Webmail

Webmail is an application that is written to be operated over the internet through a browser, usually with no downloaded applications or additional software necessary.

Email Clients

Email clients are programs that are installed on local machines (i.e. your computer, or the computers in your office) to interact with remote email servers to download and send email to whomever you might care to.

POP3

Abbreviation for 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.

POP3 is designed to delete mail on the server as soon as the user has downloaded it.

When an individual downloaded email from the server into their email program, there were no more copies of the email on the server; POP automatically deleted them.

POP3 makes it easy for anyone to check their email from any computer in the world, provided they have configured their email program properly to work with the protocol.

IMAP

As its name implies, IMAP allows you to access your email messages wherever you are; much of the time, it is accessed via the Internet. Basically, email messages are stored on servers. Whenever you check your inbox, your email client contacts the server to connect you with your messages. When you read an email message using IMAP, you aren't actually downloading or storing it on your computer; instead, you are reading it off of the server. As a result, it's possible to check your email from several different devices without missing a thing.

Intermediary between your email client and your email server.

Diffn between IMAP & POP3

POP works by contacting your email server and downloading all of your new messages from it. Once they are downloaded, they disappear from the server. If you decide to check your email from a different device, the messages that have been downloaded previously will not be available to you. POP works fine for those who generally only check their email messages from a single device; those who travel or need to access their email from various devices are much better off with IMAP-based email service.

* IMAP does not move messages from the server to your computer; instead, it synchronizes the email that's on your computer with the email that's on the server.

Main Advantages of IMAP

* There are several advantages to using IMAP. First, it allows you to access your email messages from anywhere, via as many different devices as you want. Second, it only downloads a message when you click on it. As a result, you do not have to wait for all of your new messages to download from the server before you can read them. Third, attachments are not automatically downloaded with IMAP. As a result, you're able to check your messages a lot more quickly and have greater control over which attachments are opened. Finally, IMAP can be used offline just like POP - you can basically enjoy the benefits of both protocols in one.

Protocols

* Almost all of your online activity is made possible through the help of protocols—the special networking-software rules and guidelines that allow your computer to link up to networks everywhere so you can shop, read news, send email and more.

MTA

* When you finish up an email and hit "Send," something called the "mail transfer agent" (MTA) picks up your message and starts it on its way. Eventually it ends up at the recipient's own MTA.