POP3 (Post Office Protocol 3)

POP3 (Post Office Protocol 3) is the most recent version of a standard protocol for receiving e-mail. POP3 is a **client/server protocol** in which e-mail is received and held for you by your Internet server. Periodically, you (or your client e-mail receiver) check your mail-box on the server and download any mail, probably using POP3. This standard protocol is built into most popular e-mail products, such as Eudora and Outlook Express. It's also built into the Netscape and Microsoft Internet Explorer browsers.

POP3 is designed to delete mail on the server as soon as the user has downloaded it. However, some implementations allow users or an administrator to specify that mail be saved for some period of time. POP can be thought of as a "store-and-forward" service.

An alternative protocol is Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP). IMAP provides the user more capabilities for retaining e-mail on the server and for organizing it in folders on the server. IMAP can be thought of as a remote file server.

POP and IMAP deal with the receiving of e-mail and are not to be confused with the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), a protocol for transferring e-mail across the Internet. You send e-mail with SMTP and a mail handler receives it on your recipient's behalf. Then the mail is read using POP or IMAP

The Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) is a mail protocol used for accessing email on a remote web server from a local client. IMAP and POP3 are the two most commonly used Internet mail protocols for **retrieving emails**. Both protocols are supported by all modern email clients and web servers.

While the POP3 protocol assumes that your email is being accessed only from one application, IMAP allows simultaneous access by multiple clients. This is why IMAP is more suitable for you if you're going to access your email from different locations or if your messages are managed by multiple users

Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) Protocol**Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) is a standard which was proposed by Bell Communications in 1991 in order to expand limited capabilities of email. MIME is a kind of *add on or a supplementary protocol* which allows non-ASCII data to be sent through SMTP. It allows the users to exchange different kinds of data files on the Internet: audio, video, images, application programs as well.**

Why do we need MIME?

Limitations of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP):

1. SMTP has a very simple structure
2. It's simplicity however comes with a price as it only send messages in NVT 7-bit ASCII format.
3. It cannot be used for languages that do not support 7-bit ASCII format such as- French, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese, etc. so it cannot be transmitted using SMTP. So, in order *to make SMTP more broad we use MIME*.
4. It cannot be used to send binary files or video or audio data.

Purpose and Functionality of MIME –

Growing demand for Email Message as people also want to express in terms of Multimedia. So, MIME another email application is introduced as it is not restricted to textual data.

MIME *transforms non-ASCII data* at sender side to NVT 7-bit data and delivers it to the client SMTP. The message at receiver side is transferred back to the original data. As well as we can send video and audio data using MIME as it transfers them also in 7-bit ASCII data.

Features of MIME –

1. t is able to send multiple attachments with a single message.
2. Unlimited message length.
3. Binary attachments (executables, images, audio, or video files) which may be divided if needed.
4. MIME provided support for varying content types and multi-part messages.

Working of MIME –

Suppose a user wants to send an email through user agent and it is in a non-ASCII format so there is a MIME protocol which converts it into 7-bit NVT ASCII format. Message is transferred through e-mail system to the other side in 7-bit format now MIME protocol again converts it back into non-ASCII code and now the user agent of receiver side reads it and then information is finally read by the receiver. MIME header is basically inserted at the beginning of any e-mail transfer.