

## Webmail and non-ISP email

Email can be sent, received, and managed, by using one of several methods:

1. A program, such as Outlook Express, on your computer.
2. A program on the internet, supplied by your internet service provider (ISP), such as AOL, Comcast, or Verizon.
3. A program on the internet, supplied by a non-ISP company such as Yahoo email, MSN email, or Gmail by Google.

The following table lists advantages and disadvantages of the above three methods for email.

	Outlook Express	ISP	Non-ISP
Messages and contact information	<p>Advantage: Messages and contact information are stored on your computer, so they are available when you are not on the internet.</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Messages and contact information can be lost when the hard drive crashes; a new computer is purchased; or the computer is stolen.</li> <li>2. Messages and contact information are available only on one computer.</li> </ol>	<p>Advantage: Messages and contact information are stored on the internet, so they are available from any computer, such as work, home, and trip (when you are using web mail on the ISP website).</p> <p>Disadvantage: Messages and contact information are available only when you are on the internet.</p>	<p>Advantage: Messages and contact information are stored on the internet, so they are available from any computer, such as work, home, and trip.</p> <p>Disadvantage: Messages and contact information are available only when you are on the internet.</p>
Spam protection	You must supply the anti-spam program.	Spam protection may be supplied by the ISP.	Spam protection may be supplied by the program. Gmail has the best spam protection I have seen, with few spam messages in the “in box” and only one good email in many thousands of spam messages.
Continuity of your email address	Possibly; depends on if your email is downloaded from an ISP or non-ISP.	Email address is changed when changing ISPs. All email contacts must be notified of your email address change.	Email address is retained when changing ISPs. No notification of email contacts is needed. This is a huge “plus” when you have many email contacts, including businesses and financial institutions.

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	Outlook Express	ISP	Non-ISP
Ability to easily see email conversations.	Must search emails in the “in box” to find the original email and all replies and forwards.	Must search emails in the “in box” to find the original email and all replies and forwards.	Gmail keeps together the back-and-forth emails, with the same subject. This is really nice for following the flow of an email “conversation”.
Program features	Minimal features. Additional features are available by purchasing.	Basic features, and in some cases advanced features, are free.	Basic features, and in some cases advanced features, are free.
Antivirus protection	You must supply the anti-virus program.	Anti-virus protection may be supplied by the ISP.	You must supply the anti-virus program.
Cost	Some email programs require a purchase, and then paid updates.	Some ISPs, such as AOL, use (many) ads to pay for the program. No cost for Comcast and Verizon.	MSN, Yahoo and Gmail, use ads to pay for their programs and all updates.
Program set-up	You must set up the program to read and send email through an ISP or a non-ISP company.	Probably need to enter contacts, groups, and folders each time the ISP is changed.	One-time entry of contacts, groups, and folders.

This web page (<http://in.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20061114091710AAKVVCG>) has good reasons to have a Gmail account.

“Gmail is a web based email client, much like Yahoo! Mail, except faster, more powerful, more space, superior spam protection, optional instant messaging support, as well as many other features such as the ability to automatically forward/delete/apply label to/star emails according to a specific filter.

To create an account, click here: <https://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount>”

Information on using Gmail: [http://mail.google.com/mail/help/about\\_whatsnew.html](http://mail.google.com/mail/help/about_whatsnew.html)

Information on using “labels” in Gmail: <http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=6560>

This website (<http://www.developer.com/java/other/article.php/3557116>) has the following comments about Gmail: “The recent availability of low cost (*or no cost*) Email services, (*such as Google's Gmail*), which provide massive storage capacity, advanced features, and lightening-fast search capability has caused many of us to rethink the way that we manage Email.

Up until recently, I managed my Email pretty much the same as almost everyone else. I downloaded the messages from several different Email accounts into an Email client program, (*Netscape Mail in my case*), read messages, deleted messages, filed messages, etc.

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Since getting my Gmail account in May of 2005, I have discovered that there is a much better way to manage Email. Quite simply, in my opinion, Gmail is the finest Email program that I have ever seen. It has completely changed my outlook (*no pun intended*) on how to manage Email.

