

# Merging Your Mandrill Account with MailChimp - Part 2



## Adding SPF and DKIM Records and Verifying Ownership of Your Sending Domain Through your Domains DNS Settings or Cpanel.

In Merging Your Mandrill Account With MailChimp – Part 1, we covered the process for merging your Mandrill with a MailChimp account. In this blog we continue to discuss the domain authentication to ensure those transactional emails keep flowing!

### How to Set Up Sending Domains

Adding SPF and DKIM records and verifying ownership of your sending domains provides authentication to prove an email isn't forged. Authentication helps legitimate senders prove that their email isn't forged, and can help receiving servers like ISPs and corporate email servers control inbound spam. This is important because it prevents you from having to configure settings for different email clients and establishes a positive reputation for your domain. Essentially, it saves a lot of extra work in dealing with the variety of email clients your users receiving your emails use, and avoids having your "sent" emails ending up in junk or spam folders.

There are great articles to learn more about [SPF](#) and [DKIM](#) and [domain verification](#) in your Mandrill account.

### Verify the Domain

Log on to Mandrill and navigate to Settings/Domains/Sending-domains then click "Verify A Domain" and enter an email address for the domain you wish to verify.

A screenshot of the Mandrill web interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for Dashboard, Reports, Outbound, Inbound, Settings, and Account. The main area shows 'Settings' selected, with tabs for SMTP &amp; API Info, Domains (which is active), Sending Defaults, Rejection Lists, API Logs, Webhooks, and Custom Metadata. Under 'Domains', there's a list of domains: 'yourdomain.com' (selected and highlighted in blue), 'Domain', 'rapidsystemsengineering.com', and 'revolution11.com'. A red arrow points from the 'Verify A Domain' button in a modal dialog to the 'Verify A Domain' button in the main interface. The modal dialog has a title 'Verify A Domain' and contains instructions: 'To authenticate emails for your domain using SPF and DKIM, Mandrill requires you to verify your domain. By verifying your domain, you confirm ownership of that domain and prevent other Mandrill accounts from sending mail authenticated by your domain. Once you verify a domain, other Mandrill users cannot have their emails signed by that domain unless they also verify it.' It also says 'Enter an email address for the domain you wish to verify. We'll send a confirmation email with a link to confirm ownership.' There's an 'Email Address' input field containing a placeholder 'Email Address' and a 'Send Verification Email' button.

You will receive an email with a confirmation link – click the link and you've verified the domain can accept incoming email.



Screenshot of a domain management interface showing a list of domains. The 'Domains' tab is selected. A row for 'rapidsystemsengineering.com' is highlighted, showing its expiration date (12/27/2017), registration type (Private), and action buttons ('Domain Settings' and 'Manage DNS'). The 'Manage DNS' button for this domain is circled in red.

## SPF Record

If you don't yet have an SPF record, add one for your domain by using the "Add Record."

Screenshot of a DNS zone file management interface. The 'DNS Zone File' tab is selected. Under the 'Zone File' section, there is a red circle around the 'Add Record' button.

At a minimum, the value should be the following if you're only sending mail through Mandrill for that domain:

```
v=spf1 include:spf.mandrillapp.com ?all
```

If you already have a TXT record with SPF information, you'll need to add Mandrill's servers to that record by adding include:spf.mandrillapp.com in the record (before the last operator, which is usually ?all, ~all, or -all).

In GoDaddy this is done through a popup widget where you enter the above values as shown:

  

**Add Zone Record**

Record type: \* [View current](#)

Host: \* [?](#)

TXT Value: \* [?](#)

TTL: \* [?](#)

**Add Another** **Finish** **Cancel**

The form shows the configuration for a TXT record. The record type is set to "TXT (Text)". The host field is empty. The TXT value is set to "v=spf1 include:spf.mandrillapp.com ?all". The TTL is set to "1/2 Hour". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Add Another", "Finish", and "Cancel".

## DKIM Record

Repeat the process for the DKIM using the “Add Record”

```
v=DKIM1\; k=rsa\;
p=MIGfMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBgQCrLHiExVd55zd/IQ/J/
mRwSRMAocV/
hMB3jXwaHH36d9NaVynQFYV8NaWi69c1veUtRzGt7yAioXqLj7Z4TeEU-
oOLgrKsn8YnckGs9i3B3tVFB+Ch/
4mPhXWiNfNdynHWBcPcbJ8kjEQ2U8y78dHZj1YeRXXVvWob2OaKyn08/
lQIDAQAB\;
```

In GoDaddy this is done through a popup widget where you enter the above values as shown:

**Add Zone Record**

Record type: \* [View current](#)

Host: \* [?](#)

TXT Value: \* [?](#)

TTL: \* [?](#)

**Add Another** **Finish** **Cancel**

The form shows the configuration for a TXT record. The record type is set to "TXT (Text)". The host field contains "mandrill.\_domainkey.yourdomain.com". The TXT value is set to "v=DKIM1; k=rsa; p=MIGfMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNA". The TTL is set to "1/2 Hour". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Add Another", "Finish", and "Cancel".

## DNS Providers

Here are useful links and information for several hosting and DNS providers provided by [Mandrill's help files](#) that can guide you through your set up:

Provider	Links	Formatting Notes
CPanel (general)  Many hosting providers offer CPanel to manage your domain. CPanel instructions are often similar among hosts that offer this option.	<a href="#">Bluehost</a> <a href="#">GoDaddy</a>	DKIM record typically escaped automatically.  The 'name' of your DKIM record should be where yourdomain.com is replaced by the domain name where you're adding the record. Most hosts that utilize cPanel don't automatically add the domain name to the end of the record name. mandrill._domainkey.yourdomain.com
Amazon Route 53	<a href="#">Route53 console</a> <a href="#">Route 53 API</a>	
CloudFlare	<a href="#">SPF Records</a> <a href="#">DKIM Records</a>	DKIM record escaped automatically.
DNS Made Easy	<a href="#">DNS Made Easy</a>	The 'Value' field where you enter the content for each record must be enclosed in quotes.
DreamHost	<a href="#">DreamHost</a>	
DynDNS	<a href="#">DynDNS</a>	The 'data' field where you enter the value for each record must be enclosed in double quotes.
GoDaddy	<a href="#">Plesk Panel 9</a> <a href="#">Plesk Panel 10</a>	
Hover	<a href="#">Hover</a>	
ZoneEdit	<a href="#">ZoneEdit</a>	

## Have Questions?

Revolution11 provides a free initial consultation. Contact us and we would be happy to discuss your situation and needs.

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