email Use Cases

Unix/Linux mail

Mailbox assigned to each user account

SMTP client sends message → SMTP server → local user mailbox

Outlook/Thunderbird mail

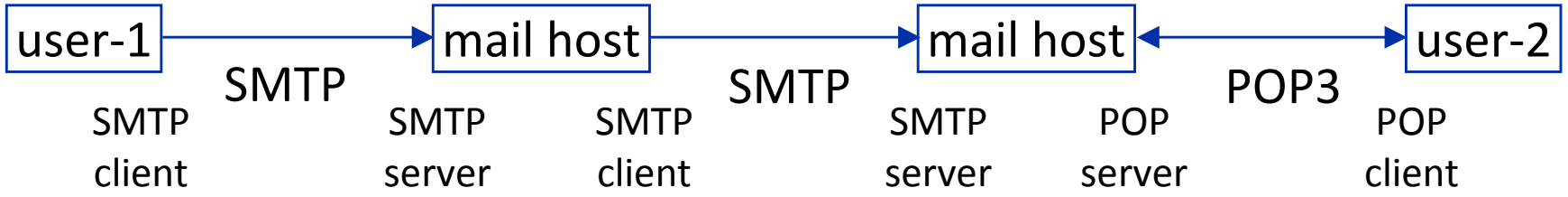
User mailboxes on mail server (host)

Outlook/Thunderbird runs SMTP client + POP3/IMAP clients

SMTP client sends message → SMTP server on user-1 mail host

SMTP client sends message → SMTP server on user-2 mail host

POP3/IMAP client gets message ←→ POP3/IMAP server on mail host



Webmail

User composes mail on web service

Web service sends mail from SMTP client → user-2 SMTP server

User read mail on web service IMAP client