### Historical approach to managing Email

Up until recently, I managed my Email pretty much the same way that others did. I downloaded messages from several different Email accounts onto my hard drive using a local Email client program. In my case, that client program was Netscape mail.

I would delete most of the messages because they were identified as spam either using Netscape filters or the Netscape junk mail capability. Then I would read the remaining messages.

### Delete some, file the rest

Having read the remaining messages, I would delete some of them in order to conserve disk space, and file the rest in an elaborate system of Email folders that had evolved over the years.

### Hmm, now where did I file that message?

Everything usually went pretty well until I needed to find a message that I had received and filed earlier. Oftentimes, I would forget which folder I had filed it in. This often resulted in a long and frequently tedious manual search. Sometimes I would try running the search feature of the Email client program, but it was so slow making one search pass through 500 Mbytes of Email messages that it wasn't really practical.

### Gmail to the rescue

Then along came an opportunity to open a Gmail account, which I did mainly out of curiosity. Once I became familiar with Gmail, I quickly decided that it would form the basis of my new approach to Email management.

### Virtually unlimited disk capacity

As one advantage, for example, I don't need to be concerned about conserving disk space. Google makes so much space available that I can even afford to save the messages in the trash folder. For example, here is a statement that appears on the bottom of my Gmail web page today, "*You are currently using 243 MB (10%) of your 2502 MB.*"

### The main advantage is a lightening-fast search

I could go on and on singing the praises of Gmail, but I won't. The main advantage of Gmail, (*the advantage to which this lesson is devoted*), is the ability to use a very sophisticated search capability to search all the messages in the archives (*and optionally in the spam and trash folders*) with lightening speed.

### Now back to the search capability

As an example of searching, I recently had a question about the availability of campus parking permits for the upcoming school year. I remembered having received an Email message that addressed that subject sometime in the recent past.

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I was able to search through tens of thousands of messages for the keyword **parking** in less time than it took for me to type the keyword into the search field. The search isolated thirteen messages out of the thousands of messages in the archives and it was easy to spot the one that I needed. If need be, I could have further narrowed down the search using a logical combination of multiple keywords (*and/or labels*) in conjunction with AND, OR, and NOT.

If I had been looking for this message on my hard drive using my old approach, I would probably still be trying to figure out which folder contained the message.” (end of the internet review of Gmail)

Screen shot of a Gmail inbox:

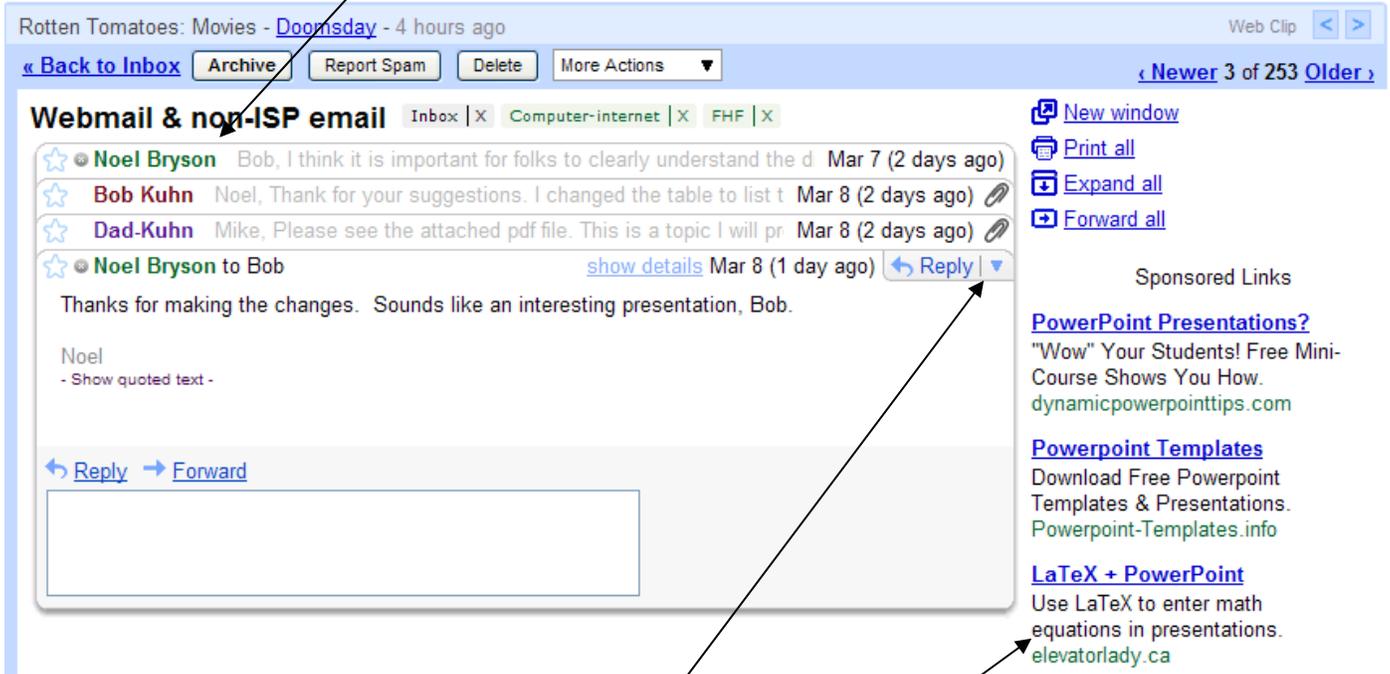
The screenshot shows the Gmail interface with several annotations:

