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PRODUCT BROCHURE

Rutba MTA — Product Brochure

Multi-tenant email relay middleware: reputation, pacing, suppression, bounces and reporting in front of your own SMTP.

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Document

Rutba MTA brochure

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Online

<https://www.tech-style.co/docs/rutba-mta-brochure>

Open-source multi-tenant email relay middleware. It sits between your applications and their own SMTP servers, taking on reputation, pacing, suppression, bounces and reporting — so every application doesn't have to solve deliverability again from scratch.

Middleware, not a mail server

Rutba MTA is not an MTA in the direct-to-MX sense, and doesn't pretend to be. Final delivery is always performed by the sender's own registered SMTP server — Mailcow, Postfix, SES, whatever you already run. Your sending identity and your IP reputation stay yours.

What sits in front of that is the part nobody enjoys building: a suppression list that actually holds, pacing that responds to how a receiving domain is treating you, a queue that lets a password reset overtake a newsletter, bounce parsing that understands DSN and ARF, and unsubscribe handling that satisfies one-click requirements.

It is multi-tenant by design. Several applications — or several customers — register as senders, each with their own SMTP credentials, trust token, suppression scope and reporting.

Tenancy	Multi-sender, each with its own SMTP and token
Credentials	AES-256-GCM encrypted at rest
Signing	HMAC-SHA-256 for tokens and webhooks
Licence	AGPL 3.0 · commercial available

Hard bounces travel.

A hard bounce or a spam complaint is promoted to a global suppression across every sender — because an address that doesn't exist for one tenant doesn't exist for the next one either.

REPUTATION & PACING

Send speed follows the evidence

Each receiving domain carries a live reputation score from 0 to 100, calculated from real outcome ratios. The score selects the delay between messages to that domain.

Reputation score bands and the resulting inter-message delay

BEHAVIOUR		
	WHAT IT MEANS	INTER-MESSAGE DELAY
Healthy domain	Deliveries succeeding, few bounces or complaints	0 ms — no artificial pacing
Slight degradation	Outcome ratio starting to slip	500 ms

BEHAVIOUR		
	WHAT IT MEANS	INTER-MESSAGE DELAY
Warning	Bounce or complaint rate climbing	1500 ms
Poor	Sustained negative outcomes	3000 ms
Critical	Domain treating this stream badly	6000 ms
New domain	No history yet — warmup default of 80	Paced conservatively until evidence arrives

CAPABILITIES

What it handles for you

Sender registration

Applications register a sending address plus SMTP credentials and receive a trust token. Passwords are encrypted with AES-256-GCM at rest, and both token and webhook secret can be rotated.

Suppression gate

Hard bounces, complaints, manual blocks and unsubscribes are checked before a message is queued. Hard bounces and complaints become global automatically; unsubscribes stay scoped per sender.

Priority queue

Transactional messages bypass pacing entirely so a password reset isn't stuck behind a campaign. Marketing mail remains rate-controlled.

Templated batch sends

Post a template plus a recipient array and get personalised messages grouped as a batch, with suppression checked per recipient.

Action interception

Embed calls to action as `{{action_key}}` placeholders. Rutba issues per-recipient signed tokens, records the click, calls your webhook, then 302s the visitor onward.

Retry & backoff

Transient 4xx failures reschedule on an exponential ladder — 1 minute, 5, 15, 1 hour, 3 hours. Permanent 5xx failures suppress the address globally.

Bounce capture

An IMAP poller reads the bounce mailbox and parses DSN (RFC 3464) and ARF (RFC 5965) reports, feeding both the suppression list and the domain scores.

Unsubscribe handling

List-Unsubscribe headers plus RFC 8058 one-click support, with a hosted unsubscribe page and per-sender scope.

Delivery reporting

Per-message status through the API, live batch-level reports including action click counts, and HMAC-signed webhooks for anything you'd rather not poll for.

HOW A SEND WORKS**From API call to inbox****STEP 1****Your app posts the message**

POST /v1/send or /v1/send/batch, authenticated with the sender's X-Trust-Token header.

STEP 2**Suppression gate**

Each recipient is checked against global and per-sender suppressions before anything is queued. Blocked addresses never reach the queue.

STEP 3**Queue in MySQL**

Surviving messages are persisted, so a restart doesn't lose a batch halfway through.

STEP 4**SendWorker paces the stream**

Transactional messages go first without delay. Marketing messages wait for the delay their destination domain's reputation currently earns.

STEP 5**Relay through your SMTP**

Delivery is handed to the sender's own registered SMTP server — never direct-to-MX.

STEP 6**BouncePoller listens**

DSN and ARF reports arriving by IMAP update suppression lists and adjust the domain score, closing the feedback loop.

STEP 7**WebhookWorker reports**

HMAC-signed webhooks push status changes and action clicks back to your application.

API

Endpoints

Every `/v1/*` route requires the X-Trust-Token header. Action, unsubscribe and health routes are public by design.

- `POST/v1/senders` Register a sender with SMTP credentials
- `GET/v1/senders/me` Read, update or delete the current sender
- `POST/v1/senders/me/rotate-token` Rotate the trust token
- `POST/v1/senders/me/rotate-webhook-secret` Rotate the webhook signing secret
- `POST/v1/send` Send a single transactional message
- `POST/v1/send/batch` Send a templated batch (marketing by default)
- `GET/v1/messages/:uuid` Message status and history
- `GET/v1/batches/:id/report` Live batch report with action click counts
- `GET/v1/suppressions` List, add or remove suppressions
- `GET/v1/domains/:domain` Read or override domain reputation and rate config
- `GET/action/:token` Record a click and redirect (public)
- `GET/unsubscribe/:token` Web and one-click unsubscribe (public)
- `GET/health` Database connectivity check (public)

```
# send a transactional message curl -X POST https://mta.example.com/v1/send \ -H "X-Trust-Token: $TOKEN" \ -H "Content-Type: application/json" \ -d '{"to":"customer@example.com", "subject":"Your order", "priority":"transactional"}'
```

STACK

What it runs on

Rutba MTA technical specification

Runtime	Node.js 18 or later; Node 22 LTS recommended.
Database	MySQL 8. MySQL 5.7 is supported with limitations.
Outbound	Standard SMTP relays, one per sender, driven through nodemailer.
Bounce parsing	imapflow and mailparser, handling DSN (RFC 3464) and ARF (RFC 5965).
Cryptography	AES-256-GCM for stored SMTP passwords; HMAC-SHA-256 for action tokens and webhook signatures.
Workers	SendWorker, BouncePoller and WebhookWorker run alongside the API.
Testing	Node's built-in test framework.
Licence	Apache License 2.0, with contributions welcomed.

RELATED

Other products

MEDIA INFRASTRUCTURE

Media FileServer

The other half of the infrastructure pair.

OPEN-SOURCE ERP

Rutba ERP

Sends its order mail through this relay.

PACKAGES

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Our npm packages and Strapi plugins.

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