

Review of Four Alternate Email Clients For Windows Operating Systems

The four programs to be reviewed are:

- **Thunderbird** – A free, high feature, cross platform program that allows multiple identities.
- **Pegasus** – An older full featured free mail client.
- **OE Classic** – A simple replacement for Outlook Express. Free version only for a single identity.
- **Mail Bird** – A newer program with many features and advertising on the free version.

First some terminology so there will be a better understanding of some of the terms:

- **Web Mail:** An email service that is normally accessed with a web browser. For example; Hotmail/MSN/Outlook mail, Yahoo mail or gmail.
- **Web Browser:** A program on your PC used to access the internet for browsing and email. For example; Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge [UG !]
- **Post Office Protocol [POP] Mail:** An older email protocol still used with an email client to retrieve mail from the server and put it on the users PC. Often this protocol removes the emails from the server if the settings are not modified.
- **Email Client:** A program installed on a users PC to retrieve emails from an email server.
- **Internet Message Access Protocol [IMAP] mail:** An email protocol used by email clients to retrieve email messages from the server to the users PC and normally leaving all of the messages on the server for ever.
- **Simple Mail Transfer Protocol [SMTP]:** Email client programs typically use SMTP only for sending messages to a mail server.
- **User Name:** Normally the first part of your email address before the “@” sign. Example; <username>@<server.com>. Some servers require the complete email address for the log in process.
- **Password:** A multi digit alpha-numeric code that must be used to sign into your mail account. Failure to remember [or write down] will send you to” Email Password Hell” after multiple failed log-ins.
- **Email Identity:** Each email user name and password is considered to be a separate “identity” or email Account. Many email clients only allow one identity
- **Your Name:** Just your name as it will be shown to others who view your email, if their server has this service.

Next some items that you must know in advance before installing an email client.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1. Identity: | | Example: cox.net |
| Your Name: | _____ | John Smith |
| User Name: | _____ | <User Name> only |
| Your Email: | _____ | <User Name>@cox.net |
| Password: | _____ | ●●●●●●●● |
| 2. Incoming Server: | | |
| Incoming POP3 Server | _____ | pop.cox.net |
| Incoming Server Port: | _____ | 995 |
| Incoming Server Security | _____ | SSL/TLS |
| Or | | |
| Incoming IMAP Server: | _____ | imap.cox.net |
| Incoming Server Port: | _____ | 993 |
| Incoming Server Security: | _____ | TLS |
| 3. Outgoing Server: | | |
| Outgoing SMTP Server: | _____ | smtp.cox.net |
| Outgoing Server Port: | _____ | 587 |
| Outgoing Server Security: | _____ | TLS |

NOTES:

1. Thunderbird, OE Classic and Mailbird are the only clients that can attempt to automatically configure the incoming and outgoing servers. Many servers still require manual entry of the server information.
2. Internet Service Providers [ISP] websites, like COX, Centruylink, etc. normally have a web page with the incoming and outgoing email server information. This information is also available in the help sections of the webmail providers as well. Using a GOOGLE search will usually bring up this information too.
3. Gmail and Yahoo [and likely some other web mail services] have adopted extra security measures that inhibit the direct installation of remote email client downloads/uploads [retrieve mail/send mail]. Please refer to your web mail provider's instructions as to the configuration of the internal settings required for remote client operation. Often referred to as "less secure settings" for email clients.
4. Many Windows 10 systems that were "Upgraded" without a clean install have been known to experience various problems with many or all email clients.
5. If you choose to use POP instead of IMAP, you must remember to review the Server Settings for the account, **before downloading emails**, to be sure the mail will be left on the server for at least a minimum number of days. If you do not check everything may be erased from the mail server !

Thunderbird

Advantages:

- Multitude of features and configurations
- Automatic server configuration for most services/providers.
- Multiple Identities
- MozBackup program to backup and transfer settings [may not work on Windows 10].
- Easy to configure tool bars and menus.
- Online help and pdf manual.
- Integrated address book with import and export options.

Disadvantages:

- Multitude of features and configurations – probably more than you will ever use.
- Starts out in TAB mode which is confusing to some but easy to change. [see below].
- Requires some tweaks and setting changes for most users [see below].
- Windows 10 systems that have been upgraded [instead of new or clean install] may have problems.

Thunderbird Home page

<https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird/>

Direct download of installer version 52

<https://download-installer.cdn.mozilla.net/pub/thunderbird/releases/52.0/win32/en-US/Thunderbird%20Setup%2052.0.exe>

Also there is a Floss manual in pdf format for Thunderbird - now somewhat out of date [published 2014].

Link:

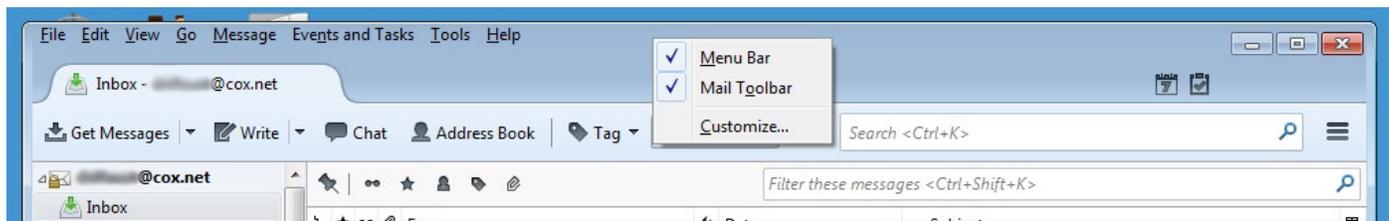
<http://archive.flossmanuals.net/booki/thunderbird/thunderbird.pdf>

Floss Manual on line:

