

NotifyMail for Windows Help Index

[What is NotifyMail for Windows?](#)

[Getting Started](#)

[Configuring NotifyMail](#)

[Configuring your Server](#)

[Registering NotifyMail](#)

[A Note to Eudora Users](#)

[Trouble Shooting](#)

What is NotifyMail for Windows?

NotifyMail is a POP3 new mail notifier that runs in the background and alerts you whenever new mail arrives in your server mailbox. NotifyMail works with any email program that uses POP3. Users of Eudora, Pegasus, and MAPI enabled emailers have the added opportunity to automatically download the mail whenever it arrives on the server.

What NotifyMail Isn't

NotifyMail is not a mail checker. A mail checker periodically logs on to your server and checks for the presence of new mail. Eudora and Pegasus, as well as most TCP/IP email programs, are mail checkers.

NotifyMail is a new mail notifier--it works in cooperation with your server to notify you immediately when new mail comes in. It is not an active checker, but a passive listener, listening for a cue from the server when new mail has arrived. (For more detailed information as to how NotifyMail works with the server, see [Configuring your Server](#))

To understand the difference, imagine your house with no doorbell and no knocker. How would you know when guests had arrived or friends stopped by? One solution, though unrealistic and inefficient, would be to peep out your door periodically to see if anyone were at your doorstep waiting patiently. Most guests wouldn't stand for it; most email, however, does, for that is how mail checkers work. They poll every five, ten, thirty minutes looking for the presence of new email.

The Advantages of New Mail Notification

New mail notifiers have three advantages over automatic mail checkers:

- 1) You know immediately when new mail arrives.
- 2) You save CPU cycles. NotifyMail listens passively on a socket, so when it is not busy being notified, it is taking up virtually no CPU cycles.
- 3) You relieve server load. For the server, the cost of notifying the client when new mail arrives (via a finger connection) is cheaper than handling frequent periodic mail checks from the client. A connection is only made when necessary.

Getting Started

NotifyMail is shareware. You can use it for thirty days, fully enabled, for free. After that time, you will need a registration code to continue using NotifyMail. This code can be obtained via email or via snail mail. See [Registering NotifyMail](#) for more information.

Step 1: Be sure that your mail server can support NotifyMail. It must be a UNIX, VMS, or Apple Internet Mail server, and you must be assigned a static IP address.

For more information see [Configuring your Server](#)

Step 2: Configure your server so that your machine is notified whenever new mail arrives.

For more information see [Configuring your Server](#)

Step 3: Configure NotifyMail so that it alerts you properly when new mail is detected on the server.

For more information see [Configuring NotifyMail](#)

Step 4: Place a NotifyMail program item (Win95 users use a shortcut) in the StartUp program group. NotifyMail must be running at all times.

Who to Contact

Feel free to email any questions or comments concerning NotifyMail to Scott_Gruby@alumni.hmc.edu.

Configuring NotifyMail

Global Settings: When New Mail Arrives...

When NotifyMail receives notice that new mail is present on your server, it performs any options that have been enabled:

Option	If Enabled:	Configuration
Check Mail Using...	Tells your email application to check for mail. Your email application must be running for the check mail to succeed.	Select your email program from the drop down list. This feature only works with Eudora Pro 2.2x, Eudora Light 1.5.4 , Pegasus, and MAPI clients.
Play Sound	Plays a sound. The default sound is a beep.	To change the default sound, enter the full pathname to a wave file in the "Sound" field.
Display Dialog	Displays a small, notification dialog, along with a running count of how many mail messages have arrived on the server.	To modify the text that is displayed in the dialog, enter your message in the edit field labeled "Dialog Box Notification Message".
Launch File	Executes an external application or batch file.	Enter the name of the file to be executed in the "Launch File" field.

Optional Settings: If <Email App> is not running...

There is one problem that the global settings cannot solve. NotifyMail cannot force your email application to check mail if your email application is not running. To solve this problem, check the *Launch File* box , enter the pathname to your email application in the field below it, and configure your email application to check mail at startup.

The Apply Button

You must press this button for your modifications to take effect.

Configuring Your Server

NotifyMail interacts with the server in a very simple way. NotifyMail is a finger server that listens passively for a *nm_notifyuser* finger query. Your mail server (if configured properly) fingers your machine with the *nm_notifyuser* message whenever new mail arrives. Therefore, when NotifyMail receives a finger connection with the *nm_notifyuser* parameter, it knows that new mail is resting on the server.

If you don't know what a finger server is, then perhaps this description will make more sense. Unlike most mail checking programs, NotifyMail does not periodically "look" for new mail on your server. Instead, it listens passively on your machine's network port for a predefined "new mail" message. Your mail server also knows this predefined message, and sends this message to your machine whenever it receives new mail in your mailbox. Upon receiving this notification (analogous to a phone ringing), NotifyMail does its thing. Depending upon your configuration, it either lets you and/or your mail program know that mail is waiting for you on your server.

