SMTP Credentials" tab. **Make sure that the domain in the dropdown in the top left is the correct one for your project:**



The screenshot shows the Mailgun SMTP credentials management interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with 'Overview' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'SMTP credentials' and shows the domain 'mg.veganlinguists.org'. A table lists SMTP users with columns for 'Login' and 'Date created'. The first user's login is masked, and a 'Reset password' button is visible. Below the table are 'SMTP settings' including the host 'smtp.mailgun.org', server ports (25, 587, 465), and an example email address 'brad@mg.veganlinguists.org'.

Upgrade ? [Grid Icon] GM Gerard Michael O'Neill hello@veganhacktivists.org

Dashboard Reporting Sending Domains Overview Logs Analytics Templates Suppressions Webhooks IPs Mailing lists Domain settings Receiving Verifications

SMTP credentials Domain mg.veganlinguists.org Add new SMTP user

Domain settings DNS records SMTP credentials Sending API keys

SMTP credentials

Login	Date created
[Redacted]	12/17/22 02:30 PM

10 20 50

Reset password

SMTP settings

smtp.mailgun.org

Our servers listen on ports 25, 587, and 465 (SSL/TLS)

Use full email address like

brad@mg.veganlinguists.org

as the username.

At this point, you have two options (either is fine):

1. Reset the password for the default SMTP user.
2. Create a new SMTP user.

Copy the password for the SMTP user and save it for the next step. Keep this tab open for the other things we'll need as well!

Next, we need to head over to [Forge](#) and navigate to your project's environment variables:

veganlinguists.org

Public IP 134.209.65.245 Private IP 10.136.98.115 Region New York 1

- App
- Deployments
- Commands
- Packages
- Notifications
- Environment**
- Queue

Site Environment

Below you may edit the `.env` file for your application, which is the default environment file. If your application is uninstalled, the environment file will also be removed.

```
29
30 MAIL_MAILER=smtp
31 MAIL_HOST=smtp.mailgun.org
32 MAIL_PORT=587
33 MAIL_USERNAME=[REDACTED]
34 MAIL_PASSWORD=[REDACTED]
35 MAIL_ENCRYPTION=null
36 MAIL_FROM_ADDRESS=info@veganlinguists.org
37 MAIL_FROM_NAME="${APP_NAME}"
38
```

By default, Laravel has environment variables to make setting up email very simple. All we need to do is take the credentials from Mailgun and add them to the project's environment variables.

⚠ Note

While Mailgun provides you with three different port options, they actually recommend using port 587, so please choose that.

After saving the environment variable changes, you should now officially be able to send mail from your project!

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