

How to Authenticate Your Domain Name on IONOS

Introduction

If your domain's DNS is managed at **IONOS** (1&1 IONOS), you authenticate it for systeme.io email by adding **three CNAME records** and **one TXT (DMARC) record** under **DNS** → **Add a record**. Official help article **3965** walks through copying values from your systeme.io account into IONOS.

This guide covers **email sending authentication**, not connecting a sales funnel (see article **3962** under Custom Domain).

How to authenticate your domain name on IONOS

The diagram illustrates the process of authenticating a domain on IONOS for use with systeme.io. It features a screenshot of the IONOS DNS Settings interface, a large blue arrow pointing to a systeme.io Verified Domain shield, and a sequence of four steps: IONOS DNS, CNAME & TXT, Add records, and Domain verified.

DNS Settings

Domain: yourdomain.com

CNAME Record	Type	Name/Host	Value
CNAME	TXT	mail_domainkey	dkim.systeme.io
TXT Record	TXT	@	"v=spf1 include:spf.systeme.io ~all"

Email Authentication

SPF	DKIM	DMARC
Record found and valid	Record found and valid	Record found and valid

Steps:

- IONOS DNS
- </> CNAME & TXT
- + Add records
- Domain verified

Prerequisites

- Active systeme.io account.
- Domain hosted or registered at **IONOS**.
- IONOS account login.
- Domain entered in systeme.io **without www**.
- An **active site** on the domain when required—see [general domain authentication](#).

Step 1 — Generate Records in systeme.io

1. Log in to systeme.io.
2. **Settings** → **Emails**.
3. Start **domain authentication**.
4. Enter your domain **without www** → **Save**.
5. Status shows **Pending** until DNS propagates.
6. Refresh → click the **eye** icon to view **3 CNAME + 1 TXT**.

Example pattern (your values are unique):

- si942517 → inbound.systeme.io
- systemeio1._domainkey → key1.systeme.io
- systemeio2._domainkey → key2.systeme.io

Step 2 — Open IONOS DNS

1. Log in to **IONOS**.
2. Select the **domain** to authenticate.
3. Open **DNS** (DNS settings / DNS zone).
4. Click **Add a record** for each entry from systeme.io.

Step 3 — Add the Three CNAME Records

Repeat for **each** CNAME (article 3965):

1. **Type:** CNAME.
2. **Hostname:** copy from systeme.io—**prefix only** (e.g. si942517; if systeme.io shows si942517.yourdomain.com, enter only si942517 when IONOS appends the domain).
3. **Points to** (Value / Target): paste the target from systeme.io and, per IONOS practice in systeme.io guides, **append a period (.) at the end** (e.g. inbound.systeme.io., key1.systeme.io., key2.systeme.io.).
4. Click **Save**.

Expected examples:

- Hostname: si942517 — Points to: inbound.systeme.io.
- Hostname: systemeio1._domainkey — Points to: key1.systeme.io.
- Hostname: systemeio2._domainkey — Points to: key2.systeme.io.

Step 4 — Add the TXT (DMARC) Record

1. **Add a record** → **Type: TXT**.
2. **Hostname:** `_dmarc`.
3. **Value** (Points to): e.g. `v=DMARC1; p=none; rua=mailto:you@yourdomain.com`—replace the placeholder with **your real email**.
4. **Save**.
5. Optional: verify with a **DMARC checker** (e.g. MXToolbox) after propagation.

Keep **one** `_dmarc` TXT only.

[How to Add a DMARC Record on IONOS](#) (article 3964)

Step 5 — Verify in [systeme.io](#)

1. Wait for DNS propagation (minutes to 48 hours).
2. **Settings** → **Emails** on [systeme.io](#).
3. Confirm **Pending** → **Verified**.
4. Verify your **sender email address** on the same domain.

IONOS-Specific Notes

- **Website elsewhere:** If IONOS warns that new CNAMEs may conflict with Squarespace or another site, use a **subdomain** for funnels or consult IONOS before changing root records—email auth records are usually additive but plan carefully.
- **IONOS Mail:** Keep existing **MX** records; email-auth CNAMEs work alongside IONOS email when configured correctly.
- **Separate record sets:** Funnel CloudFront CNAMEs (3962) ≠ email inbound/DKIM CNAMEs (3965)—add both without deleting the wrong set.
- **Hostname vs full name:** IONOS funnel docs use “part before your domain” for the second CNAME—the same rule applies to DKIM hosts.

Troubleshooting

Issue	Likely cause	Fix
Pending forever	Wrong Hostname or target typo	Re-copy from eye icon; check trailing dot.
Duplicate record error	Old conflicting CNAME	Remove obsolete row; re-add correct target.
DMARC invalid	Two <code>_dmarc</code> TXT rows	Delete duplicate; one policy only.
Site offline	Edited <code>www</code> funnel	Email auth uses different hosts—don't

fear	CNAME	replace www funnel record.
Verified sender fails	Sender not on same domain	Use e.g. hello@yourdomain.com after domain verifies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Trailing dot on IONOS?

Yes for CNAME **Points to** values in systeme.io + IONOS guides.

Hostname field?

Prefix only (si942517, systemeio1._domainkey).

Where in IONOS?

Domain → DNS → Add a record.

Funnel vs email?

Different settings and CNAME targets in systeme.io.

DMARC?

TXT, Hostname _dmarc, customized rua email.

Related Resources

- [How to Authenticate Your Domain Name for Email Sending](#)
- [How to Connect Your IONOS Domain to systeme.io](#)
- [How to Add a DMARC Record on IONOS](#)
- [How to Improve Your Email Deliverability](#)

Copy records from [systeme.io](#) into IONOS **DNS**, then send with a **verified domain**.

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