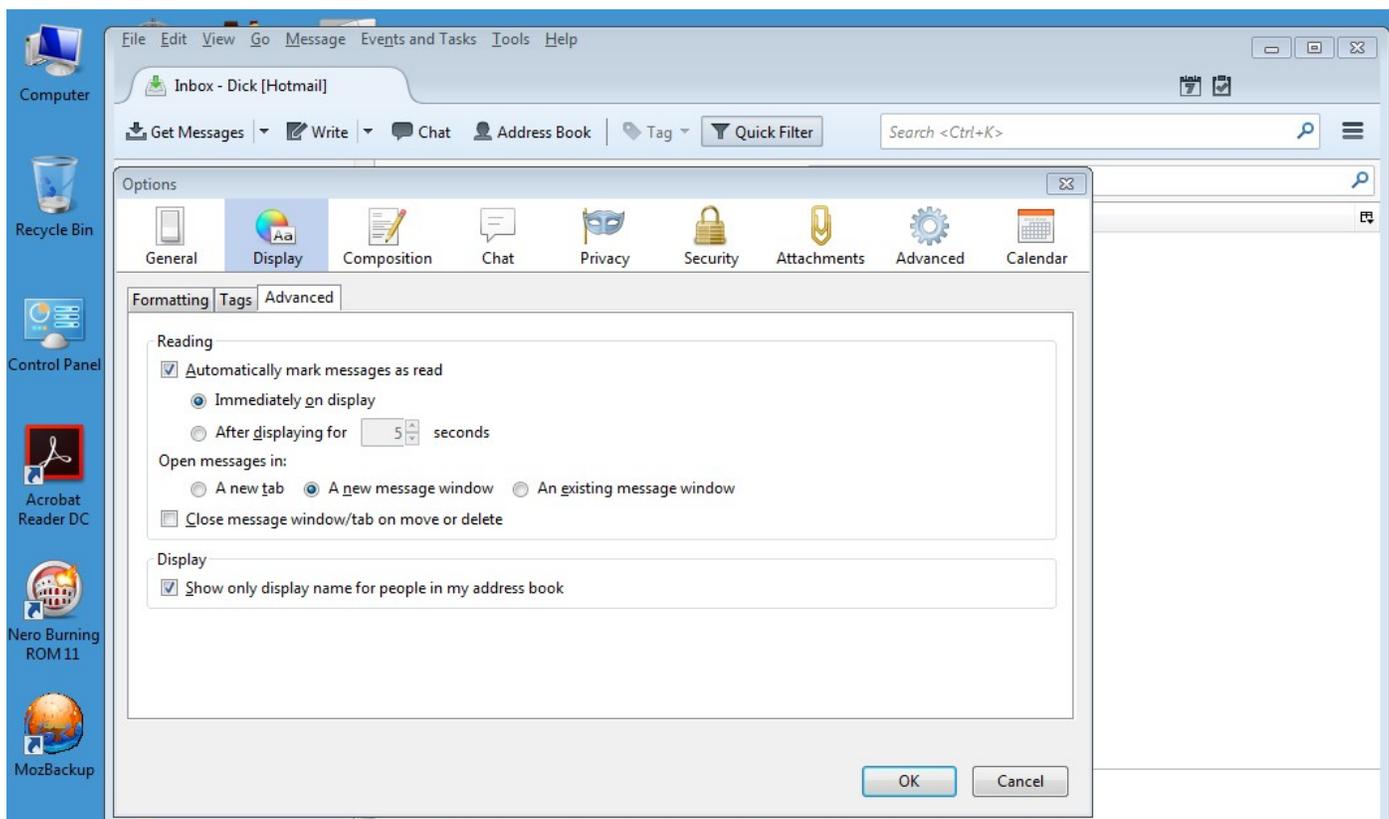
<http://write.flossmanuals.net/thunderbird/about-thunderbird/>

Tweaks and settings most will want to do for easier operation.

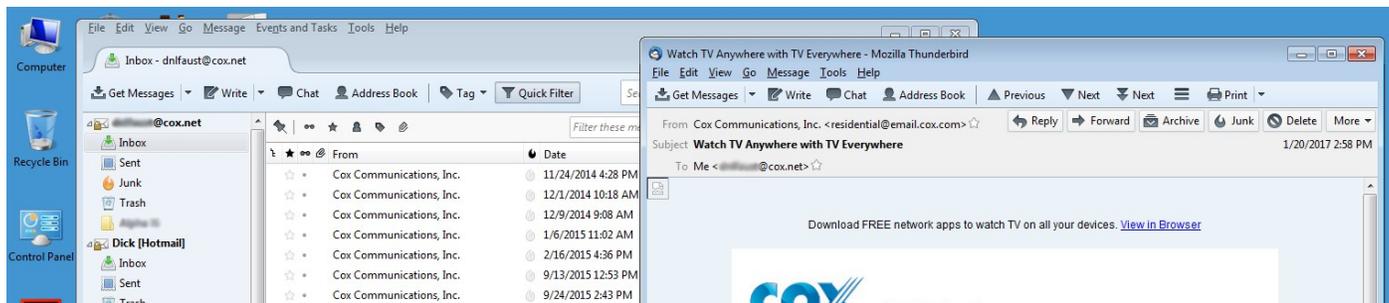
After finishing the install turn on the Menu Bar by right clicking in the area immediately to the right of the Inbox tab. Make sure the Menu Bar is checked and the screen will look like the picture below.



Next from the Tools drop down menu select Options and then select the Display tab and then the Advanced tab, to get to the screen as shown below.



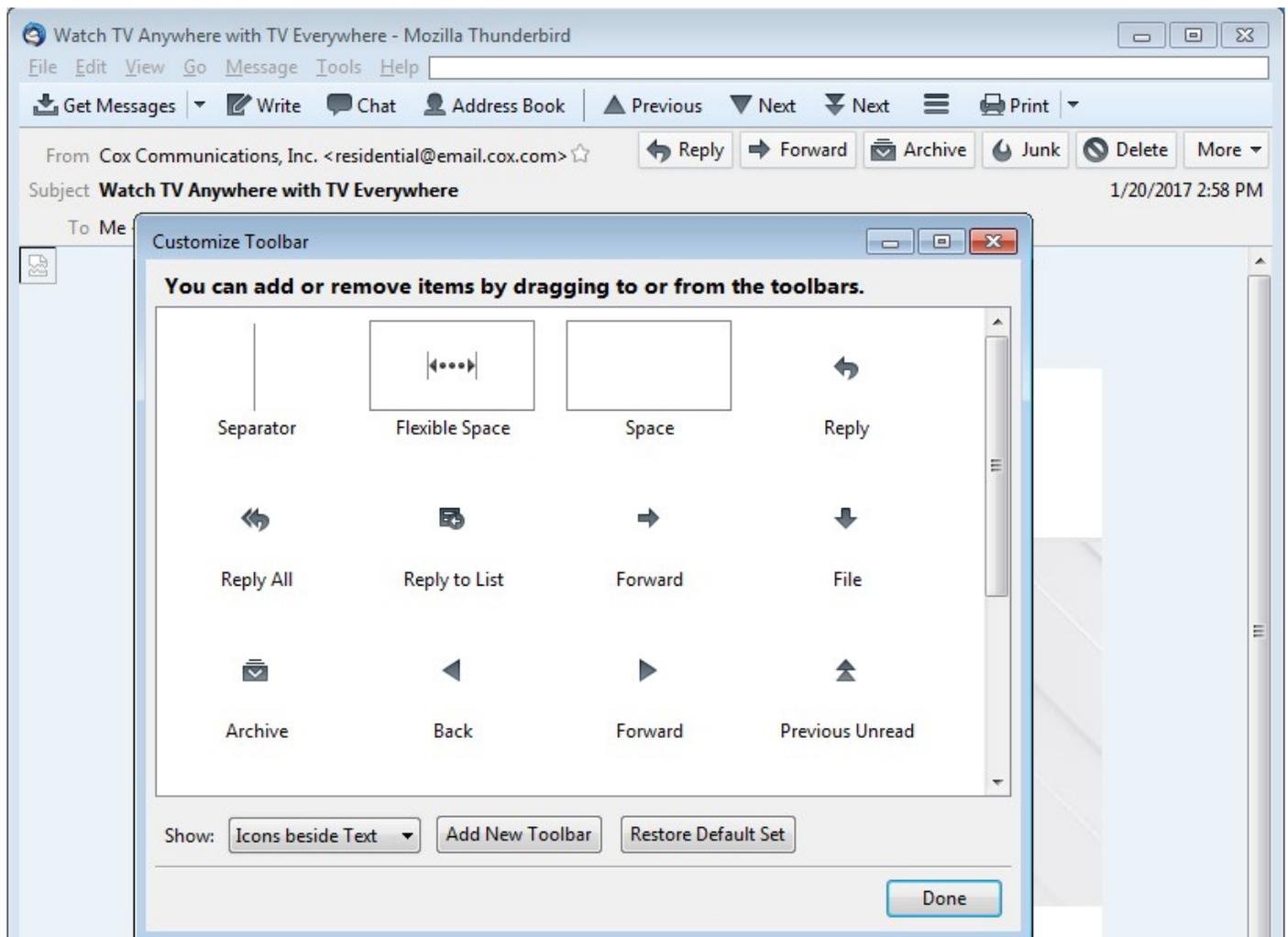
In the screen above make sure you change the "Open messages in:" to have the "A new message window" with the blue dot. This will cause the email message to open in a new window, when you double click on the message instead of a new tab next to the Inbox as shown below. The message will also appear in the bottom frame of the Thunderbird main window.



