

# GMail Drive

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Version 1.0.5

Download the latest version of GMail Drive from [www.viksoe.dk/gmail](http://www.viksoe.dk/gmail).

**GMail Drive** is a Shell Namespace Extension that creates a virtual drive in the Windows Explorer, allowing you to use your Google GMail account as a storage medium.

It allows you to do basic file manipulation, such as copy and delete of files inside the GMail account. Because it is a Shell Extension, the interface you work in is Windows Explorer itself.

GMail Drive appears as a virtual drive under your My Computer folder in Windows Explorer.

## **You can:**

Navigate between files and folders using the familiar Explorer folder view.

Do basic file manipulations, such as create folders and delete files.

Use copy and paste as you would normally do in Explorer to copy files around.

Use drag'n'drop to quickly move files between folders.

Show information about volumes and files using the Properties dialogs.

Please check the list of Bugs and Limitations and how to contact me. I also welcome bug reports and feedback.



## Navigating files and folders

You navigate between files and folders as you would normally do in the Windows Explorer.

Depending on how you launched the Windows Explorer you will either get a folder tree and a file list, or just a file list. To control which mode you start in, choose either [Open](#) or [Explore](#) in the Explorer's right-click menu.

To navigate into a folder, simply double-click on it. If you see the folder in the folder tree, you can click on it there. GMail Drive respects your settings in Windows Explorer, so if you have configured one-click activation of folders, this is what you get.

The file list will display all the folders and files in the current directory of your GMail Drive. Like your regular Explorer view, you can choose from 4 different file list modes. The [Large Icons](#) list mode gives the usual icon view, while the [Details](#) mode shows various file attributes in a grid fashion. Note that the Shell Extension will not show the file attribute column in the file list, if you do not have the [Show Attribute column](#) checked in the Explorer's Folder options dialog.



## Bugs and Limitations

GMail Drive is still under development. There may still be bugs and features that need correction.

### **Known bugs:**

The "Address" pane does not automatically update on Windows 98.

The context menu for the root item does not appear on Windows 95/98.

### **Known limitations:**

Desktop is sometimes "blocked" while copying files.

Filename length (including paths) is limited to 40 characters.

Google limits the attachment size to 10Mb. This restriction is currently also enforced in the shell extension.

If you find any bugs, please take the time to report them.



## Feedback

If you use this Shell Extension I would be very interested in hearing your opinion.  
I can be contacted on the following e-mail address:

[bjarke@viksoe.dk](mailto:bjarke@viksoe.dk)

If you find any bugs, please take the time to report them to me. Enclose a short description of how to reproduce it.

Regards

Bjarke Viksoe



## Credits

**GMail Drive** was created by Bjarke Viksoe.

GMail Login logo by Henrique Gusso (DoS)

This help file was created in **Oasis SE** (freeware).

Web-link: [www.adept.co.za/~oasisdev/](http://www.adept.co.za/~oasisdev/)

### **Thanks to:**

Original idea by Richard Jones.

Google for GMail.



## Copying Files

You copy files using the normal Windows tricks.

To copy files; select the files in the list. Then choose [Copy](#) from the right-click menu. To paste the files, navigate to the destination folder and choose the [Paste](#) menu-item.

You can also just drag the files and drop them on the destination folder.

By default GMail Drive copies files during drag'n'drop operations, but you can control the effect by using the [SHIFT](#) and [CTRL](#) keys when dragging.

You can drag files to any Windows Explorer folder - even some 3rd party programs accept files being dragged onto their window.



## Showing Properties

You can get additional information about files and folders by displaying their Properties dialog. To do so, select a file and either choose the [Properties](#) menu-item in the [File](#) menu, or right-click on the item and choose [Properties](#) in the popup menu.

If you choose the [Properties](#) menu-item when no files or folders are selected, information about the current directory is displayed.

If you choose the [Properties](#) menu-item on the root folder of the GMail drive, a Property Page will be shown with general information about the GMail volume and account.



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GMail Drive is a Shell Namespace Extension that creates a virtual drive in the Windows Explorer, allowing you to use your Google GMail account as a storage medium.

