# Email and XAMPP

Current versions of XAMPP include an email function called `sendmail`. You need to make some changes to the `php.ini` file to use `sendmail`, and you need to make some changes to the `sendmail.ini` file to make it work correctly. This document explains the process for gmail accounts.

To start the Apache server, you go to the `xampp` folder to run the `xampp-control` application. In that same `xampp` folder, there is an `htdocs` folder, and inside that folder is where you have been putting your PHP script files. Also in the `xampp` folder, alongside the `htdocs` folder, there is a `php` folder and a `sendmail` folder.
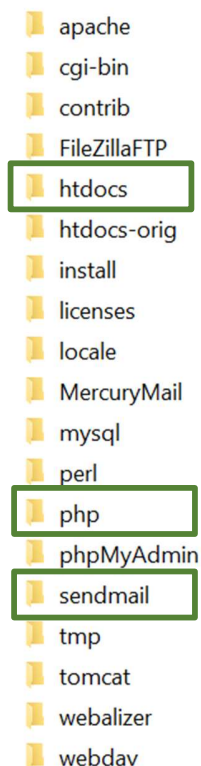
FIRST and VERY IMPORTANT: You need to make a copy of the INI files before you start editing them. Copy the file and paste right in the same location. The new file will have " – Copy" at the end of its name. To keep better track of the original file, change that file name so it ends ins " – orig". You may make mistakes and need to return to the starting point. You may decide to remove the email functionality for subsequent exercises. It is very likely you will need the original files, so make a copy now, and name it as the original file so you can find it and use it in the future.

Changes in the `php.ini` file:
Click into the `php` folder. There are several files named "`php`" – you want to edit the one whose type is "Configuration settings". Be sure to make a copy of this file before you begin editing, and rename that copy so it's clear it is the original.

Open the `php.ini` file in a text editor.

This file is quite large, and most of it is comments. A comment in this type of file begins with a semicolon, "`;`", at the beginning of the line.

Search for "`Dynamic Extensions`". Below some comments, there is a long list of extensions, each line beginning with "`extension=`". At the bottom of that list, add one more extension:
        `extension=php_openssl.dll`

Search for "`[mail function]`". The code in this section pertains to the `sendmail` function.

Find "`SMTP = localhost`", change it to "`SMTP = smtp.gmail.com`".

Find "`smtp_port = 25`", change it to "`smtp_port = 465`".

Below the `smtp_port`, there are comments "For Win32 only" and "For Unix only". Both of those provide information about the path to the sendmail app. Below those lines, add a new line that starts with "`sendmail_path =`". What follows the equal sign is the specific path to the `sendmail` executable file in the `sendmail` folder in your system. For example:
`sendmail_path = C:\Users\HomePC\xampp\sendmail\sendmail.exe`
The yellow part is specific to a particular installation of XAMPP on a particular machine. You need to get the path to your `sendmail` folder. Using File Explorer, go to the `sendmail` folder, then copy the address for that location, and paste it into the `sendmail_path` line. Add "`sendmail.exe`" at the end.

Find "`mail.add_x_header = Off`", change Off to On, like this: "`mail.add_x_header = On`"

Changes in the `sendmail.ini` file:
Click into the `sendmail` folder. There are several files named "`sendmail`" – you want to edit the one whose type is "Configuration settings". Be sure to make a copy of this file before you begin editing, and rename that copy so it's clear it is the original.

Open the `sendmail.ini` file in a text editor.

Find "`smtp_server=mail.mydomain.com`", change it to "`smtp_server=smtp.gmail.com`".

Find "`smtp_port=25`", change it to "`smtp_port=465`" (to match the port in the `php.ini` file).

Find "`smtp_ssl=auto`". If it is a comment, remove the semicolon "`;`" at the beginning of the line. Make sure it is set to "`auto`".

Find "`auth_username=`" and "`auth_password=`". After the equal signs, type in your specific gmail account and its password.

Find "`pop3`"; there are 3 lines that begin with this, `pop3_server`, `pop3_username`, and `pop3_password`. Put a semicolon at the beginning of each line to make them comments.

Find "`force_sender=`". If it is a comment, remove the semicolon "`;`" at the beginning of the line. Add your gmail account after the equal sign. This sends the email to your address.

Find "`force_recipient=`" and "`hostname=`". Add a semicolon "`;`" at the beginning of each line to make them comments.

Save both files.

If you are using Chrome to get to your email account, it will consider any emails sent with this configuration as unsecure and will block them. You need to use "lesser security" in your Chrome web browser. Go to https://myaccount.google.com/u/1/security. Scroll down to "Less secure app access" to turn on that option.

You should be able to run your `email.php` script now and receive an email.

Be sure to turn off that "lesser security" option in Chrome when done.