Therefore, for NotifyMail to work, two things must happen. First, NotifyMail must be running on your machine, and secondly, your server must be properly configured to work with NotifyMail. This topic concerns the latter matter of configuring your specific mail server

What type of mail server do you use?

[Unix server](#)

[VMS server](#)

[Apple Internet Mail Server](#)

Configuring a Unix Server

This step requires that you have the following information about your machine.

- 1) *Username*: Your UNIX login name.
- 2) *Machine name* (or IP address): The DNS name associated with your machine's IP address

Also, you must be sure that you have been assigned a static IP address. Version 1.0 of NotifyMail only supports static IP addressing. Dynamic IP addressing will be supported in a future version.

How to Configure your Unix Server

- 1) Logon to your UNIX server.
- 2) Create a new file called *.forward* in your home directory. If a *.forward* file already exists, then edit your existing one. Don't forget to include the initial period in the filename.
- 3) Add the following line to your *.forward* file:

```
\username, "| finger nm_notifyuser@machinename.company.com"
```

where *username* is your UNIX login name, *machinename* is the name associated with your machine's IP address(DNS name), and *company.com* is your server's domain name. Alternatively, you can enter your IP address for *machinename* above. Be sure to type a backward slash before your username.

Example:

```
\bclinton, "| finger nm_notifyuser@bclinton-pc.whitehous.gov
```

Problems

If for some reason your email bounces when your machine is turned off, try modifying your **.forward** file to this:

```
\username,  
"| finger nm_notifyuser@machinename.company.com | true"
```

If your problem persists, consult [Alternate Unix Server Configuration](#)

Configuring a Unix Server (Alternate)

If the standard Unix server configuration does not work, your UNIX system may be running a more secure sendmail program. If this is the case, try this alternate method:

- 1) Logon to your UNIX server.
- 2) Create a new file called *.forward* in your home directory. If a *.forward* file already exists, then edit your existing one. Don't forget to include the initial period in the filename.
- 3) Add the following line to your *.forward* file:

```
\username, "| /home/osiris/hmc_1995/clauer/phftp"
```

where *username* is your UNIX login name, and */home/osiris/hmc_1995/clauer* is the full pathname of your directory.

- 4) Create a file called *phftp* that contains the following:

```
finger nm_notifyuser@machinename.company.com
```

where *machinename.company.com* is your machine name or IP address.

Example:

```
finger nm_notifyuser@bclinton-pc.whitehous.gov" "
```

- 5) Type:
chmod 755 phftp

If this still doesn't work, contact Craig Lauer or Scott Gruby by email. They will do their best to assist you. It may happen that you will have to talk to your system administrator about getting this to work.

Configuring a VMS Server

Requirements

This step requires that you have the following information about your machine.

- 1) *Username*: Your UNIX login name.
- 2) *Machine name* (or IP address): The DNS name associated with your machine's IP address

You also must be sure of the following:

- 1) You have been assigned a static IP address. Version 1.0 of NotifyMail only supports static IP addressing. Dynamic IP addressing will be supported in a future version.
- 2) PMDF Deliver is running on your VMS machine. If the following installation doesn't work, verify that PMDF Deliver is installed.

How to Configure your VMS Server

- 1) Login to your server.
- 2) Create a file called *mail.delivery* in your home directory.
- 3) Add the following lines to the file:

```
* * * A E "finger nm_notifyuser@machninename.company.com"
* * * A D
```

- where *machinename* is DNS name or IP address of your pc, and *company.com* is
- 4) Go into mail and type:

```
set forward "in%""~username""
```

where *username* is your own username. This tells PMDF Deliver to use the *mail.delivery* file that you created.

Configuring an Apple Internet Mail Server

- 1) Have your administrator choose your account and then choose Forwarding: NotifyMail to.... Then enter your IP address or DNS name in the space provided.
- 2) If you are using dynamic IP addressing with Apple Internet Mail Server, you should choose Forwarding: NotifyMail to last IP. You must set your email client to check mail at startup for this option to work correctly.

Registering your Copy of NotifyMail

NotifyMail is distributed as shareware. It is not free. You'll have 30 days to test out all the features of NotifyMail before it disables itself. You must register NotifyMail if you wish to use it beyond this 30 day trial period. This topic tells you how to go about registering NotifyMail, how much it will cost you, and how to enter your Registration code into NotifyMail.

How to Register

There are two ways to register NotifyMail:

1) NotifyMail allows you to easily register by email. This is only available for credit card purchases.

Email Registration

2) You can also send in a registration by regular mail. This is best for those people wishing to pay by check or money order.

Mail Registration

Registration Costs

(all figures are in US funds)

1-9 users	\$18.00/user
10-24 users	\$16.00/user
25-49 users	\$14.00/user
50-99 users	\$12.00/user
100-250 users	\$10.00/user

Educational and non profit users are entitled to a 15% discount on all registrations (you must have an email address on a server at your school or university).

For site licensing fees, please send email to Scott_Gruby@alumni.hmc.edu.