Next you should review the Server Settings for [each] Identity.
Go to the Tools drop down menu and select "Account Settings" to open the settings screen.
This will open the screen for the Account.
On the left side panel, click on the "Server Settings" and review the information on that screen.
Be sure you have the checkmarks and/or values set for the operations that you want to keep.
If you are using POP instead of IMAP, you should review the Server Settings for the account, before downloading emails to be sure the mail will be left on the server for at least a minimum number of days..

Most people, as an example, do not want the email checked every 10 Minutes.

Finally you can customize the toolbars very easily to add items that will make operations easier and less complicated. By clicking on the "View" drop down menu and selecting "Toolbars" and then "Customizing" you should see a screen similar to the one below, for the read screen window. If you are in the main window, the "Customize Toolbar".window is the same.



In the screen above I have dragged several new items to the toolbar above. First is a separator bar, followed by Pervious, Next and Next Unread message selectors. At the end is a Print icon so you can print the email from this screen. Several more options are available, but I find these to be the most useful for my purposes.

Pegasus

Advantages:

- Mature program with many features
- Built in help
- Helpful wizard for setup
- Similar to [not the same as] Outlook Express.
- Easy to adapt to if experienced with outlook Express
- Multiple Identities
- Will work on older and newer Windows Operating Systems [95 to 10].
- Built in Address Book with import/export.

Disadvantages:

- Requires manual configuration.
- Does not automatically know all of the newer security settings.
- Import/Export Address Tab Delimited only
- Will not work with all security formats [;ike firstsun city.com]

Pegasus Home page:

