

Webmail is the Way to Go

We often help customers who experience email problems. In many of these cases they have an email address supplied by their internet service provider (ISP). Perhaps you do too? These sorts of emails have addresses that look like this:

someone@westnet.com.au someone@bigpond.com
someone@skymesh.net.au someone@iinet.net.au

There are problems with these ISP provided email addresses:

☹ ISPs do not specialise in providing email services. This can mean poor junk mail filtering, outages, emails being 'bounced' when you send to certain email addresses, difficulties sending and receiving email, small inbox size limits, and slow email search capabilities.

☹ If you change the company providing your internet access you have to change your email address (in some cases you can make ongoing payments to keep your email).

☹ You will need to use special email configurations if you want to be send emails from a wifi hotspot while you are away from home (or use their webmail interface).

☹ ISP webmail services (your email accessed through an internet browser) are usually old fashioned and buggy.

There is a better way; cloud provided email services:

someone4576@gmail.com someone7564@outlook.com
someone8712@icloud.com someone897@protonmail.com

Well known examples are Gmail, Outlook.com and the discredited Yahoo. Lesser known are iCloud (for Apple users), Zoho (business oriented) and Proton (privacy focussed).

Once thought of as lesser 'webmail' services these are now more capable than your ISP email service ever was.

As well as solving all the ISP email problems listed above, Gmail, for example, has:

- 👍 -the best junk mail filtering services currently available;
- 👍 -webmail and mobile email apps are excellent;
- 👍 -searching through old emails is instant;
- 👍 -continuous, bulletproof backups of emails, and;
- 👍 -no problems sending emails when you travel.

Laminating Prices...

Thanks to finding a cheaper supply of laminating pouches, we are able to announce a permanent price reduction:

A4 laminating—NOW \$1 members, \$1.50 non-members
(was \$2 members, \$2.50 non-members)

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...a little CRC

- ☹ Down sides of Gmail:
 - ☹ Gmail has advertising (minimal and well marked)
 - ☹ It is almost impossible to get direct support from Google, however this is mostly not necessary

The advertising is why you are getting Gmail for free. iCloud emails are free of advertising however you must buy an Apple device to get one. Advertising on Outlook and Yahoo can often be more intrusive. These providers may also scan your mail content and extract keywords (Google stopped doing this in 2017).

Google tracking your internet usage is a valid worry but for me, at the moment, I choose to accept it. You can have a look at (and delete) the information which Google collects about you by logging into your Google account (or Gmail) and visiting myactivity.google.com

If you want to improve your privacy and security, protonmail.com offers an ad free secure email service based out of Switzerland. It is free to create an email, for a inbox size up to 500MB. This is enough for non-heavy email users. Beyond basic use you would need to consider upgrading to the paid version at a cost of about \$8 per month. The high security and privacy has another sort of price - there is no convenient way to search your emails for phrases or words which appear in the text of your email message. Also, you will lose access to existing emails if you forget your Protonmail password and have to reset it. These are both security measures.

Here is our best to worst of those email providers of which we have some experience.

- BEST: Google's Gmail service.
 Protonmail.
 iCloud
 Outlook.com email (also called Hotmail).
- POOR: Bigpond, Westnet, Skymesh, or other
 ISP emails. Self-hosted emails.
- WORST: Yahoo (these guys have had huge problems
 with hackers and poor security practices).

Gmail False Alarm

We have received enquiries from people concerned their Gmail address is being shut down. They have received a message from Google like this: "Your personal Google+ account is going away on April 2, 2019"

The message is not a scam however your Gmail is safe. Google+ is a rarely used social network competitor to Facebook. Google are closing it but there is no threat to your Gmail, Google Photos, or other Google services.