



How PushMail works

For normal email to work, there is a mail server which stores the email for the user, and there is a mail client like Microsoft Outlook or Yahoo! Web mail for the users to check their email. The client downloads new mail from the server and sends mail via the server. With PushMail, an additional intermediary server called the PushMail server usually needs to be set up. This intermediary server actively monitors the mail servers of the users. When mail arrives, the intermediary server automatically clones the mail and forwards the cloned copy to the users on their mobile devices. If you are a large enterprise, you probably want to have your own PushMail server. If you are a smaller business or a consumer, you should consider hosted services where a service provider hosts the PushMail server for you (and therefore you don't have to spend heavy capital expenditure to acquire the PushMail server).

PushMail vs. Pulled Mail

PushMail from BlackBerry and Duality are both encrypted on their way from the server to your mobile device, so hackers can't snoop on your intimate and sensitive information. Pulled mail however is usually not so and is therefore less secure.

PushMail also offers more efficient use of bandwidth when downloading your mail. With BlackBerry for instance, you download your mail, 2 KB at a time, to make sure you don't end up clogging up your Inbox in case a friend or a spammer sends you a huge email. The attachments are also automatically separated from the main body of text, again for a smoother downloading experience. If you find that a file is too big, you can choose not to complete downloading it, thus saving your bandwidth costs, a big issue if you don't have an unlimited account or are roaming overseas. With pulled mail, you usually can only choose to download the header or the whole mail, a problem when the mail is unexpectedly large. Moreover, service providers like StarHub offers an unlimited data package for its PushMail service at a competitive price point, which is more cost efficient if you are a regular PushMail user.