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What is Gmail?

By Jakob Jelling

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www.sitetube.com

Like most other prime search engines, the ability to freely giveaway an email account is a positive tool that signals to the user community that this search engine is here to stay! Google is no different in this approach. Recently, Google has been beta testing Gmail. Google's very own email services repository. Best of all, it's free! Well, it's going to be free, its currently available only in Beta mode, if you are lucky enough to have received an invitation to sign up for a complimentary account you currently enjoy the benefits of ubiquitous Gmail.

Found at gmail.google.com, users were at a frenzied pace to secure the names and aliases that may be snatched up once the floodgates were open. People are exclusively invited to partake in the beta testing were selling their names and invitations for quite a handsome sum on eBay. Most users will have to wait until Gmail goes live before actually trying it out. However with all the functionality at a price like this, how could anyone refuse?

Unlike MSN and Yahoo! Google's approach to space was a little more liberal. Google provides 1000 MB of storage space so you would never have to worry about limited space requirements. All messages are displayed intact as well as the replies. Messages can be searched upon as well. Google's approach was to give as much flexibility to the user so the user in turn would use only Google.

Much like the anti-pop up ad theory of The Google Toolbar, there will be an anti-Spam product built into Gmail that will help thwart out unsolicited email.

Currently, new users can ask for a preview address from Google, although there is no guarantee they will get one. Interested parties should go to <http://gmail.google.com/gmail/help/about.html> and fill in their email addresses at the bottom of the page.

What is Gmail?

Jakob Jelling is the founder of <http://www.sitetube.com>. Visit his website for the latest on planning, building, promoting and maintaining websites.

Gmail

By Danny Wirken

Advantages: huge storage capacity, very fast, in-mail chat, searchable Disadvantages: none

When Gmail first came out, people were scrambling left and right to get invites to open their own accounts. The word was out - Google had come out with the best free web-based mail. There were all sorts of hype as to what Gmail had to offer. Very large storage space, filters, labels, searching, no need to delete old emails - all these and more. Now that Gmail has been around for some time, it is safe to say that Google lived up to its promises. Countless people who used to have email accounts with other free web-based email services have had a change of heart and switched to Gmail. Even though you still need an invite to open an account, there are so many invites available that it is not an issue anymore.

Next to the much-hyped up storage capacity, usability is what makes Gmail the best. My favorite new feature is not even about email! Recently, they introduced the Gmail Chat. It is a feature which allows you to chat live with your contacts within the Gmail window. Gmail contacts from your address book are automatically added to your chat contact list on the left hand column. Much like any messenger service, you can see whether they are online or offline. You can even put your own status message. One thing that seems missing is the "invisible" option.

Another thing is that when you are logged out, you cannot receive offline messages. Of course, Gmail is about email really, not chatting.

Speaking of email, one of Gmail's main selling points is that you never have to delete old emails again. Just tag them, label them, and then archive them. Using Google's searching capabilities, you can find any email that you have in your archives. Now isn't that neat?

When you exchange a series of emails with another person, you will get each mail under the same thread. This is much like the threads in forums. The result? You avoid cluttering up your inbox with emails with subjects such as Re:Re:Re:! However, this can be annoying to people who do not use Gmail as they will get a long thread each time.

I also like how much easier it is to view and download attachments. You can even choose to download all attachments in one go. They will be saved in one zip file.

With all these features, it's no wonder many other email providers are following Google's example.

For more information please visit

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