It allows you to do basic file manipulation, such as copy and delete, on files inside the GMail folder. Because it is a Shell Extension, the interface you work in is Windows Explorer itself.

GMail files are physically stored as e-mails on your Google GMail account. The files are stored in mail attachments, and the filename and file information (such as filesize) is stored in the message subject line.

GMail Drive has already been installed on your computer. All you need to do now, is to browse to the GMail Drive entry under your [My Computer](#) folder in the Windows Explorer.

GMail Drive -GMail Shell Namespace Extension  
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This software, including all accompanying files, is provided "AS IS" and without any warranties as to performance or merchantability or any other warranties whether expressed or implied.

Because of the various hardware and software environments into which the GMail Drive software (this Software) may be put, NO WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS PROVIDED.

Good data processing policies suggest that any program should be thoroughly tested with non-critical data before relying on it. The user assumes the entire risk of using this program.



## Deleting Files

You delete files as you do with files in the Explorer.

You can delete a file by selecting the [Delete](#) menu-item in the [File](#) menu or pressing the [Delete](#) key. You can delete multiple files by high-lighting multiple entries in the Explorer view.

You may also delete files by dragging them to the [Windows Recycle Bin](#). The files will however not be put inside the [Recycle Bin](#), so you cannot undo the delete action.

GMail Drive does not support [Rename](#) of files.



## How It Works

GMail Drive works by directly manipulating emails inside your Google GMail account.

When you copy a file to the GMail Drive folder, it internally creates and sends an e-mail to your account. The file content is sent as an e-mail attachment.

When the Shell Extension needs to display a directory listing of your GMail account, it submits a GMail search query using the sparsely documented GMail Protocol API. It searches for all e-mails starting with the word "GMAILFS". From the returned search result, it builds a directory structure, which is displayed in the Shell Extension.

Because all GMail Drive files appear as regular e-mails in your Google GMail account, you may want to set up a [GMail filter](#) that automatically moves all e-mails containing "GMAILFS" to the archived folder. This way, GMail Drive files won't clutter up your GMail account.

A typical GMail File looks like this inside your GMail account:

```
GMAILFS: /folder/filename.txt [123;n;1]
```

You can find the actual file content inside each mail as an e-mail attachment.

The file size is limited to 10 Mb because this is the attachment size limit Google imposes on all mails. Since the filename must be available on the message subject line, the full filename length is limited to 40 characters.

A bit of care must be taken to avoid sending mails that are caught by Google's spam filter, and to respect the Google GMail "[Terms of Use](#)" policy.



## Google Terms of Use

Before you start copying files to your new GMail Drive, please make sure to familiarize yourself with the Google GMail Terms of Use. Google provides the GMail mail service for free, so do make sure to respect their wishes for the benefit of all GMail users.

Among other things, this means you cannot:

- Transmit content that may be harmful to minors

- Use the Gmail Service in connection with illegal peer-to-peer file sharing

- Illegally transmit another's intellectual property or other proprietary information without such owner's or licensor's permission

- Promote or encourage illegal activity

The GMail Drive tool is not in any way endorsed by Google. It is still in its development stage. Do not copy sensitive data or rely on this tool as a secure backup solution.



## Changing User

To change the GMail login credentials, you can use the [Login As...](#) menuitem under the [File](#) menu. Place a checkmark in the [Auto Login](#) entry to automatically login when the folder is activated. Your username and password are securely stored in the System Registry with encryption.

If you are behind a proxy, the tool will use the Proxy Settings of your Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. If proxy authentication (username and password) is needed, you can add this information to the Login dialog under the [More](#) button panel.

Only one user can be logged in at any time. This allows GMail Drive to optimize the folder cache it holds during file activity.

It is possible to have two different user-sessions at the same time if you use the "[Launch Folder in Separate Process](#)" option in the general Windows Explorer preferences. This is however not recommended.



## Uninstalling GMail Drive

The uninstall option is located under the [Add/Remove Programs](#) applet in the Windows [Control Panel](#).





