

E-Mail

ePrompter. Check several e-mail accounts simultaneously and retrieve received e-mails. <http://www.eprompter.com/>

ChoiceMail Free. Some spam filters assume that you want to see almost every message, while others assume that you want to see almost none. ChoiceMail Free combines blacklist and whitelist technologies to ensure that your POP e-mail program refuses messages from blocked addresses and lets your desired e-mail through without a hitch. Use the built-in permission rules to stop likely spam, and add your own touches to customize the blockade.

You can also activate unknown-sender registration, which returns e-mail to senders whose addresses ChoiceMail doesn't recognize, asking them to identify themselves. Usually only people who really know you (and like you enough to deal with this small irritation) will respond to such messages. Safe message previewing lets you look at any messages you're not sure about--without letting potentially infected spam loose on your system.

As its name indicates, ChoiceMail Free is a no-fee program, but online support costs \$20 per year. The more full-featured ChoiceMail One--which blocks spam to AOL, Hotmail, MSN, and Yahoo--includes the cost of a one-year support subscription. A 14-day trial of ChoiceMail One is downloadable from the vendor's site. http://www.download.com/ChoiceMail-One/3000-2382_4-10129568.html

GetByMail. If you do work in two locations--but don't want to mess with pricey, complicated remote-access software--consider GetByMail. This freebie lets you access another computer through your e-mail account. Your files bypass limited FTP access, firewall problems, and other roadblocks by going through the approved channel of e-mail. The program lets you see remote directory listings and make changes, uploading and downloading files. It automatically compresses and splits files for downloads and uploads.

Pando gives you a way to send entire folders, but you'll need to download an app to do it. Here's the site:
<http://www.pando.com/beta>

Transferbigfiles is an online service that has the advantage of letting you password-protect the files you send:

<http://transferbigfiles.com/Default.aspx>

GetByMail. If you do work in two locations--but don't want to mess with pricey, complicated remote-access software--consider GetByMail. This freebie lets you access another computer through your e-mail account. Your files bypass limited FTP access, firewall problems, and other roadblocks by going through the approved channel of e-mail. The program lets you see remote directory listings and make changes, uploading and downloading files. It automatically compresses and splits files for downloads and uploads.

GetByMail supports SSL connections over POP3 and SMTP (the prevalent e-mail protocols). It's also compatible with Gmail.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,61392,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

Check out TheFreeSite.com's "Free E-mail Services" section for a roundup of the Web's top free E-mail providers: http://www.thefreesite.com/Email_Freebies/

Pluno E-mail: Here's a versatile free E-mail service that offers you 135 megs of space, as well as spam control and anti-virus protection. Pluno offers lots of helpful features, including auto responders, filters, an address book, calendar, and more. <http://1.thefreesite.com/newsletteroffers/offer2.html>

OutlookHelper is a free Microsoft Outlook add-on for Windows XP, allowing you to more efficiently manage your e-mail. It features several helpful functions, such as previewing images of multiple e-mails simultaneously without opening them. It lets you store, sort, and organize e-mail; and it includes a virus alert that lets you know before you open a tainted e-mail.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,26679,tk,hsx,00.asp

GetByMail: If you do work in two locations--but don't want to mess with pricey, complicated remote-access software--consider GetByMail. This freebie lets you access another computer through your e-mail account. Your files bypass limited FTP access, firewall problems, and other roadblocks by going through the approved channel of e-mail. The program lets you see remote directory listings and make changes, uploading and downloading files. It automatically compresses and splits files for downloads and uploads.

GetByMail supports SSL connections over POP3 and SMTP (the prevalent e-mail protocols). It's also compatible with Gmail. Note: This free version includes ads. http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,61392,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

EssentialPIM Free combines several functions--calendar, contact manager, to-do list, and notes manager--into one interface. This program performs the functions you'd expect, plus some bonuses like color-coding, drag-and-drop functions, and integrated Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express data importing. The to-do list allows you to sort and prioritize by category, priority, and completion status. Adjustable program views and several printout options help you keep the data you need at hand. Everything can be password-protected and encrypted with AES 128-bit encryption.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62585,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

Pegasus Mail: For years, power users have turned to Pegasus for their e-mail needs. This free e-mail client has all of the standard features you would expect to find, and it sports an easy-to-use interface that makes sending and retrieving messages from various accounts a snap. You can drag and drop e-mail addresses into a message, create address books, and manage rules for filtering mail. Pegasus also gives you message encryption, multiple-user support, and message templates that allow you to create your own mail form. <http://tinyurl.com/zyojd>

Lookout: Need a way to drill deeply into Outlook to find messages you know are around--somewhere? Use Lookout, a freebie from Microsoft. Unlike search tools such as Google Desktop, Lookout offers quicker access because it becomes part of Outlook's toolbar. Besides e-mail, the tool can index attachments and PDF contents. Lookout also searches inside appointments and contacts. It works with all current versions of Outlook. <http://tinyurl.com/zessy>

Encrypted Email The easy way to get e-mail encryption is through secure Webmail services such as Hushmail, MailVault and S-Mail. Encryption is built-in and seamless if both sides use the same service. Each offers free accounts.