- Search all messages in Gmail:** Points to the search input field.
- Small ad in the "inbox":** Points to the "International Herald Tribune - World News, Analysis, and Global Opinions - Sri Lankans wa" advertisement.
- Search Mail / Search the Web:** Points to the respective buttons.
- Show search options / Create a filter:** Points to the links.
- Compose Mail:** Points to the "Compose Mail" link.
- Inbox (89):** Points to the "Inbox (89)" folder link.
- Starred:** Points to the "Starred" link.
- Chats:** Points to the "Chats" link.
- Sent Mail:** Points to the "Sent Mail" link.
- Drafts (23):** Points to the "Drafts (23)" link.
- All Mail:** Points to the "All Mail" link.
- Spam (684):** Points to the "Spam (684)" link.
- Trash:** Points to the "Trash" link.
- Contacts:** Points to the "Contacts" link.
- Archive / Report Spam / Delete / More Actions / Refresh:** Points to the action buttons for the selected email.
- Select: All, None, Read, Unread, Starred, Unstarred:** Points to the selection options.
- Number of emails in this same subject:** Points to the "(4)" next to "Noel, Bob, Dad-Kuhn".
- Subject, followed by several words of the first line:** Points to the subject line "Social Committee minutes for March".
- Label (created by me, and assigned to this email):** Points to the "Misc" label.
- Stars can be added to highlight a message:** Points to the star icon next to "Kate Weaver".
- Gmail folders, with unread messages in parentheses:** Points to the "Spam (684)" folder link.

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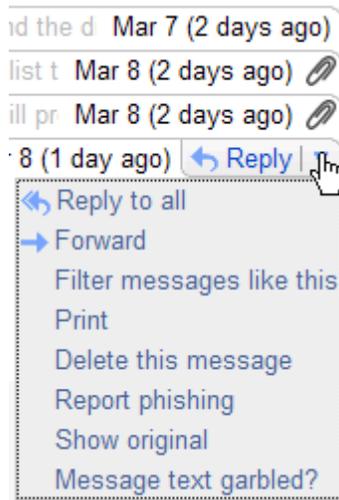
Screen shot of a Gmail email:

Sender, followed by several words of the first line, then the date sent. The paper clip shows that the email has an attachment.



Gmail ads based upon words used in the email.

Screen shot of the drop-down menu on the right end of a message:



# Top 13 Free Email Services

From [Heinz Tschabitscher](#), (about.com: email)  
Your Guide to [Email](#).  
FREE Newsletter. [Sign Up Now!](#)

If you are looking for a free email service, you can be picky. You'll be rewarded with plenty of storage, effective spam filtering, a fast interface, desktop email program access and more. Find the top 13 free email services to choose from reviewed here.