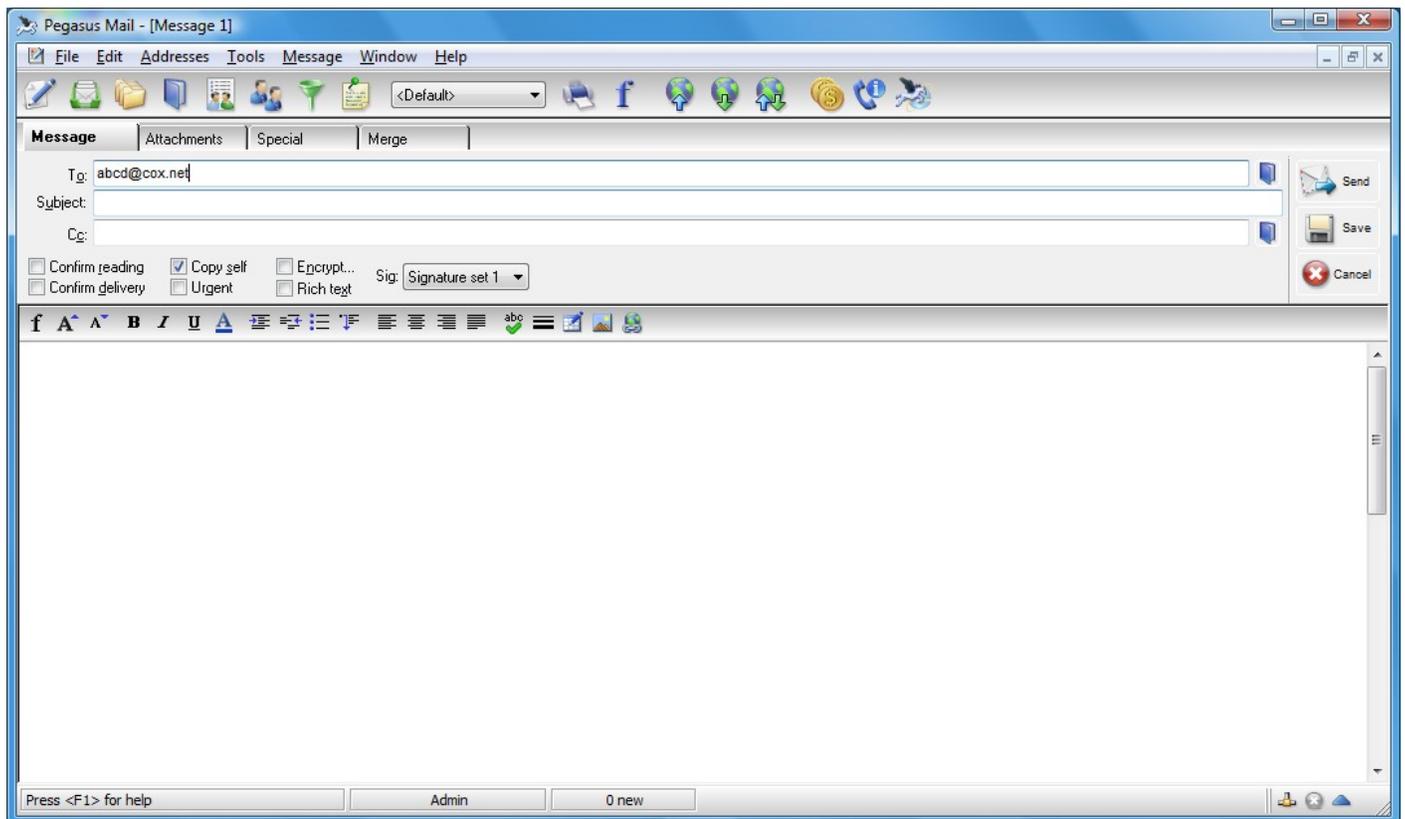
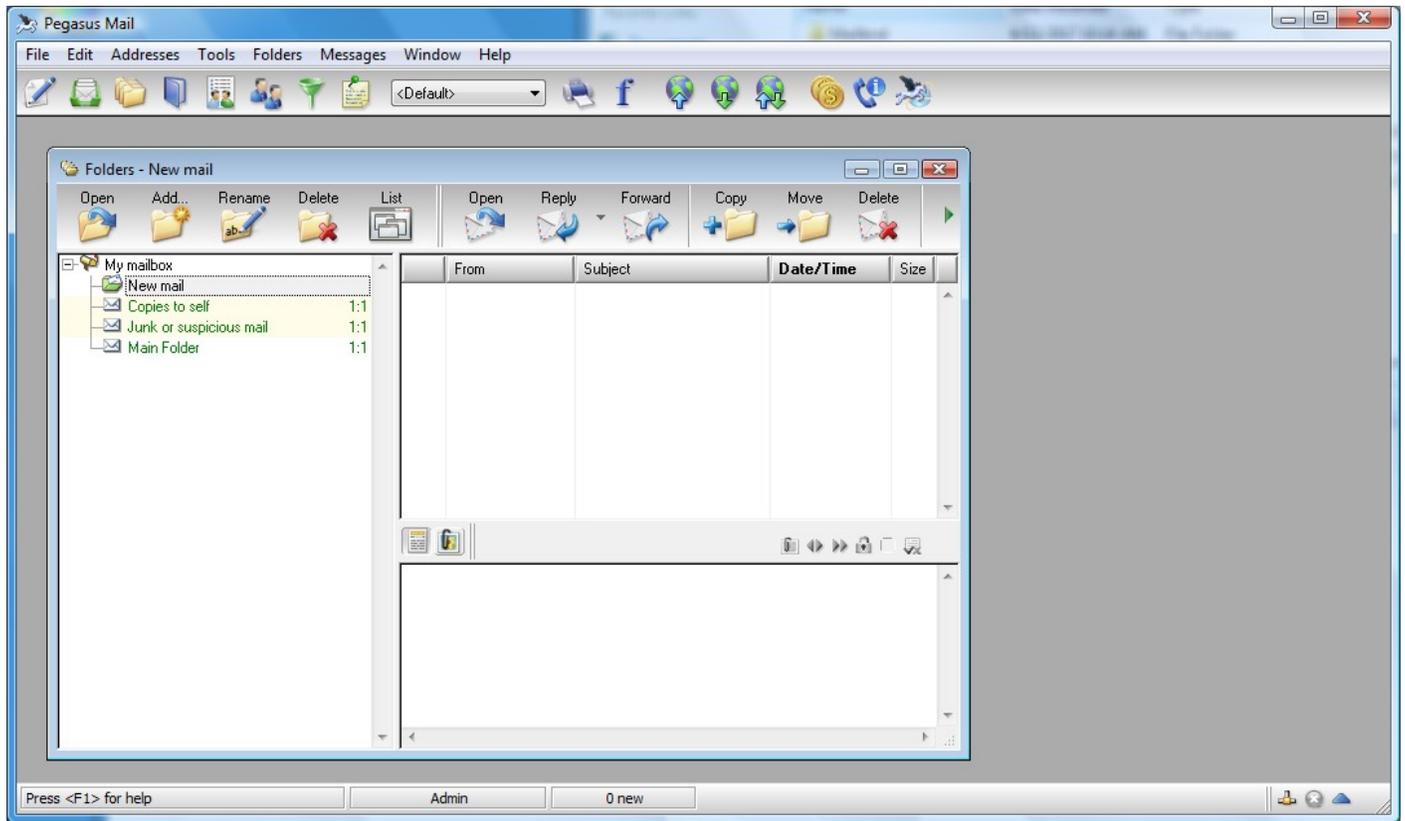
<http://www.pmail.com/>

Pegasus Mail version 4.72 direct download link

<http://download-us.pmail.com/w32-472.exe>

If you are using POP instead of IMAP, you should review the Server Settings for the account, before downloading emails to be sure the mail will be left on the server for at least a minimum number of days..

Screen shots



OE Classic

Advantages:

- Works on all Windows versions from 2000 through 10
- Simple setup
- Will try to automatically get system settings – not always successful.
- Import/export in various formats
- Straight forward operation, very similar to Outlook Express
- Good on-line help screens.

Disadvantages:

- Only two Accounts [Identities] – Free Version
- Limited features
- Will not work with all security formats [like firstsuncity.com]
- Does not have IMAP.

OE Classic home page

<https://www.oeclassic.com/>

OE Classic direct download link for free version 2.60

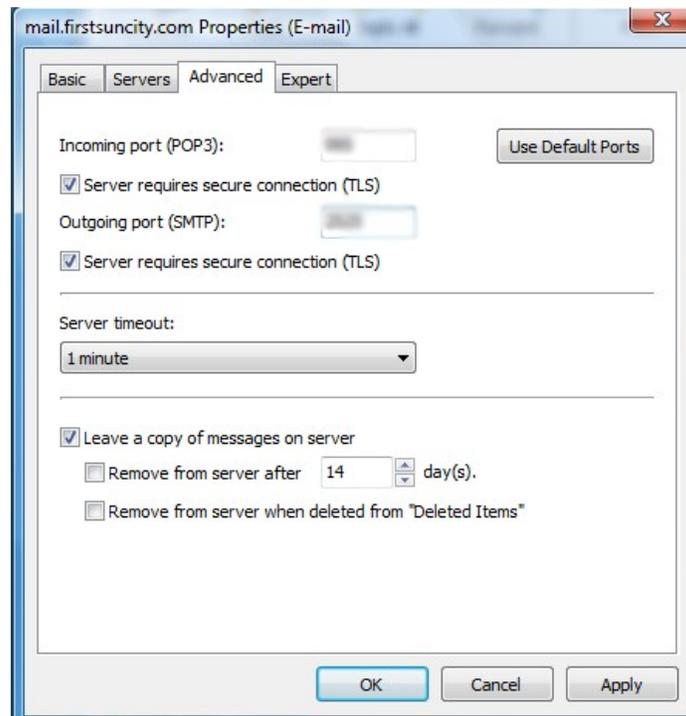
<https://www.oeclassic.com/ws/download/oec260.exe>

You should review the Server Settings for the account, before downloading emails to be sure the mail will be left on the server for a minimum number of days. The default on this program is to delete on download, the box is not checked.