IncrediMail. Turn your static, boring e-mails into an eye-catching interactive extravaganza. IncrediMail is simple to use and offers a host of e-mail backgrounds, sounds, animations, 3D effects, and e-cards.

http://www.download.com/IncrediMail-Xe/3000-2367_4-10049814.html?tag=nl.e415

Google launched Gmail about a year ago. But until now, only the elite who received an invitation could join. Gmail is Google's free e-mail service. It's so impressive that Hotmail and Yahoo! were forced to upgrade their free offerings. Why is Gmail so great? Well, you get a whopping two gigabytes (and counting) of storage space. That means you don't need to delete messages -- simply archive them. www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount

The best way to get a person's e-mail address is to ask. But if that is not possible, you may wish to try one of these online directories. You might find that these sites have information on you that others can access for a price.

<http://www.addresses.com/>

<http://www.infospace.com/home/white-pages/email-search>

<http://my.email.address.is/>

<http://www.whowhere.lycos.com/Email>

<http://www.switchboard.com>

Try one of these free or inexpensive Internet Service Providers as a backup in case your paid provider goes down. If you can endure the large framed ads that are placed on the screen and the limited amount of free time you can be online, then you may want to give these a try.

www.netzero.com

www.bluelight.com

www.eudora.com

www.juno.com

This website keeps track of the free ISPs and compares their features. It will also tell you which freebies have gone by the wayside. www.freedomlist.com

This is a guide to internet service providers that are free. www.fepg.net

Where do you go for Internet Service Provider information? FreedomList has many ISPs for under \$10. This is a nice way to compare features, too. FindAnISP is another good site. You'll find these two at: <http://www.freedomlist.com/>
<http://www.findanisp.com/>

There are also the Freenets. These are normally volunteer non-profit organizations dedicated to providing community information and offering Internet access at the lowest possible cost. To find one near you, you can check the list here: <http://www.lights.com/freenet/>

These are two good sites for accessing your email from any other computer anywhere in the world.

www.mail2web.com

www.e-mailanywhere.com

This site allows users to store and share files from any computer; other features include secure e-mail and an address book. www.magicaldesk.com

If you have several email addresses and want to consolidate all of them to keep track of all your incoming email messages try this free program.

www.eprompter.com

The instant messaging programs permit interoperability among the various services, e.g. AOL's Instant Messenger (AIM), Microsoft's IM, and Yahoo's Messenger:

www.imici.com

www.jabber.org

www.trillian.cc

www.odigo.com

The Direct Marketing Association offers a way to help spam-proof your mailbox. Go to the DMA's E-mail Preference Service:

www.e-mps.org/en to have its more than 4500 member companies "clean" you from their lists.

Keep your email private by encrypting sent messages. A free service is

www.Hushmail.com

Get rid of spam by using a free disposable email address to use when contacting spam-generating sites. www.spamgourmet.com

This free download will provide you with an email program that lets you add 3-D effects, backgrounds, and even voice recordings to your messages.

www.incredimail.com

E-mail is great because it's fast and doesn't cost anything to send. The downside of that aspect is that people have never communicated so little while generating so much traffic. Legitimate information becomes obscured in an avalanche of blonde jokes, chain letters, special offers, and get-rich-quick schemes. Fookes

Software's Mailbag Assistant aims to help you sort through the clutter. The software works alongside many popular e-mail client programs, including Outlook Express and Eudora. The software imports mailboxes from your e-mail program and lets you search for a specific message using a number of criteria. You can search for keywords in the message headers or body text. Assistant is compatible with Windows 9x/Me/ NT/2000/XP. It's free to try but costs \$29.95 if you want to continue to use it. <http://www.fookes.com/mailbag>

Dial-up Internet access doesn't cost \$20 or \$25 per month anymore. Most cities have hundreds of dial-up ISPs to choose from! This online database lists over 2,800 ISPs in over 14,000 U.S. cities. Compare prices, features, and read user reviews instantly. http://www.findanisp.com/bargain_isps.php?=&kim20030531

If you are looking for a bargain program (free) that will assist you in controlling spam (junk mail), try one of these sites.

www.mailwiper.com

www.sneakemail.com

www.spamcop.net

www.cloudmark.com

www.webatack.com

Switching ISPs is a problem. Trueswitch will copy a user's e-mail, address book and other personal information to the new ISP; notify friends and family of the new address; forward e-mails arriving at the old provider and automatically cancel the old account. It may be free, depending on which ISP you select as your new provider. For example, if you are leaving AOL for MSN, there is no charge. <http://www.trueswitch.com>

If you want to find a friend's email address, try one of these sites. Better yet, check to see if your own email address is now in the public domain!

