



# CHANGING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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by Jeff Bohr

**H**ow long since you upgraded your computer? How long do you usually keep your car before trading it in? Have you had the same email address for over 25 years?

## MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

I am often asked about how to change an email address. Sometimes a client has been 'hacked,' and their email and password have been compromised more than a few times. Often, the amount of junk mail, or 'Spam,' becomes a relentless barrage that cannot be held back. There are several solutions to these dilemmas, including creating a stronger password, unsubscribing (this only works when it is a legitimate site!) and using junk mail filters.

It is often easier to start fresh with a new email address, and I will describe that process in this article. It will be an easy process if you plan in advance and follow the steps reviewed here.

First, it is a good idea to keep your current email active if creating a new one for usage. This will allow you to monitor the old account and check for any messages from senders not aware that your email has changed. It's easier to ignore that inbox than delete it!

Next, you need to decide on a new email provider, or you can reserve your own domain for email. There are several free services: Gmail (yourname@gmail.com), Apple's iCloud (yourname@icloud.com) and Yahoo! (yourname@yahoo.com) are some of the largest. Another option is to get your own domain (www.yourname.com) and then you have a personal email address (you@yourname.com) that is unique and memorable. This can be done for around \$30 per year. After you create the new account, you will need to send out an electronic 'Change of Address' notice. This can be simple and to the point, it will go only to those friends, family, and associates that



you correspond with regularly, we will address other accounts shortly. You have probably received several such emails from your friends, this time it is you who will be sending it.

## Here is a simple template:

SUBJECT: MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS  
Effective immediately, my new email address will be example@example.com.  
Thanks!  
Jeff

This is short, simple and to the point. Your friends and family know how to update this in their address book, these days, we all do it all the time.

- Important: Send this email only from your new email address, and make sure to put all the recipients into the BCC field to avoid sending your entire address book to everyone.

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will likely only allow you to send 30-40 emails at a time, an anti-spam measure. You now have a fresh, clean email account that is only known by those with whom you shared it.

## UPDATING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNTS

Rather than trying to sit down and remember all the places your email address is stored online, update websites as you go. This applies to banks,



credit cards, airlines, and other online retailers. Fill out the change of email page on sites you are registered with as you return to them, this will make the task less daunting. Keep a list of those you have completed for reference. Also remember that your username is often your email address, and this may not need to be changed everywhere it is used. You often have a separate user name and contact email, you may keep your old username but make sure to change your contact email in your account settings for each website. For example, if you have an iTunes account, it can be difficult to change the original email you signed up with due to music copyright laws. In that case, keep the original email you used for future iTunes purchases, but change your contact email so that you can still receive receipts.

There are services like Google and Facebook that offer to sign in with your Google or Facebook account to access a site. Remember that these companies are advertising companies and you may be giving up some privacy to use this feature. Apple has

a new Sign in with Apple feature that ensures privacy and even allows you to hide your real email from the site you are signing up with! Read more about Sign in with Apple here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9yrcgm9>

One reason to keep your older email active is that you can use that when you need to fill out a form that requires an email address, this will help you keep the junk separate from valid emails. You could also create a second new email address, often called an alias, which you could use only for forms and online shopping, to help filter any resulting junk mail. Also remember that it is often not a good idea to delete an email account entirely, as you may need to check it for messages from those you correspond with less frequently. There will come a time that you only need to check that old email account once a month or less!

Changing your email does not have to be a difficult process, and by following these steps it should be an easy task. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

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