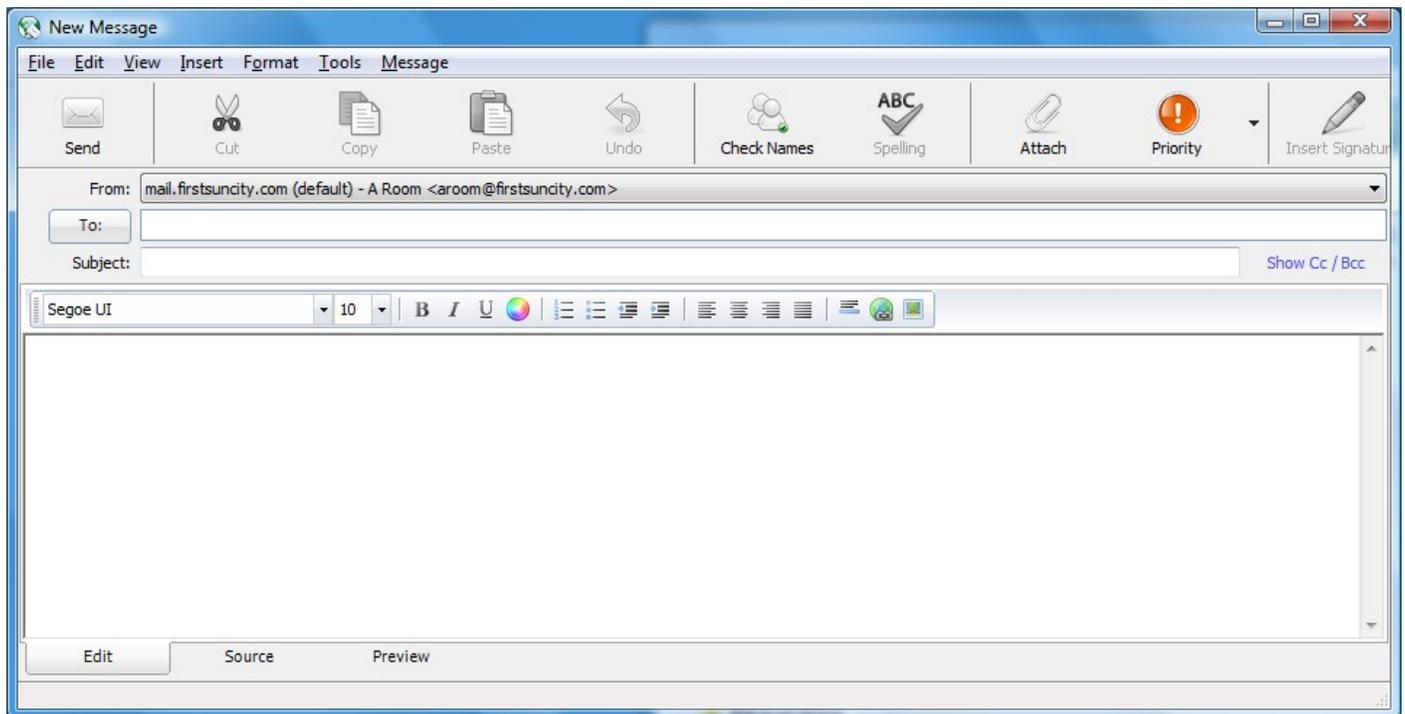
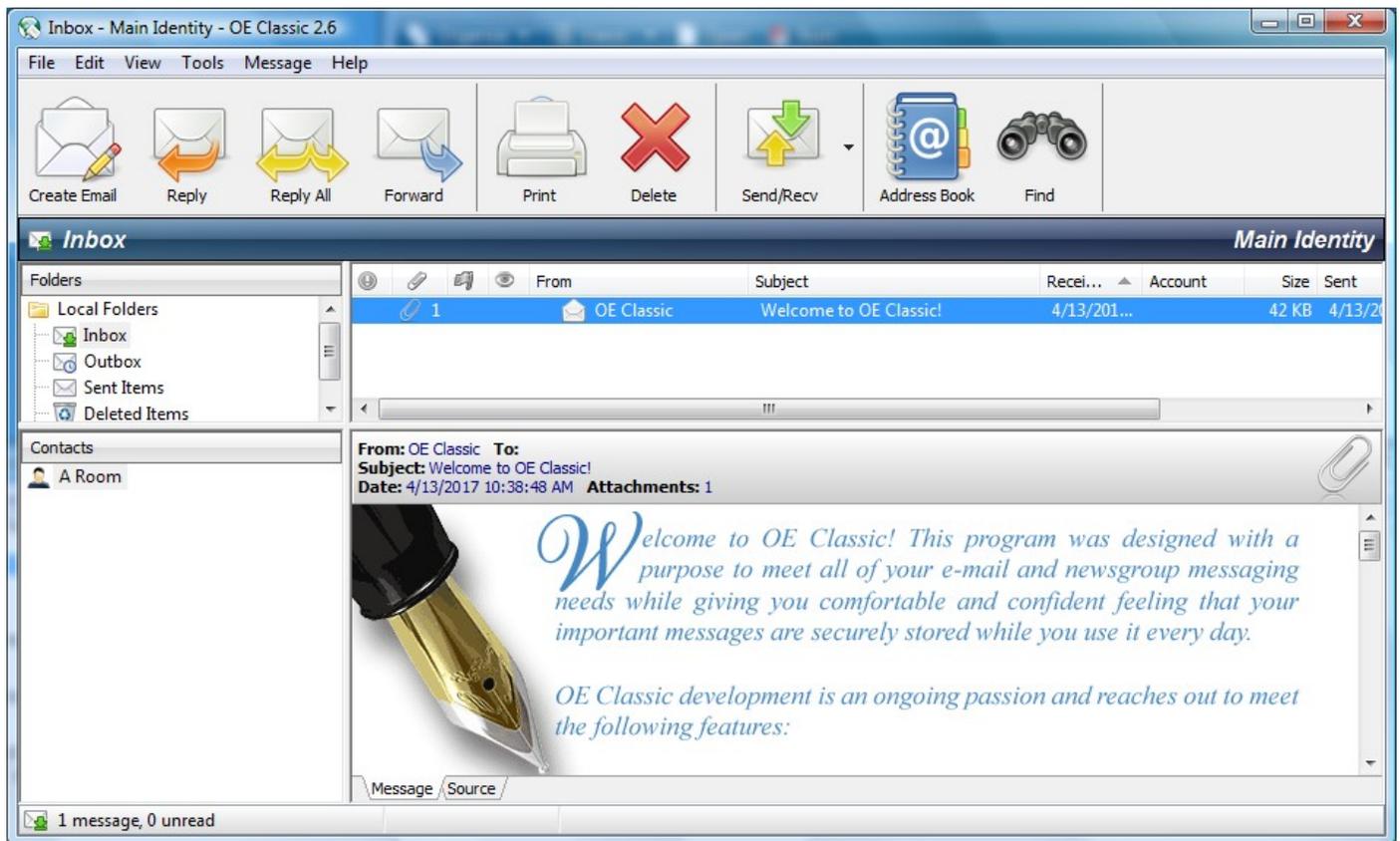
Go to the “Tools” drop down menu and select “Accounts”

On the Accounts screen click on the “Properties” button and then on the “Advanced” tab to get the screen below.