<http://www.addresses.com/>

<http://www.infospace.com/home/white-pages/email-search>

<http://my.email.address.is/>

<http://www.switchboard.com>

<http://mesa.rrzn.uni-hannover.de/>

There are places where you can check an email address' validity. So before you type a long note only to have it returned to you because the address was invalid, use one of these sites.

http://www.addresses.com/email_verify.php

<http://www.server2.com/Tools/ValidateEmail.asp>

Have you ever wanted a friend or family member's e-mail address? Of course, the easiest way to get it is to ask. But what if that is not possible or convenient? This site tries to make it a little easier on you. It's a collection of many different directories on one page.

<http://theultimates.com/email/>

The Meta E-mail Search Agent (MESA) claims to be the largest e-mail address book in the world. So if are looking for a person's e-mail address, enter the last name and first name of the person you are searching. Results will be returned in 30 seconds or less! Now, the results may not be accurate, because folks change e-mail addresses often. But it's worth a shot.

<http://mesa.rzrn.uni-hannover.de/>

If you are looking for a quick way to get rid of those annoying >>>> marks on forwarded email, try a free program called EmailStripper (<http://www.papercut.biz/emailStripper.htm>). Just click one of its three buttons: Paste, Strip It, and Copy.

Most online phone and address sites focus on finding, well, phone numbers and addresses. Addresses.com specializes in finding email addresses. All you have to do is enter the first and last name of someone you know, and the site will search for a corresponding email address. You can also search for celebrity addresses. Of course, the site does included tools for looking up phone numbers and street addresses, as well, and includes a handy ZIP code lookup feature.

<http://www.addresses.com>

If your e-mail address is floating around on the Internet, then you're just asking for a massive dose of spam. Most of us just can't help the fact that our addresses are out there for everyone to see. Whether it's on our Web site, message boards, or any other location for that matter, both people and spam bots can harvest our addresses. Even if you don't think that yours is public, it's probably still located somewhere in the depths of this tangled web of information. One method of protection from the spam assailants that you can use is something called Email Cloaker for Web. This program takes your e-mail address information and spits it out into your selection of three cloaking methods. The so-called unbreakable method provides you with your very own contact form that people can use to e-mail you. Just give them the address to this personalized page, and they can message you by using a nice system that includes a verification code. This works

nicely. The JavaScript and HTML cloak options aren't as secure as the aforementioned method, but they will help to fool some of the uneducated bots. This program won't completely erase spam from your Inbox, but it will help to decrease some of the potential load. <http://cloaker.xinbox.com/>

WabMail is a small and simple tool that makes it easy to quickly retrieve a plain list of e-mail addresses that are contained in your Windows Address Book (.WAB) file. The WAB allows you to export the content to a comma delimited file; however, this may be way too much for your needs. If you just want a simple list of the e-mail addresses and nothing else, WabMail will automatically detect your default address book, open it, and present you with a simple list, one e-mail address per line, which you can copy. Useful for creating a white list for your anti-spam program, a mailing list, or for similar purposes. <http://www.snapfilespro.com/gnomeapp.php?id=108972>

Sharing humongous files with your buddies should be easy. It's often not. For example, trying to attach those big files to e-mail messages is silly; the attachment limit for most ISPs is about 10MB. Both Dropload (www.dropload.com) and YouSendIt (www.yousendit.com) let you send single files of up to 1GB in size. (Warning: For broadband connections, only. Do not try this on dial-up.) With YouSendIt, just tell the site the location of the file on your drive and who the file goes to, and the file is on its way. You can send the file to multiple addresses. Dropload's advantage is that once you're registered (don't worry, it's benign), you can save recipient e-mail addresses. That's handy if you need to send a file to the same person at a later date. Both Dropload and YouSendIt allow only single files to be sent. If you have more than one file, just zip them into an archive file with any one of a bunch of free compression utilities downloadable from PC World.

Qualcomm's popular e-mail client manages multiple e-mail accounts and handles just about any attachment you're likely to receive. A robust search feature lets you find messages archived a long time ago. You can use a word processor when you're composing messages, so you can check spelling, format text, and choose a font. The program features group file-sharing, support for Palm devices, and a flame detector http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,4553,tk,hsx,00.asp