

email encryption

How to Encrypt Email (Gmail, Outlook, iOS, Yahoo, Android, AOL)

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-email-encryption-services>

You may remember some years ago, when Google tweaked Gmail so it always used a secure HTTPS connection. This is good, because it's the bare minimum. Every site should use HTTPS. Currently Google says it doesn't actually read your mail. However it's easy to accidentally allow third party apps to access your mail. Google also has a clear policy explaining when it will hand over your emails to law enforcement, one that clearly states that it can do so in response to a court order. So far Google hasn't released your mail to any law enforcement agencies, but it did recently change its privacy policy to indicate that it could share your data with them if compelled by a court order. Apple Mail supports full-on encrypted email. You need a security certificate to get this feature working. We used a third party service to obtain a cert for testing purposes. With the cert installed in your keychain (the place where you store passwords), your messages are digitally signed by default - meaning that when you send them out, they'll appear as though they were sent by someone else. If all of the recipients of a message have a copy of the same cert, you can click the locked icon to send the message as encrypted. A quick survey of my PC Mag colleagues turned up exactly nobody that had installed an email security cert, and this is a technologically minded group. You'd expect even fewer ordinary consumers have encryption enabled for their apple mail... except that you can't go lower than zero.

In any case, Apple has some glitches with encryption. Research in 2019 uncovered unencrypted copies of secure messages in the database that Siri used to better serve you.

I think we can agree that siri doesn't need to read your encrypted emails. Your email provider's goal isn't centered on security and privacy, but if you really want to protect them from prying eyes, then look to a third party that puts security first.

