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Explaining Email
www.askLeo.com

I'm going to use this as an opportunity to clear up a piece of confusion I see *all the time*. A lot of folks might not believe me when I say this, but the confusion is *extremely* common. (And Microsoft isn't helping any, as we'll also see.)

In short: Hotmail is not an email program.

An email program is not at all the same thing as an email service, or an email account, or even an email address.

Email service

An email *service* is something like Outlook.com, Yahoo! Mail, Gmail, or perhaps the email services provided by your ISP, i.e., Mediacom Heart of Iowa, domain registrar, school, or place of employment. The "service" they provide are the servers and software that do two things:

- Route the email you send on the first leg of its journey to its recipient.
- Collect the email you receive in a location where you can access it.

Email account

An email *account* is something you establish with an email *service*. In most cases, your email account is the inbox or folders provided by the service. An account is often uniquely identified by a single email *address*, which I'll define in a moment, *but that is not always the case*. Some email services let you have multiple different email *addresses* that all deliver to the same email *account*/inbox.

Email address

An email *address* uniquely identifies both the email service you are using, and your mailbox as provided by that service. When email is sent to your email address, it's collected by your email service and placed in an inbox, which you access through your email account.

Email addresses are always of the form: name@domain

The domain part of an email address – the part after the "@" – is the only part used to route email to your service. Either the domain obviously identifies the service (outlook.com, gmail.com and so on), or additional information is used to identify the mail server assigned to handle email for that domain. While travelling between sender and recipient, the name part – the part before the "@" – is completely ignored until it arrives at the email service that handles that account.

After the email arrives at the email service's servers, the email name is examined to see which account should receive the mail. The mail is then placed in that account's inbox, or other account-related folder.

Email program

An email program is the software that you run on your computer to access your email. Examples include Microsoft Office Outlook, Windows Live Mail, Thunderbird, and many others. An email program must be configured with your email account information in order to access your email. That includes your email address, password, and account information as provided by your email service.

Not All News Is Bad

www.askleo.com

It doesn't matter what side of any issue you're on, news today seems filled with negativity, to a point where it's downright toxic. I know it's been impacting me and many of the people around me.

My sense is that a lot of people are just overwhelmed by it all.

As a kind of personal antidote I've started taking a moment each day to actively locate a more positive news item. News of humanity making progress. News of people doing good. News of things *working* to counter the tide of "it's broken" we seem to be flooded with each day.

I'm not trying to deflect attention from the important issues of the day. Instead, my hope is to provide a little balance so that I, and people who feel the same way, can feel a little less worn out, and perhaps a little more hopeful.

Anyway, I started this little project for myself, but - being the internet entrepreneurial type that I am - decided that it needed a web site. And then, of course, it needed a mailing list. 🙂

So, check out www.notallnewsisbad.com and consider signing up for the email list to get at least one, current, positive story in your inbox each morning. You can find out more in the site's About page, and browse the site for stories I've collected in the last week or so, to get an idea of what I'm talking about.

And, for those wondering, *YES!* , *HeroicStories* heroicstories.org continues to publish original stories from our readers, twice a week. Since 1999 HeroicStories' mission has been "... to explore the idea that people are good, that individuals and individual action matter, and that regularly showing examples of people being good to each other will inspire similar actions in others." It's another good source of balance in your information diet.

Grandma's Quilts Displayed at her Funeral

Photo from http://notallnewsisbad.com/

Computer Humor

"Username and password, please."

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