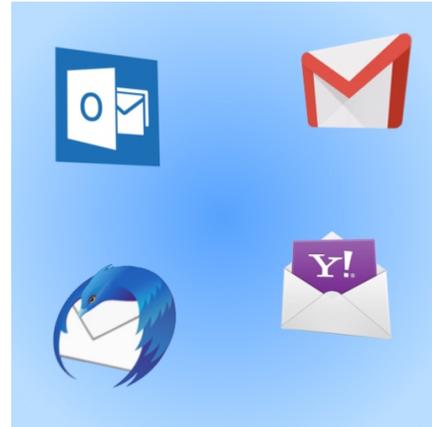


Although email is a vital means of communication, not all email products are equivalent. Email providers, clients, and protocols are aspects you should consider when choosing a specific email solution.



## Email Providers

From a security perspective, you want to use a higher tier email provider as a first line of defense against spam, viruses, and problems like ransomware. Some providers like Rackspace scan your email for viruses before you receive it.

Most hosted email is moving to Microsoft Office 365. This trend is forming because Microsoft is bundling their traditional office applications, like Word and Excel, with email as part of their monthly subscription service.

Vendors	Price (Monthly)	Mailbox Size	Your Domain Name	Shared Calendars	Great Telephone Support	Office 365 Applications		
						Mobile	PC	Web
Microsoft Premium	\$15	50 GB	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑
Rackspace Premium	\$15	50 GB	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
GoDaddy Business Premium	\$15	50 GB	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Microsoft Essentials	\$6	50 GB	☑	☑		☑		☑
Rackspace Essentials	\$8	50 GB	☑	☑	☑			☑
Rackspace Exchange	\$8	100 GB	☑	☑	☑			
Rackspace Email	\$2	25 GB	☑		☑			
Google Suite Basic	\$5	30 GB	☑	☑				*Google Apps

\*Prices and services as of December 2018

## Email Clients

Email clients are applications you use to interact with your email. Some examples of email clients include webmail, Microsoft Outlook, Apple Mail, or Mozilla Thunderbird.

### Webmail

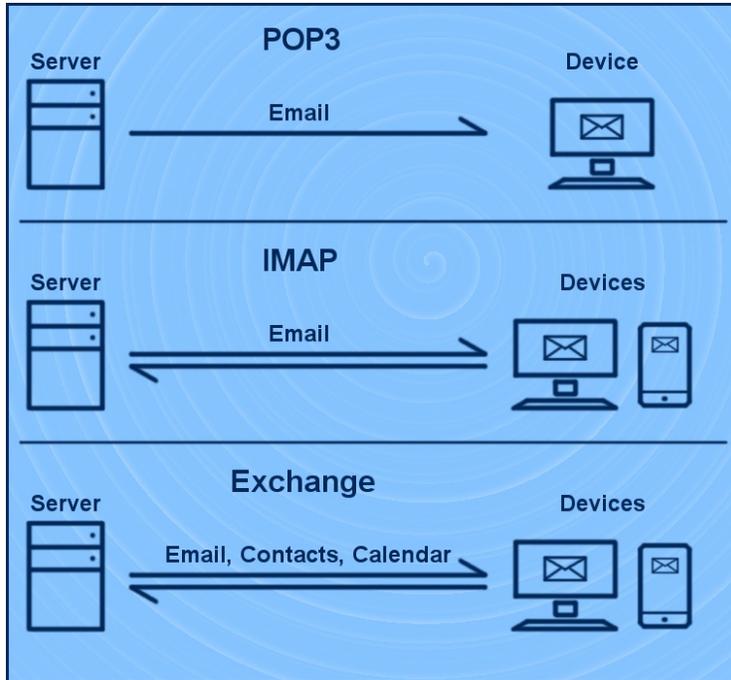
Webmail clients allow you to browse your email through an internet browser, such as Internet Explorer or Google Chrome. An internet connection is required to use webmail, since webmail does not store your email on your local device.

Webmail is an inexpensive choice and is sufficient for most people unless you need to maintain a large volume of email. Additionally, some people do not like using the web browser interface, and therefore prefer to use non-webmail clients.

## Email Protocols

Email protocols govern how your email account downloads, stores, syncs, and sends its email. Your email can function differently depending on the protocol you are using. The three major email protocols are IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol), POP3 (Post Office Protocol), and Exchange.

### IMAP vs POP3



#### POP3

Allows you to store a large volume of email on a single device.

#### IMAP

Syncs email across multiple devices.

#### Exchange

Syncs email, calendars, and contacts across all devices.

### When should you use IMAP/POP3/Exchange?

You should use Exchange or IMAP when possible so that all of your email is stored in the cloud and can be accessed on multiple devices. One of the most useful features of Exchange and IMAP is synced email, meaning you can delete an email on your phone and it will be removed on your computer. If you need to have shared calendars or contacts, use Microsoft exchange or a free program from Google called G Suite.

For more information on internet protocols, [check out this article by How-To Geek](#).

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