images inside gmail email not being displayed

Asked 8 years, 2 months ago Modified 7 years, 2 months ago Viewed 7k times

Ask Question

4

I know gmail and hotmail have introduced their own image proxies. I have sent email with simple img tag with src

```
src="http://www.zong360office.com/assets/images/logo/product-logo.png"
```

and gmail converts it like this

```
src="https://ci3.googleusercontent.com/proxy/PCxvUIqBvaJWn_7H8de1QhdJD1QkV_pU5n1JhrPh
```

Original URL is the direct URL to the image. In the attached image, you can see the request and response headers for this image.

Problem: Please let me know what steps should I take to make this image visible inside gmail.

PS: I am facing the same issue with hotmail as well.

caching proxy gmail

Share Improve this question Follow

asked Mar 10, 2015 at 13:36
Malik Ahmed Khan Awan
1,890 ● 2 ■ 15 ● 15

The Overflow Blog
Keep 'em separated: Get better maintainability in web projects using the...
Building zero tier systems on bare metal (Ep. 572)
Featured on Meta
We are updating our Code of Conduct and we would like your feedback
AI/ML Tool examples part 3 - Title-Drafting Assistant
Temporary policy: ChatGPT is banned
The {connect} tag is being burninated
Stack Overflow will be testing a title-drafting assistant, and we'd like your...
We are graduating the "Related questions using Machine Learning" experiment

Linked

Join Stack Overflow to find the best answer to your technical question, help others answer theirs. Sign up with email Sign up with Google Sign up with GitHub Sign up with Facebook

worked for me. – Awais Qarni Mar 11, 2015 at 13:46

@AwaisQarni This is not an email attachment. I sent an HTML email with img tag in email body. so the problem is that image is not being displayed in the email body in gmail. instead it displays blank image place-holder. – Malik Ahmed Khan Awan Mar 11, 2015 at 16:01

Add a comment

Related

956 Sending email in .NET through Gmail
3 Gmail not showing inline images
59 Image links broken in Gmail because of google's Image proxy
48 SVG images blocked by gmail proxy
14 Images not displayed for Gmail
40 Gmail blocking small embedded inline images in email template
3 Image not showing in Gmail - Using django python-postmark
0 Image sent via symfony app fosuserbundle registration to Gmail is not showing
2 email templates images on gcloud storage are not visible from gmail

3 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

6

I think I have figured out the GoogleImageProxy issue.

I have answered this in another question as well (images inside gmail email not being displayed).

This is something related to CACHING concept. suppose, you have recently deployed your php code on your server but you forgot to upload images. you tested once with your email logic. your system generated an HTML email. When this email will hit the gmail server GoogleImageProxy will try to fetch and store the images from your site to its own proxy server. while fetching the images, GoogleImageProxy found some 404 statuses against your missing images and 403 against some protected images. GoogleImagesProxy has stored these statuses into its own proxy server.

Now tried to open your email, you noticed some 404 statuses against your images. This is something understandable. You immediately realized that you forgot to upload some images, so you uploaded them to your server. and also you have fixed some permissions against protected images.

You are all done now. Now you try to run your php-email script once again. As a result you receive another email in your Gmail or Hotmail inbox. you had fixed all the issues with your images. Now the images must be displayed in your email content. but you are still unable to see the images.

Ah, possibly you forgot to clear your browser's cache. Clear your browser's cache and load the gmail or hotmail page once again. But the result will be still the same. Try to apply dozens of fixes/patches and try to run your php-email script a thousands time. But the result will be still the same. No improvement.

THE REAL PROBLEM

What the hell is going on? Let me explain it to you. Go to your access log and try to find requests from GoogleImageProxy. You'll be surprised to see that there will be only 2 or 3 three requests from GoogleImageProxy depending on the number of different images used in your email. GoogleImageProxy never tried to fetch images Even after you have fixed the issues with your images by uploading missing images and setting permissions for protected images. Why? Clearing your browser's cache has no impact. GoogleImageProxy will never fetch the fresh images even for your newer email because the images are now cached into GoogleImageProxy along with their last status code and not cached in your own browser's.

GoogleImageProxy has set its own expiry date for the images. I think one month. so now the fresh copy of images will be fetch after expiry date. I mean after one month. You can not force GoogleImageProxy to fetch the images. But its important for you to display images in your email. What can be the solution?

THE SOLUTION

Folllowing is the only way to force GoogleImageProxy to fetch your images

- Rename your images to something else with png, jpg or gif extensions only.
- Don't use any kind of query string in your image url like "?t=34343"
- your image must include png, jpg or gif as an extension.
- your image url must be mapped onto your image directly.
- If you need to use some proxy url for your protected images then your
- response must include the proper header like "content-type:image/jpeg"
- File extension and content-type header must match
- Status-code must be 200 instead of 403, 500 etc

IMPORTANT NOTE

Try to repeat the whole process for every run of php-email script. because every time GoogleImageProxy will cache your images and you'll have to repeat the same process for every new try.