PS: Looking for free email, you may also be interested in

- [free POP3 and IMAP email services](#),
- [free Windows email programs](#) or
- [free Mac email programs](#).

## 1. [Gmail - Free Email Service](#)

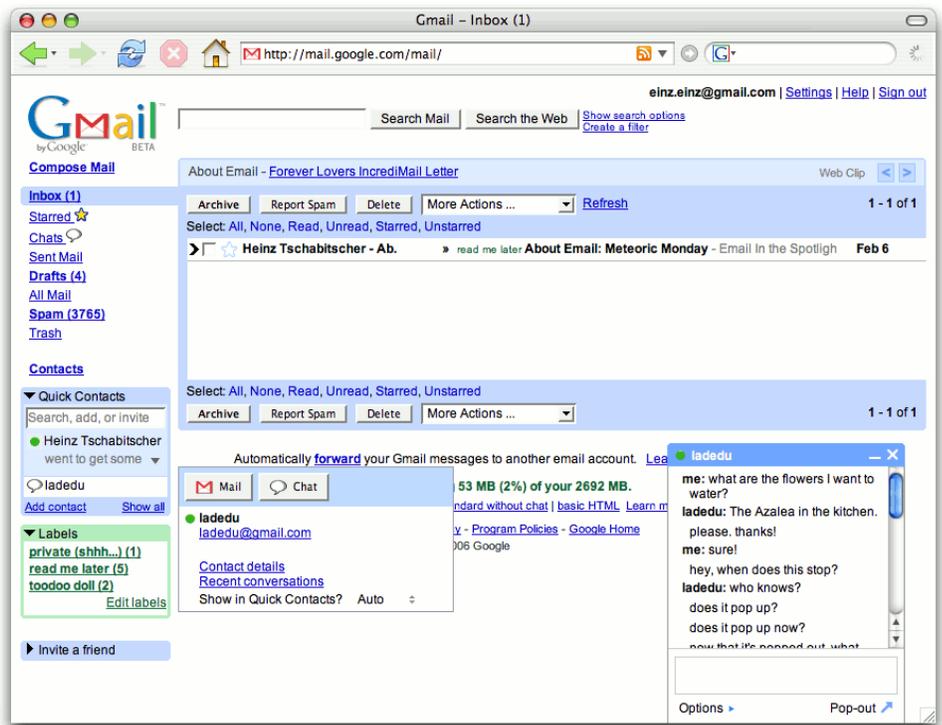
[View Full-Size](#)

Heinz Tschabitscher

Gmail is the Google approach to email and chat. Practically unlimited free online storage allows you to collect all your messages, and Gmail's simple but very smart interface lets you find them precisely and see them in context without effort. POP and powerful IMAP access bring Gmail to any email program or device.

Gmail puts contextual advertising next to the emails you read.

[Gmail Review](#) | [Gmail Resources](#) | [Gmail Screenshots](#) | [Gmail Tips](#)



## 2. [AIM Mail - Free Email Service](#)



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AIM Mail, AOL's free web-based email service, shines with unlimited online storage, very good spam protection and a rich, easy to use interface.

Unfortunately, AIM Mail lacks a bit in productivity (no labels, smart folders and message threading), but makes up for some of that with very functional IMAP (as well as POP) access.

[AIM Mail Review](#) | [AIM Mail Tips](#)

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### 3. [GMX Mail - Free Email Service](#)



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GMX Mail is a reliable email service filtered well of spam and viruses whose 5 GB of online storage you can use not only through a rich web interface but also via POP or IMAP from a desktop email program.

More and smarter ways to organize mail could be nice.

[GMX Mail Review](#)

### 4. [Yahoo! Mail - Free Email Service](#)



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Heinz Tschabitscher

Yahoo! Mail is your ubiquitous email program on the web with unlimited storage and RSS news feeds, SMS texting and instant messaging to boot.

While Yahoo! Mail is generally a joy to use, free-form labelling and smart folders would be nice, and the spam filter could catch junk even more effectively.

