

E-mailing Made Easy

There was a time when e-mailing was considered a “nerd” activity. These days however e-mailing is a mainstream activity performed at every level of society. Individuals and businesses alike have found that emailing is an essential form of communication. I like communicating by e-mail because I find that it is a more informal, to the point way of corresponding. It’s just perfect for my fast paced way of life. Other folks like to e-mail because they can stay in touch with family and easily exchange family pictures. Businesses prefer e-mail to effortlessly distribute memorandums and allow an easy exchange of ideas.

Most of you already have an e-mail account. Let me clarify, if you have Internet access you should already have an e-mail account. E-mail accounts come in two types, web based e-mail or pop3 based e-mail that you check using Outlook Express or another email client.

Web based e-mail, such as Yahoo, Google, or MSN Hotmail, will operate completely from a web page. Mail is completely composed, received, and saved from the web page. Address books, mail lists, and folders are all stored on servers of the hosting company. The advantage is, if your computer ever crashed all of your e-mails are safely stored on the main server. Another advantage is that you can check your e-mail from anywhere in the world using any computer connected to the Internet.

E-mail accounts utilizing e-mail clients such as Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora, or Thunderbird use a technology called pop3. Many e-mail services such as AT&T WorldNet, Nuvox, Comcast and Google offer both web based and pop3 e-mailing. Using an e-mail client is attractive because of the ability to quickly check your mail. With web based e-mail you have to log onto the servers web site, enter your user name and password and then wait for e-mails to appear. If you are using dial-up Internet access it could take several minutes to begin reading your mail. With an e-mail client you simply click on the program icon and the e-mails start downloading to your computer.

Many folks like the convince of an e-mail client but prefer the added security of a web based e-mail service. No problem, simply choose an e-mail service that offers both capabilities and you can set your e-mail client to not delete your e-mails from the server once you download them. If you choose this method you will want to find a service that offers plenty of storage space. For example, AT&T WorldNet only offers 25 megs of free space, Yahoo offers 1 gig of storage space, and Google offers a whopping 2 gigs of e-mail storage space; plenty of room to store tons of e-mail, pictures or even music.

No matter which type of e-mail service you choose to use I’m sure you will find e-mailing an indispensable form of communication. If you have a technology related question, or need help choosing the right Internet provider to serve your needs simply call Thomas, Roger or Scott at the Computer Depot, 947-0749.