Hopefully this will fix the issue for most of the people. In my case this has fixed the issue.

Share Improve this answer Follow

edited May 23, 2017 at 12:22
Community Bot
1 ● 1

answered Mar 21, 2015 at 17:24
Malik Ahmed Khan Awan
1,890 ● 2 ■ 15 ● 15

Add a comment

Hot Network Questions

Sci-fi novel about a team in Antarctica that discovers a massive structure made of Bucky ball
What is an immutable object anyway
What holds back this city of images from declaring its independence?
Old sci-fi book about a tribe of miniature people who discover that they live on a spaceship circling the Earth
Creating raster based on function of distance to points and assorted attributes in QGIS
Display DOI in DeclareCiteCommand
Convert comparison function into range
Which Windows apps use the "DNS client" service?
Is it possible to have an Aura that's also a land?
These lego's are mostly brown tones with some green. what set are they for?
how I deal with lack of exercise in pure math books?
Assuming perfect liquidity
Non-causality of fractional delays
cryptsetup: verification in luksOpen is non-deterministic when reading the password from a file
A determinantal inequality
How many Ukrainian language schools were still open in Crimea in 2021 compared to 2013?
How powerful must this e approximation be?
Were there concrete plans, 40-41, for Japan to attack Singapore/Indonesia, while avoiding a fight with the US?
Which wavelength is most likely to be emitted over the lifetime of a black hole by hawking radiation and which is most likely at any given time?
What's the purpose of PayPal?
Is the grammatical tense for Isaiah 9:6 irrelevant when it comes to debating whether Or Not Isaiah 9:6 refers to Jesus Christ, The Messiah?
Is an earth surface that is laid cement or tiles called "the ground"?
How does automount work in modern Linux distributions like Ubuntu?
What controls battery discharge? Can you use a transistor to lower the amount of battery capacity used?

Question feed

0

hese are embedded images. You send an image as an attachment and then use it in your img element like: . Gmail transforms the "cid" link to its internal file storage link and that's why it gives element.

This is one of two common ways to have images within email.

The other way is to keep images in your hosting and send img elements with external links: http://yourdomain.com/yourimage.png I strongly recommend to use the second approach especially if you expect to have a lot of images in your email. I had problems with attached images display on Gmail which I couldn't solve.

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Mar 11, 2015 at 16:01
Bilal Rabi
149 ● 3 ■ 13

1 Bilal, I have not embedded the image in my html email. This was just a simple html email with an img tag in its body pointing to an image on my domain. like < img src="url-path-to-image-on-my-domain" /> but gmail converts it to < img src="url-path-to-image-on-gmail-proxy" /> . – Malik Ahmed Khan Awan Mar 11, 2015 at 16:08

Add a comment

0

Make sure your **from** address is a real valid email and not in the form `realname+something@example.com`.

I'm using Amazon SES to send emails, and inlining some but not all images as attachments. For me it was the non-attachments that were breaking.

Eventually I realized I was using a 'fake' email for the from field.

My real email is

```
simon@example.com
```

To make it easy to filter emails in gmail I used the `+` syntax to create a 'fake' email for testing purposes.

```
simon+test@example.com
```

This works great, except it seems to be changing the behavior of the spam/image filter. My image tags ended up completely stripped of the `src` attribute.

As soon as I switched back to using the actual email then all the images showed up.

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Mar 8, 2016 at 20:47
Simon_Weaver
138k ● 81 ■ 636 ● 680

The above said issue was related to GoogleImageProxy's caching. I really don't think if using the fake email address can cause the broken images issue. rather it can send the mail to spam directory instead of breaking the images. – Malik Ahmed Khan Awan Mar 9, 2016 at 20:23

I was actually planning on deleting this answer. it turns out I had clicked the 'display images from this sender' button which is why the images were showing up. I will make a new answer or add a comment about that – Simon_Weaver Mar 9, 2016 at 20:25

Add a comment

Your Answer

Sign up or log in
Sign up using Google
Sign up using Facebook
Sign up using Email and Password
Post as a guest
Name
Email
Required, but never shown
Post Your Answer By clicking "Post Your Answer", you agree to our terms of service, privacy policy and cookie policy
Not the answer you're looking for? Browse other questions tagged caching proxy gmail or ask your own question.

Site design / logo © 2023 Stack Exchange Inc; user contributions licensed under CC BY-SA, rev 2023.5.19.43444