Check the box “Leave a copy of messages on server” and then click “OK”



Screen shots



Mailbird

Advantages:

- Simple interface
- Tries to find server settings – not always successful
- Many “Apps” for those who desire this type of operation and integration.
- Works in Windows 10 [as of now]
- Adds email addresses to contacts when you receive mail.
- Supposedly will import everything from Thunderbird &/or Outlook [Hotmail/MSN/Outlook] only –not verified. This is from a post on February 14, 2016.

Disadvantages:

- May not recognize all security settings .
- Requires Win 7 or greater will not work on XP or Vista.
- Contacts import/export in vCard format only
- Requires Net Framework V4.5.2 to be installed.
- Have to find the Contacts App [See below]
- Advertisements on free version
- Full version teaser for two days.
- Minimal instructions.

Mailbird Home Page:

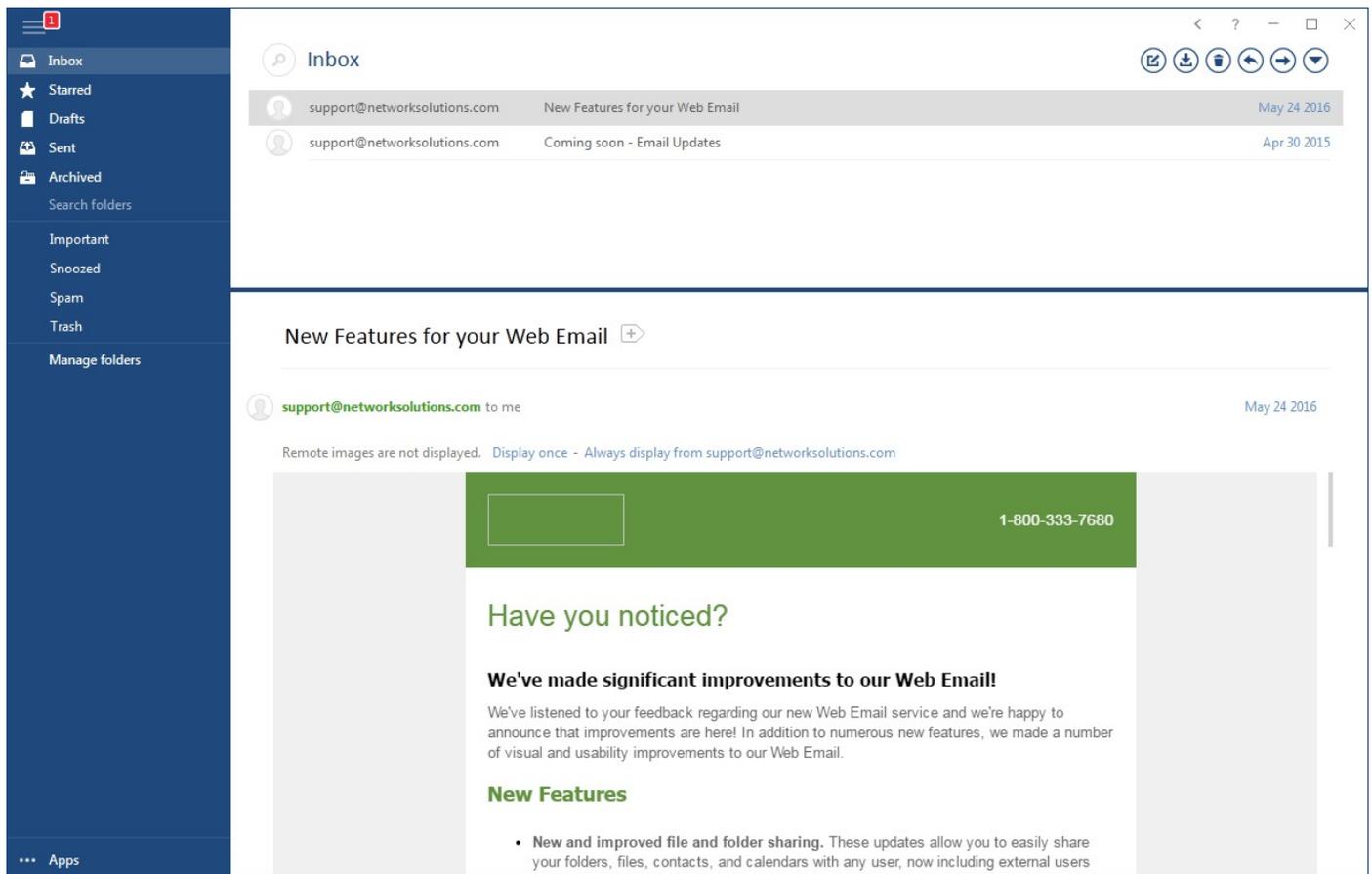
<https://www.getmailbird.com/>

Direct download for current free version:

