

Mail Alternatives

2/9/2017 Topic

Mail Programs

- If you use only an online mail program, such as Gmail.com, Yahoo.com, Outlook.com, AOL.com, or similar (Xfinity.com, Centurylink.com, as example):
 - You do not need to consider changing.
 - Unless dissatisfied with the way Webmail works.
- If you prefer to use a computer-based email "client", and use Mozilla Thunderbird, Microsoft Outlook (part of Office 2016 or 365), or AOL Desktop:
- You also need not change.
- If, however you currently use Windows Live Mail (an email client installed on your PC), **know this:**
- **Microsoft discontinued all support** for Windows Live Mail (and Windows Essentials) effective January 10th of this year.
 - Hence it pulled the file, thus the ability to download Windows Essentials or Windows Live Mail.
 - Should you change computers or experience problems with Windows Live Mail
 - Necessitating installing, or removal and reinstallation,
 - You will no longer be able to install or reinstall Windows Live Mail, or its Contact list and groups.
- Thus, it is probably wise to begin searching for another email client now, and switch when you do.
 - Or switch to an online Webmail service (such as Gmail, Yahoo Mail, etc.).
- Know your PC-based email client alternatives:
 - Windows 8 and 10 Mail app
 - Outlook.com
 - Microsoft Outlook 2016
 - Purchase as an individual program at the Microsoft Store \$110.
 - Must be purchased retail as part of Office Home & **Business** for \$200,
 - Or subscribe to Office 365 Personal \$70,
 - or 365 Home \$100 which includes 5 licenses.
 - And includes 1 TB of online storage for each license.
 - Mozilla Thunderbird
 - Seek another email client software via Internet search.
 - Search for reviews of any such program.

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Free programs

- Windows Mail app
 - Advantages
 - Free and comes with Windows 8 and 10.
 - Easy to set up, and handles all forms of email account.
 - Easy to use.
 - Integrated with Windows's Calendar and People apps.
 - People app can grab contacts from many sources.
 - Disadvantages
 - Uses ONLY Windows 8 and 10 People app.
 - No independent contact list.
 - People app cannot create groups or categories for bulk mailings.
 - Must select each contact every time.
 - Stored Messages are not capable of Export.
 - Very limited personalization.
 - Example: Cannot change location of Preview Pane.
- Outlook.com
 - Advantages
 - Also free.
 - Available from any computer or device.
 - Disadvantages
 - Still uses People, with no ability to create groups.
 - Has downsides of both webmail and limited functionality of Mail app.
 - In my opinion, worse than the Mail app.
- IncrediMail
 - Dates from the Outlook Express era.
 - Outlook Express-like look.
 - Somewhat cutesy.
 - Good if you want lots of formats, Backgrounds, animations, etc.
 - No experience with it in years.

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- Mozilla Thunderbird
 - Advantages
 - Supported by Firefox.
 - Free download.
 - Messages are retained as EML format.
 - Combines Mail, Events (calendar), and Tasks in one program.
 - Disadvantages
 - More difficult to bring messages over from Windows Live Mail.
 - But WLM messages are also EML format.
 - So, if saved, as EML, can be dragged into Thunderbird.
 - Uses drop-down menus rather than ribbon concept.
 - Inserting images insists on adding alternative text.
 - Unless you place dot in "don't use...".
 - Least like Windows Live Mail.

Retail program

- Microsoft Outlook 2016
 - Advantages
 - Most similar to Windows Live Mail in functionality.
 - Also easy to set up most email accounts.
 - Can export messages directly from Windows Live Mail into Outlook.
 - Do not try to export too many messages at once.
 - WLM crashes.
 - Hint: Create new folders and limit messages sent at once.
 - You know Outlook is likely to be supported for a long time.
 - Disadvantages
 - A learning curve to find settings, etc., as different from WLM.
 - Must be purchased, and expensive.
 - Adds \$100+/- to the version of Office needed.
 - Must import contacts from CSV file.