

# Keeping Personal and Professional Email Addresses

*A February 2011 discussion on SoloSez, the email listserv for general practice, solo and small firm lawyers*

What are peoples thoughts on keeping their firm and personal email addresses separate? I currently do this, but with both hosted on Google, it can be kind of a pain with having to use different browsers for each. Deciding what Google account to use with what RSS feed (using Google Reader) is another minor annoyance. Would like to hear feedback either way.

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As Flu-Shot just taught me, you can have two G-mail accounts open in the same account. Look at the thread I started about needing a new e-mail address, just a few days ago. If you don't see it I'll find it for you.

Marilou Auer, a nonlawyer who now has two g-mail e-mails open all day long, one for her and one for [belovedboss@gmail.com](mailto:belovedboss@gmail.com)!!!!

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Marilou beat me to it. :)

Google allows multiple sign-in now:

<http://www.google.com/support/accounts/bin/topic.py?hl=en&topic=28776>

That solves the multiple browser problem.

Of course, my solution is to have everything dump into one Gmail account - the one I setup for personal use years ago. Gmail checks my professional email and pulls it right in.

One Gmail to rule them all!

Andrew

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

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I have 7 different address I actually check, a few more that I created to use on sites I suspected would spam me, but don't use anymore since I installed a Bayesian spam filter on my main client.

Steve O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

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Does anyone check their NON-Gmail work e-mail addresses through Gmail? If so, do you have the issue of it checking very infrequently? Sometimes it doesn't check my firm e-mail address for up to 45 minutes, which is ridiculous when trying to have a back-and-forth exchange.

Good to know you can check multiple Gmail addresses in one window now though.  
Thanks! Sajjid M. Rauf. Maryland

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I have one work e-mail forwarded/ checked by g-mail. If anything I have the problem that it checks too frequently. It will grab the email before my work software has a chance to check.

I would imagine ( i didn't check) that you can set the time between checks.

I also can send email from 3 different addresses within gmail. When I do not want a client or colleague/ opposition to have my personal email. Very convenient - I do not have to log into separate accounts to reply.

Mindy McDermott, New York

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While I use gmail and google apps, I still download everything onto Thunderbird, so I can use one program for both accounts, not much of a pain that way (though I'll still use the browser for searching for emails), and if you use ff or chrome, you can just have both accounts in separate tabs if you prefer using the web for email.

Lesley Hoenig, Michigan

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Well, this might be a good place for a plug from someone who still uses (and likes) Outlook. For all that I know a lot of people hate Outlook, you can pull as many separate addresses and accounts as you want, have them checked as often or as infrequently as you want, or check them only on-demand. Outlook is a powerful, highly-customizable program. I rarely have trouble with it, and I can do pretty much anything with it I want to do.

This opinion is probably a violation of the Administrivia, too -- like my "I probably wouldn't buy a ScanSnap again" post a few weeks ago. Count on me to be the contrary voice.

Regards,

Stephanie Hill, Minnesota

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I sync to my professional email, then Gmail asks me how to send. I have 4 accounts.

Love what Andrew said: One Gmail to rule them all.

Always have Gmail pull other non-Google accounts.

Jeffrey Taylor

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Actually, I agree with your outlook on Outlook. In fact, I have been really tempted to buy Microsoft Outlook 2011 for Mac \*solely\* because it would allow me to finally have Outlook on my Mac.

Erin K. Russel, Illinois

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I am late reading posts, so forgive me if someone else already put the same thoughts in...but I started out thinking that keeping them separate was a great idea, but really, we market ourselves as solos, and what better way to market than to use micah@guilfoillaw.com. After all, that is my name. However, for online registration, etc, for websites, etc, I use my aol account. Its worth it to not have my law account spammed (as much)

Micah G. Guilfoil, Kentucky