For sending and receiving messages, we use two protocols one is [SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/simple-mail-transfer-protocol-smtp/) and another is [POP3 (Post Office Protocol version 3)](https://practice.geeksforgeeks.org/problems/what-is-pop).They are also called as PUSH and POP protocols respectively. They are agents, Message Transfer Agent and Message Access Agent respectively to send and retrieve the messages.

**Difference between SMTP and POP3:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **S.NO** | **SMTP** | **POP3** |
| 1. | SMTP stands for Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. | POP3 stands for Post Office Protocol version 3. |
| 2. | It is used for sending messages. | It is used for accessing messages. |
| 3. | The port number of SMTP is 25. | The port number of POP3 is 110. |
| 4. | It is an MTA (Message Transfer Agent) for sending the message to the receiver. | It is MAA (Message Access Agent) for accessing the messages from mail box. |
| 5. | It has two MTAs one is client MTA (Message Transfer Agent) and second one is server MTA (Message Transfer Agent). | It has also two MAAs one is client MAA (Message Access Agent) and another is server MAA (Message Access Agent). |
| 6. | SMTP is also known as PUSH protocol. | POP3 is also known as POP protocol. |