

POP 3 Email vs. Web Based Email – Which is better?

With the growing popularity of the Internet, email has become a part of almost everyone's life. Whether you use your email to correspond with family, friends, business associates, or all three, you need to be savvy to your vulnerabilities when sending and receiving your correspondence. There are two basic types of email available to users of the internet. The following will explain the basic, practical differences in the two, and the pros and cons of using each.

If you get online using an **Internet Service Provider** (ISP), whether you have a dial-up account (you access the Internet with a telephone line and modem), a cable connection, or satellite connection, you are provided at least one mailbox for email, and sometimes several, with your account.

These accounts are called **POP3 accounts**. POP3 refers to the protocol or language your computer and the **mail servers** located at your Internet service provider and used to communicate with each other.

To access your mail account you will need what is referred to as a '**mail client**'. A mail client is a simple application or program used entirely to receive and send email. Both of the most widely used Internet browsers, Netscape and Internet Explorer, have email clients included with them. But there are also stand alone email clients such as Eudora, which can be downloaded free from the Internet.

The **primary advantage** to the POP3 type email account is that it is **usually not restrictive of the size of files, which you can send or receive**. If you are, for instance, a music buff and love to share your mp3's with friends, this type of account will usually accommodate the large files. Another benefit of this type account is that in the event you encounter some kind of problem with your account, you normally have a live technical support person you can contact to help you remedy the problem. The newer versions of these types of email clients allow you to set parameters to cut down on the Spam, which enters your box. We have found that some of these features are only moderately effective, and a bit cumbersome to set up.

There is however one very **important pitfall to using POP3 email**, which every user should be aware of. Most viruses are transmitted through this type of email. Many of these viruses are written to be specifically activated by usage of the email client which comes with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express. Therefore, always be cautious of any email you receive, even if it is from a friend, when using Outlook Express. Microsoft works diligently at overcoming these vulnerabilities in Outlook Express, but the Internet hacker's work just as diligently at overcoming these security features. Your only protection is to be aware of the problem, keep your email client updated with all patches and security fixes made available, and **use your anti-virus program**, keeping it current with all new updates also.

The second type of email available is what is termed '**web based email**'. This type of account is used by dozens of Internet service providers like Hotmail, Yahoo, and ABS Technologies. The main disadvantage of this kind of account is the **limited space you have in your mail box**, and the **limited size of the files** you are allowed to **send and receive**. Most email users will not find this restriction particularly limiting. However, if you use your email for business and receive dozens of emails a day, you will probably want to use your POP3 account and routinely. Additionally, **deleting email messages in your domain email account Inbox and Trash folders frequently** is important to try and conserve space on the server for your account. This is called "Account Maintenance."

Increasing your space on our servers for your **Domain Name** [www.MyDomain.com] is also another option to consider.

There are other **definite advantages to a web based email** account. Filters are **easy to use**, cutting down drastically to your receipt of Spam. Another advantage is that you can **access your account from any Internet connected computer anywhere in the world**. With a POP3 account you usually must be logged onto your Internet service provider and set up the email client on the computer you are using to be able to receive or send mail from that computer.

Another **huge advantage of web based email accounts** is that many of them automatically **prescan all your received attachments for viruses** before you download them onto your computer. This allows for the catching of many viruses, which might otherwise infect your computer if received through your POP3 account.

Remember that you also have the luxury of contacting our technical support services 7/24 to resolve any web based email, and or domain problems quickly at:
helpdesk@absTechnologies.net

Each type of email account, web based and POP3, has its own pros and cons. Consider how you use your email and weigh the benefits of both types of accounts.