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What is Gmail?

As part of Google's mission to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful, we're testing an email service called Gmail.

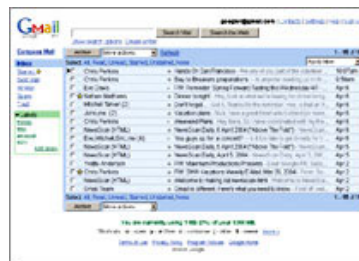
Gmail is a free, search-based webmail service that includes more than 2,500 megabytes (2.5 gigabytes) of storage. The backbone of Gmail is a powerful Google search engine that quickly finds any message an account owner has ever sent or received. That means there's no need to file messages in order to find them again.

When Gmail displays an email, it automatically shows all the replies to that email as well, so users can view a message in the context of a conversation. There are no pop-ups or untargeted banner ads in Gmail, which places relevant text ads and links to related web pages adjacent to email messages.

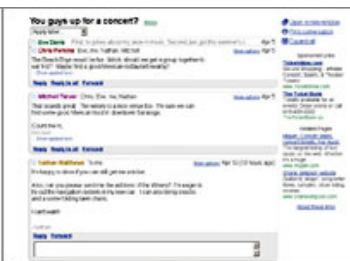
Quick Facts

- Cost: Free
- Storage: 2,500+ megabytes (and counting)
- Superior spam protection using innovative Google technology
- Languages: Messages can be sent and read in most languages. The Gmail interface is available in **38 languages**: US and UK English, simplified and traditional Chinese, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.
- Access: Free automatic forwarding and POP3 access
- JavaScript and cookies must be enabled on all browsers
- Fully supported browsers:
 - Microsoft IE 5.5+ (download: [Windows](#))
 - Netscape 7.1+ (download: [Windows Mac Linux](#))
 - Mozilla 1.4+ (download: [Windows Mac Linux](#))
 - Mozilla Firefox 0.8+ (download: [Windows Mac Linux](#))
 - Safari 1.2.1+ (download: [Mac](#))
- Many other browsers work with Gmail's basic HTML view, including:
 - Microsoft IE 4.0+
 - Netscape 4.07+
 - Opera 6.03+

Screenshots



[Inbox Features](#)



[Conversation View](#)



[Advanced Search](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What makes Gmail different?

Gmail uses Google search technology to automatically organize and find messages. And because Gmail includes more than 2,500 megabytes of storage, a typical user won't ever have to worry about deleting mail. Everything just gets archived so it can be found again if needed.

There are other differences in the way Gmail provides access to your email. For example, Gmail automatically groups an email and the replies to it as a conversation. That means you always see a message in its proper context. And there are no pop-ups or banner ads in Gmail, just relevant text ads and links to related pages. Gmail's other distinctive features include a labeling system, a spam reporter and a system for filtering your mail as it comes into your inbox. [Learn more.](#)

2. How do I sign up?

You can get a Gmail account if you're invited by someone who already has one. Or, you can [sign up for an account](#) using your mobile phone. Currently, we're only able to offer this promotion in the United States, but we are working hard to make it available in more countries.

3. What about spam?

We are committed to keeping unwanted messages out of your inbox. Gmail includes a sophisticated spam filter that we're continuing to improve. The Report Spam button in Gmail is a way for users to help with this effort. It removes spam from the inbox and sends valuable data to the Gmail team working on spam blocking.

4. What does Gmail do to prevent viruses?

We take the security of our users very seriously. Most computer viruses are contained in executable files, but while standard virus detectors scan messages for executable files that appear to be viruses, Gmail takes this one step further by not allowing executable files to be sent or received.

5. Are there ads in Gmail?

Yes, but they are small and unobtrusive. They don't fill half your screen and we don't make you read them just to get to your inbox. Ads are never inserted into the body text of either incoming or outgoing Gmail messages and you won't see any pop-ups or untargated banner ads in Gmail.

Gmail users only see relevant text ads, similar to those on Google search results pages. The matching of ads to content is a completely automated process performed by computers. No humans read your email to target the ads, and no email content or other personally identifiable information is ever provided to advertisers.

Ads are matched using the same technology that powers the Google AdSense program, which already places targeted ads on thousands of sites across the web by quickly analyzing the content of pages and determining which ads are most relevant to them. Here's a [sneak peek](#) of how ads look in Gmail.

6. What about privacy?

Google respects our users' privacy. For details, please see the [Gmail Privacy Policy](#). Google also take several steps to guard the confidentiality of users' information by offering a number of industry-leading protections. To learn more, please visit our section on [Gmail and privacy](#).

7. Why is Google offering email? I thought you were a search company.

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally useful and accessible. For many people, email contains valuable information that can be difficult to retrieve. We believe we can help with that.

Gmail uses Google search technology to find messages so users don't have to create folders and file their individual emails. Many of Gmail's other features also incorporate search technology to improve their effectiveness. Used this way, search enhances the efficiency of email, so we believe it's a natural area for Google to offer a service.

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Archive Archived conversations are searchable and easily accessible in 'All Mail'

Labels Identify conversations with one or more labels instead of filing them in folders

Search Mail/Search Web Quickly access the information in your email and on the web

Create a filter Set filters for messages to bypass the inbox or be automatically labeled or trashed

Contacts Access your email contacts

Settings Change settings, such as your reply-to address

Help Access help information or the Gmail support team

The screenshot shows the Gmail web interface for a user named 'googler@gmail.com'. The interface includes a top navigation bar with links for Feedback, Contacts, Settings, Help, and Sign out. Below this is a search bar with 'Search Mail' and 'Search the Web' buttons. The left sidebar contains links for Compose Mail, Inbox, Starred, Sent Mail, All Mail, Spam, and Trash. A 'Labels' section is expanded, showing 'friends', 'misc', 'personal', and 'work' labels. The main content area displays a list of emails with columns for selection, sender, subject, and time. The bottom of the interface shows storage usage ('You are currently using 0 MB (0%) of your 1000 MB.') and shortcuts for opening, archiving, composing, and navigating between older/newer messages. The footer contains links for Terms of Use, Privacy Policy, Program Policies, and Google Home, along with a copyright notice for 2004 Google.

Spam Email that has been marked as spam

All Mail The holding place for all the messages you've sent or received, but not deleted

Stars Identify important messages by starring them

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The screenshot shows the Gmail web interface. At the top, there's a header with the Gmail logo, user email (googler@gmail.com), and navigation links (Feedback, Contacts, Settings, Help, Sign out). Below the header is a search bar and a 'Show search options' link. The left sidebar contains 'Compose Mail', 'Inbox (6)', 'Starred', 'Sent Mail', 'All Mail', 'Spam', 'Trash', and 'Labels' (friends, misc, personal, work). The main area displays an email conversation titled 'Summer concerts, including Britney Spears!'. The conversation includes messages from Eve Davis, Chris Perkins, Mitchell Tarver, and Nathan Matthews. The right sidebar features 'Sponsored Links' (TicketsNow.com, The Ticket Bank) and 'Related Pages' (Mojam, Shane Simpson website). At the bottom, there's a status bar showing storage usage (0 MB of 1000 MB) and shortcuts.

Sponsored Links Contextual ads you may see alongside your Gmail messages

Related Pages Relevant sites from Google's extensive web index