[Yahoo! Mail Review](#) | [Yahoo! Mail Resources](#) | [Yahoo! Mail Tips](#)

### 5. [Inbox.com - Free Email Service](#)



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Inbox.com not only gives you 5 GB to store your mail online but also a highly polished, fast and functional way to access it via either the web (including speedy search, free-form labels and reading mail by conversation) or through POP in your email program.

Unfortunately, IMAP access is not supported by Inbox.com, and its tools for organizing mail could be improved with smart or self-teaching folders.

[Inbox.com Review](#) | [Inbox.com Tips](#)

### 6. [Yahoo! Mail Classic - Free Email Service](#)



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Yahoo! Mail Classic is a comfortable, reliable and secure email service with unlimited storage. A pretty good spam filter keeps the junk out, and you can send rich emails using Yahoo! Mail's HTML editor.

[Yahoo! Mail Classic Review](#) | [Yahoo! Mail Resources](#) | [Yahoo! Mail Classic Tips](#)

### 7. [FastMail Guest Account - Free Email Service](#)



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FastMail is a great free email service with IMAP access, useful features, one of the best web-based email interfaces and few ads.

[FastMail Review](#) | [FastMail Resources](#) | [FastMail Tips](#)

## Webmail and non-ISP email

### 8. [Windows Live Hotmail - Free Email Service](#)



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Windows Live Hotmail is a free email service that gives you a 5 GB of online storage, fast search, solid security and an interface easy as a desktop email program. When it comes to organizing mail, Windows Live Hotmail does not go beyond folders (to saved searches and tags, for example), its spam filter could be more effective, and POP or IMAP access are missing.

[Windows Live Hotmail Review](#) | [Windows Live Hotmail Resources](#) | [Windows Live Hotmail Tips](#)

### 9. [Bluebottle - Free Email Service](#)



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Bluebottle offers email accounts that are practically free of spam (using challenge/response filtering) and can be accessed on the web or using POP with any email program.

Bluebottle could offer more tools for efficiently handling mail, though, online storage is in a somewhat short supply, and challenge/response filtering comes with its own share of problems, too.

[Bluebottle Review](#)

### 10. [BigString.com - Free Email Service](#)



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BigString.com is a free 2 GB email service that includes rich secure and certified mail services and lets you password-protect, expire or edit sent messages, for example.

Unfortunately, BigString.com is not equally well equipped for handling incoming mail and lacks organizing tools.

[BigString.com Review](#)

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## Gmail (Google Mail) - Free Email and Chat Service

From [Heinz Tschabitscher](#), (about.com: email)

Your Guide to [Email](#).

FREE Newsletter. [Sign Up Now!](#)

Guide Rating - ★★★★★

### The Bottom Line

Gmail is the Google approach to email and chat. Practically unlimited free online storage allows you to collect all your messages, and Gmail's simple but very smart interface lets you find them precisely and see them in context without effort. POP and powerful IMAP access bring Gmail to any email program or device.

Gmail puts contextual advertising next to the emails you read.

[Visit Their Web Site](#)

Pros

- Gmail offers continuously growing storage, free IMAP or POP access and sending from any address

## Webmail and non-ISP email

- Smart sorting, searching and starring let you find and organize emails and chat conversations
- Gmail's web interface is both fast and rich, comes with useful keyboard shortcuts

### Cons

- Gmail does not support secure (signed and encrypted) email natively
- Rich HTML formatting does not support inline images and lacks an undo feature
- Gmail does not offer unlimited online space

### Description

- Gmail offers free email with growing storage space. Additional storage can be purchased and shared among Google services.
- Next to mail, Gmail shows contextual ads machine-matched to keywords found in messages.
- Starring and custom color labels let you neatly organize threads (conversations) and precise search options find emails fast.
- Gmail's filters can archive, star, label, forward or delete messages automatically.
- You can access a Gmail account via IMAP or POP in any email client or forward its messages elsewhere.
- A mobile Gmail application tailored to specific phones lets you access mail including attachments fast.
- Gmail retrieves mail from up to 5 POP accounts and lets you use these email addresses (or others) in the From: line of mail.
- Connecting to Google Talk, you can IM and group chat. Integration with Google Calendar lets you create events and invite.
- Gmail supports rich text formatting and can display many attachment types (PDF, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.).
- A spam filter tries to sort out the junk and fraud, and Gmail scans for viruses and worms, too.

