

How E-mail Works

When you subscribe to an Internet Provider, you get an E-mail account.

An E-mail account is like a chunk of space on your provider's computer used to store incoming and outgoing messages temporarily.

The provider uses a special program called the mail server to send and receive your E-mail messages.



When you send a message, your mail server forwards a copy of it to the recipients mail server. The original message however remains on your computer. By the same token, your mail server receives messages that have been sent to you, but once you receive those messages from your mail server, they generally live on your computer, and not your server's. So in effect, your mail server is a go-between.

Once you have an E-mail account, all you need is your own software to work with E-mail messages.

The way Electronic mail works on the [Internet](#) is similar to the way the Postal System works.

The address is the most important part of both standard letters and Email messages. If the address is incorrect, the intended recipient will never see the message. For Example, qirish@vispl.com

- Issuing a send command at your computer is similar to placing your letter in a mailbox. Once you've sent your message on its way, you cannot retract it.
- The Postal Service collects mail and takes it to the local post office for processing and routing. When you send Electronic mail, your local post office reads the E-mail address and either delivers the message to another local mail account or sends it to the Internet.
- Your E-mail message passes through several computers, known as [Routers](#), on its way to the recipient. Postal Mail goes from the local Post Office to the recipient's mailbox.
- The E-mail recipient's local post office system receives the message. Both postal letters and E-mail messages remain in the mailbox until the recipient checks for new mail.
- A major difference between Electronic and Postal mail is that Email is significantly faster. Depending on how often the mail systems handling the messages check for new mail and how much Internet traffic there is, your Email message can arrive in as short a time as thirty seconds- or it might take as long as a day. **But it certainly takes less time than postal mail.**