Registration Code

After your payment is received, a registration name and code will be sent to you. You must enter this code into the Registration dialog in NotifyMail. Once you have entered that name and code, NotifyMail will no longer be disabled after the four week trial period. Please keep this registration code as you will need it for future upgrades.

Registering NotifyMail by Mail

To purchase NotifyMail send a check (drawn on a US bank in US dollars) or money order (in US dollars) payable to Scott Gruby:

Scott Gruby
5383 Chelsea Street #101
La Jolla, CA 92037-7959

Please do not send registered letters; it will delay the processing of your registration.)

If you are paying by check or money order, please include the following registration form with your payment:

----- cut here -----

Registration Form

Name:

Street Address:

City, State, ZIP, Country:

Phone number where you use NotifyMail:

Email address:

(without this, I can't send you the registration code)

Type of Machine:

What OS are you running (including version number):

Version of NotifyMail you are using:

----- cut here -----

Registering NoitfyMail by Email

If you wish to pay with a credit card, you can purchase NotifyMail by Email:

- 1) Select Purchase by Email from the Registration.
- 2) Enter the neccessary information in the a dialog box.

Security Warning: Your credit card number is not encrypted when it is sent electronically. If you are concerned about sending your credit card number electronically, please purchase your copy of NotifyMail by mail. [Registering by Mail](#)

Your credit card will be billed as Mr. Mac Software, due to an arrangment with Mr Mac Software to handle all credit card orders. You will receive your registration code via return email in a few days. If you are an educational users, please remember to take the 15% discount when filling in the price.

A Note to Eudora Users

NotifyMail can only communicate to the most recent versions of Eudora. If you wish to have NotifyMail tell Eudora to check mail, you must upgrade Eudora Pro to version 2.2 or Eudora Light to version 1.5.4. The upgrades are publicly available at [<http://www.qualcomm.com>](http://www.qualcomm.com).

Eudora, when notified by NotifyMail, does not immediately perform a mail check. It waits for an idle state when nothing is going on. . It's a courtesy gesture, and it is configurable. Modify the "IdleTime" setting in the EUDORA.INI file. This setting determines how many seconds Eudora must be idle before it performs an automatic mail check.

Troubleshooting

Top Ten User Reported Problems

Problem	Solution
Someone sends me mail, but I am not notified.	<p>a) On some UNIX machines, you have to give read and execute privileges to all users in order to access the .forward file. Contact your system administrator for help with this.</p> <p>b) Make sure that you spelled finger and nm_notifyuser correctly. Also make sure that you have a , after the username (for UNIX installations).</p> <p>c) You could be running a strange mail system on your UNIX box. Users have reported to me that the following works for a .forward file (I have not verified this):</p> <pre>/username, "/usr/ucb/finger nm_notifyuser@machinename"</pre> <pre>/username, "/usr/ucb/finger nm_notifyuser@machinename"</pre>
I am notified of new mail, but when Eudora or any other mailer checks for mail, nothing is there. If I check again a little later, my mail is there.	<p>Your UNIX machine may be a little slow in filing your mail. You can add a "sleep" command in your .forward file as follows:</p> <pre>\username, " sleep 10", " finger nm_notifyuser@machinename"</pre> <p>The sleep command tells your UNIX machine not to execute the following command for 10 seconds.</p>
I'm using check for mail on startup and my mail is disappearing. Help!	<p>There is a bug in the POP server (popper 1.7) that could cause your email to be lost. There have also been reports that this bug is still around in popper 1.8. I'd recommend getting the latest version from:</p> <pre>ftp://ftp.qualcomm.com/quest/unix/servers/popper/</pre>
My site prohibits the use of finger servers on pc's or I want to use a different finger server.	<p>You can specify which port you want NotifyMail to listen to by modifying NOTIFY.INI. Under [Options] set "Finger Port" equal to the port number you would like to use. The finger port is 79 and I recommend port 1035 if you don't use the finger port. Some other ports may be reserved for POP servers, SMTP servers, etc. Be careful when modifying this. If you choose this option, your .forward file should be as follows:</p> <pre>\username, " echo quit ftp machinename 1035"</pre>
It just doesn't seem to work.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Verify that you followed these instructions completely.2. Contact Scott Gruby (Scott_Gruby@alumni.hmc.edu), and he will try to verify your setup. You must include with your request for help, your .forward file, if your POP server is a UNIX/VMS/MailShare machine, your NotifyMail version, what

your NotifyMail settings are, and what you have done to try to resolve the problem.

Note: Scott will help anyone with setting this up whether they are registered users or not. Please don't send in your shareware fee until this is functional.

3. Contact your system administrator for assistance because your mail server may be set up differently.

No Help Available

No help is available for this area of the window.

No Help Available

No help is available for this message box.

<< If you wish to author help specific to each message box prompt, then remove the AFX_HIDP_xxx values from the [ALIAS] section of your .HPJ file, and author a topic for each AFX_HIDP_xxx value. For example, AFX_HIDP_INVALID_FILENAME is the help topic for the Invalid Filename message box. >>