### Guide Review - Gmail (Google Mail) - Free Email and Chat Service

What do you expect from Google? Search, simplicity and speed? That's what you can get from Gmail, Google's approach to email and web-based instant messaging and group chat.

The interface is simple and elegant, but also remarkably clever with useful keyboard shortcuts and fast operation. A simple HTML version of Gmail should work in all browsers.

Of course, Gmail boasts a search box, which usually returns useful results. But finding single emails precisely is not even the best thing about Gmail. Smarter still is keeping everything in context, always and automatically.

With nary a miss, Gmail identifies the relationships between emails to construct "conversations". You can quickly see what has happened previously, or whether somebody has already replied. Gmail also offers "stars" for quick flagging and free-form color labels that can work wonders to organize an inbox.

If a contact is currently online in either Gmail or Google Talk, you can chat right from Gmail, with the conversation archived and indexed. Turning emails into Google Calendar events is just as easy.

All this makes no sense if you can't keep all relevant data, of course. So Gmail grows as you use it, and you can purchase additional storage. To avoid the truly unneeded mail, Gmail sports efficient and effortless spam and virus filters.

If you do not like the idea of Google displaying ads next to emails based on keywords found in the messages (the emails themselves remain private), you can use encryption or access your Gmail using a POP interface. Even better, the flexible IMAP access offers up all labels as folders.

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If, conversely, you want to use the Gmail web interface for all your email, you can have it collect mail from up to five POP accounts automatically and put these accounts' email addresses (and all your others) in the From: line of messages you send.

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<http://email.about.com/od/freemailreviews/gr/gmail.htm>

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# How to Send Mail from Any Account, with Any Custom From: Address with Gmail

From [Heinz Tschabitscher](#), (about.com: email)

Your Guide to [Email](#).

FREE Newsletter. [Sign Up Now!](#)

Do you find [Gmail](#) so great, grand and grandiose that you want to handle all your email in it, not just messages you receive at your @gmail.com address? It's probably easy to forward your work mail, for example, to your Gmail account, but the replies with your Gmail address in the *From:* line do not look too good, do they?

Fortunately, you are not limited to your Gmail address when sending mail from Gmail. You can set up "accounts" for any of your addresses and use them to appear in the *From:* header.

## Send Mail from Any Account, with Any Custom From: Address with Gmail

To set up an email address for use with Gmail:

- » [Step by Step Screenshot Walkthrough](#)
- Select *Settings* from the top Gmail navigation bar.
- Go to *Accounts*.
- Click the *Add another email address* link.
- Enter the desired email address under *Email address:*.
  - Make sure you can receive emails at this address. You can only add email addresses that belong to you to Gmail.
  - Optionally, click *Specify a different "reply-to" address* and type the email address again. If you do not set the *Reply-To:* address, replies to your messages may go to your Gmail address.
- Click *Next Step* ».
- Now click *Send Verification*.
- Close the *Gmail - Add another email address* window.
- Check for new email in your email client and follow the verification link in the *Gmail Confirmation - Send Mail as...* message.
- Close the *Confirmation Success!* window.
- Verify your new email address appears in the *Accounts* section of your Gmail settings.
  - Optionally, click *make default* to make it your new default when sending mail from Gmail.

Now, to send mail from any of your Gmail accounts and addresses:

- » [Step by Step Screenshot Walkthrough](#)
- Select the desired email address from the *From:* drop-down menu when composing mail in Gmail.

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### Custom Gmail From: Addresses and SPF

When you send mail using an address different from your main @gmail.com address, Gmail will add the latter in the email's *Sender:* header. This makes sure the message complies with sender authentication schemes such as SPF. While the address in the From: line may not specify Gmail as a valid origin, the Gmail Sender: header makes sure the message does not raise red alerts for spam and fraud detection systems.

Some recipients (those using [Outlook](#), for example) may see your message coming from "...@gmail.com; on behalf of..." you at your other email address.

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<http://email.about.com/od/gmailtips/qt/et112605.htm>