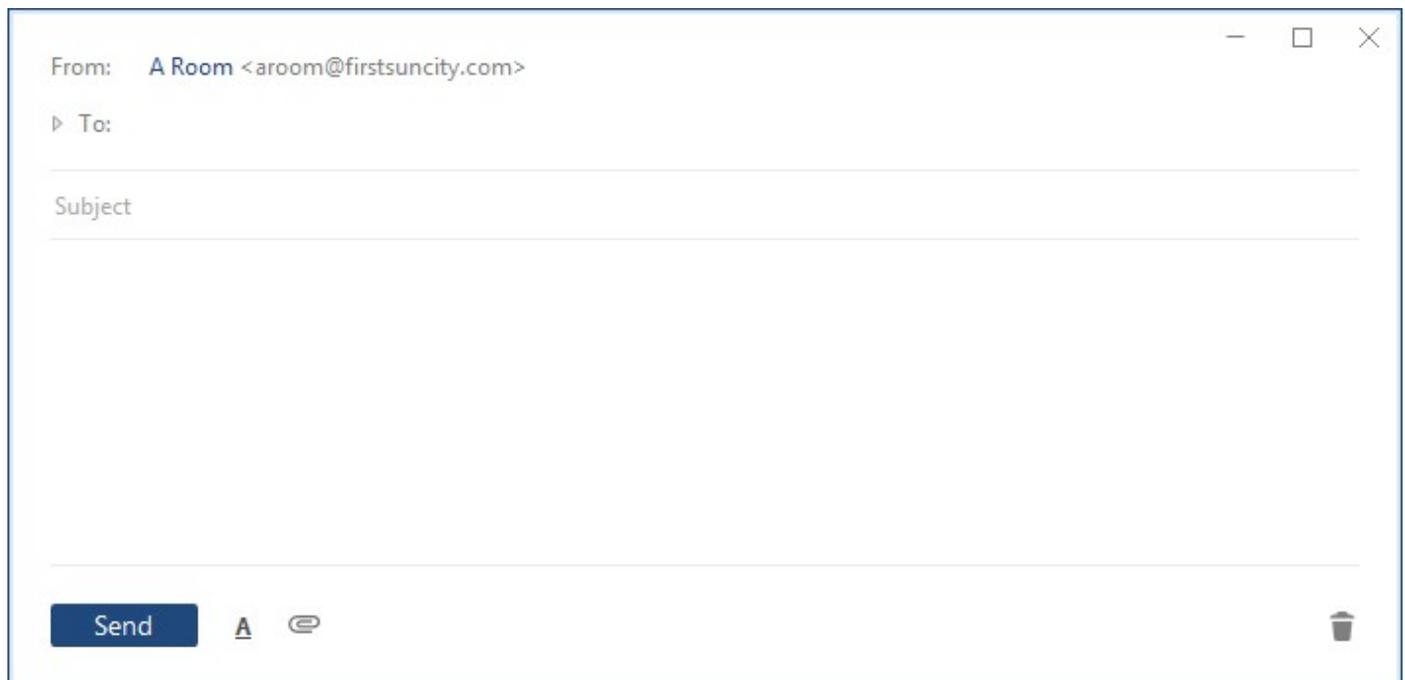
<https://download.getmailbird.com/installers/MailbirdInstaller.exe>

If you are using POP instead of IMAP, you should review the Server Settings for the account, before downloading emails to be sure the mail will be left on the server for at least a minimum number of days..

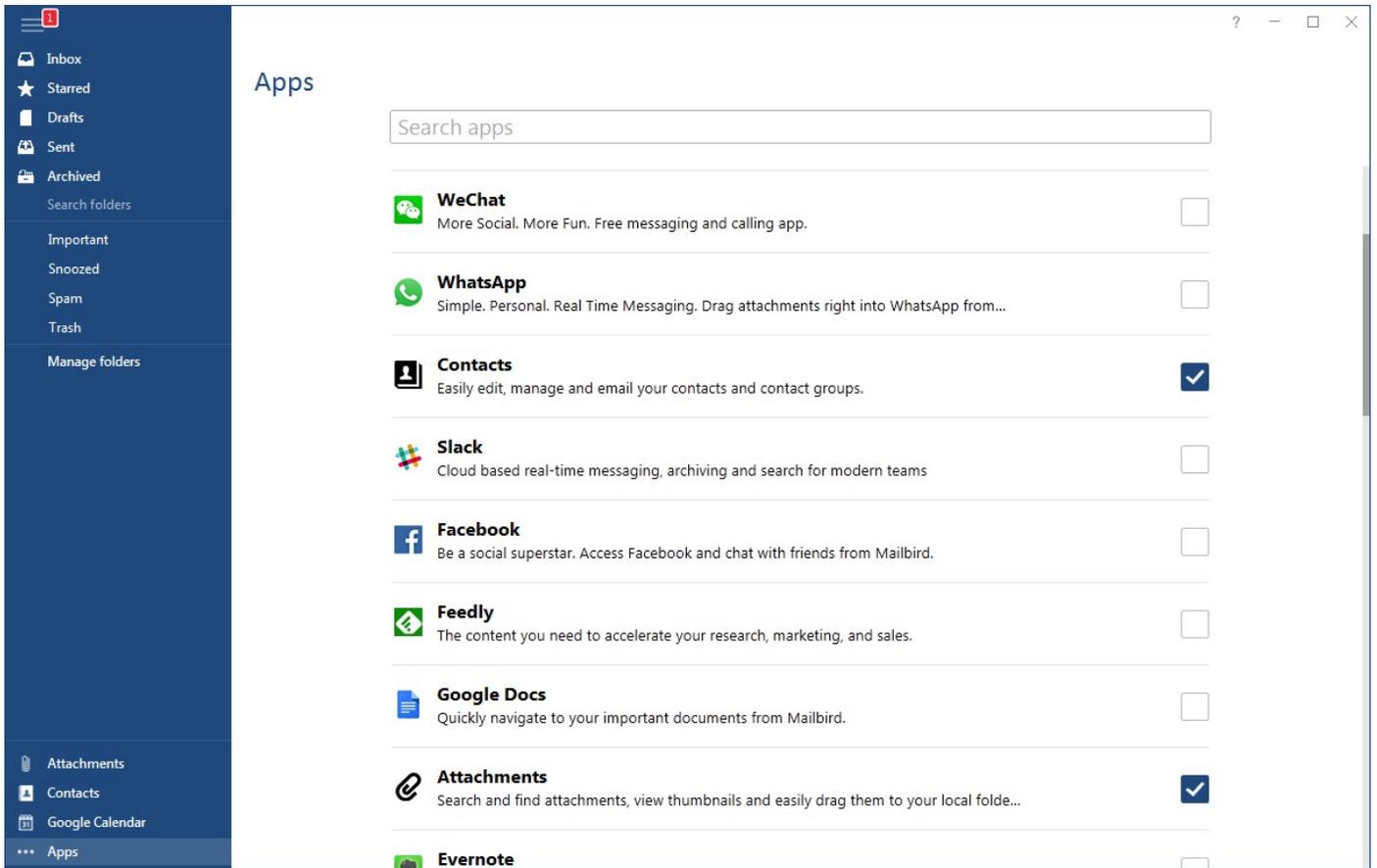
Screen shots



In box screen. Note the “Apps” shown at the bottom left of the screen above.

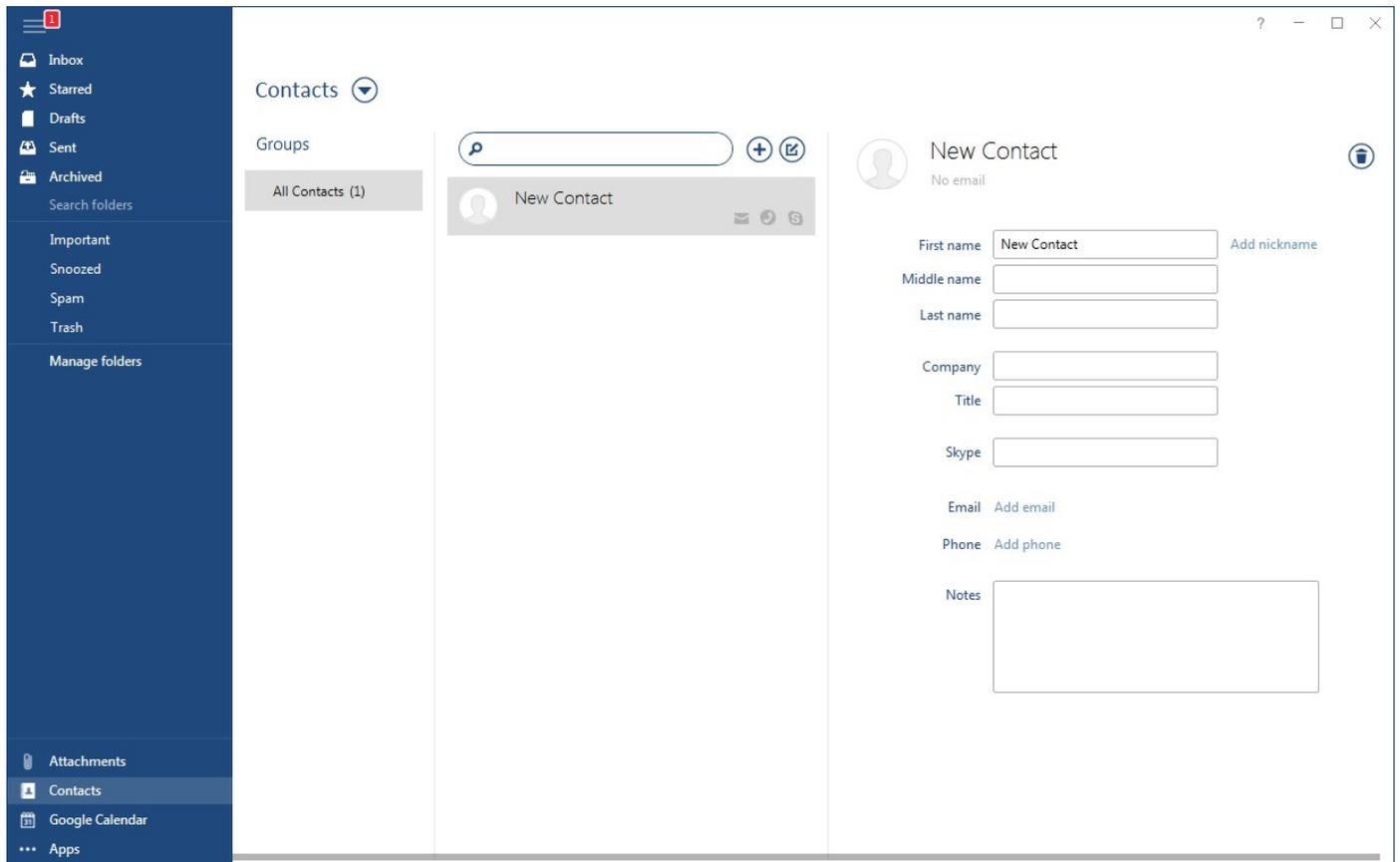


Send a message screen



The "Apps" screen with selections checked to appear on the menu.

You have to select the "Apps" that you want to be displayed in the bottom left hand corner, as shown above



Contact Information screen above asks for only basic information.

Import/Export only in vCard format. [little icon to the right of the “+” sign in the page above.]

You will need to run CSV or other common export formats through a converter to make them compatible.

One such converter <http://www.csvtovcard.com/>. Netframework is required [Disclaimer: I have not tried this program.]

Others are available through a Google search. I have, however, successfully taken a Thunderbird vCard export and imported it into Mailbird.

Some Conclusions:

There are those who confuse the terms “similar to” and “same as” especially when Graphical User Interfaces [GUI] are compared. “Same as” implies congruency, a term used in Geometry proofs, or the synonym “identical”. Seldom are two software programs the “same as” each other, even if they use the same GUI, which may include the same key strokes or mouse maneuvers to accomplish equivalent events. Most would not think a Golf Cart is the “same as” a Cadillac sedan, even though both have many common attributes, such as steering wheel, 4 tires, instrument panel, gas pedal, breaks, etc and both will easily take you and your golf clubs to the golf course. A Golf Cart is “similar to” a Cadillac sedan, but not identical, just like most software programs that are compared are similar to each other. Thus, in a similar manner the various email clients will collect and distribute your email, in a unique process specific to the client that you end up selecting, with the identical result.

It should be obvious that I use **Thunderbird**. I have been using this client or its predecessors [Eudora] for over 25 years. Thunderbird works well and has all and more features that I could ever want. Thunderbird has various idiosyncrasies that I have adapted to over the years that could confuse a new user. I think it is the best cross platform client for all operating systems.

Pegasus is an older program with an older interface, for those who prefer that “feel”. It has all the bells and whistles necessary to have lasted for all of this time. I originally used this program and recommended its use to others because it was similar to Outlook Express in the olden days. I included it in this review because it is still around and it is still functional but not to the degree as the newer clients.

OE Classic on the other hand appears to be a solution that I have been seeking for a long time. It appears to be a very simple program to use [easy for me to say] and it is a serious attempt to mimic the old Outlook Express program that [almost] everyone used in the early Windows days. If you are looking for a simple client to replace Outlook Express or the variations of Live Mail this one should be given a chance.

Mailbird is one of the newer client programs available and is tailored more to the tablet app oriented user. It is slim on instructions and could require online searches to find out the steps necessary to invoke the actions you wish to achieve. It was the only other program that I was able to get to connect to the club’s mail server [which has unusual settings]. Again, this may not be suited to many that are not willing to spend some time learning a different approach to email.

Other web links that may be useful:

Using Thunderbird with Gmail:

<https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/thunderbird-and-gmail?cache=no>

Using Thunderbird with Yahoo:

<https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/thunderbird-and-yahoo?cache=no>

Gmail POP Service:

<https://support.google.com/mail/answer/7104828?hl=en>

Gmail IMAP Service:

<https://support.google.com/mail/answer/7126229?hl=en>

Google Accountl “Less secure apps”

<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/6010255?hl=en>

Yahoo’s POP settings

<https://help.yahoo.com/kb/SLN3217.html>

Yahoo’s IMAP Settings

<https://help.yahoo.com/kb/SLN4075.html>

Centurylink Server Settings; Note: Centurylink does not offer IMAP

<http://www.centurylink.com/home/help/products/email/how-to-set-up-your-email-to-go-through-pop3-and-smtp.html>

For cox.net settings see the example on page #1 or the link below:

<http://www.cox.com/residential/support/internet/article.cox?articleId=a8fb24c0-6440-11df-ccef-000000000000>

For MSN/Hotmail/Live/Outlook webmail, there does not appear to be a Micro\$oft or “Outlok.com” source for the server settings ! The following link appears to provide the required settings. NOTE: All of these services MSN/Hotmail/Live/Outlook all use the same settings.

<https://www.lifewire.com/what-are-windows-live-hotmail-smtp-settings-1170861>