

Switching Away From Yahoo Email

As some of you may know Yahoo has been getting hacked regularly since 2013. If you are a Yahoo account owner you should assume the bad guys have ***ALL*** your Yahoo personal data. Yahoo is a company in trouble and they have not been investing in security like the other big players in the email space, e.g., Google & Microsoft.

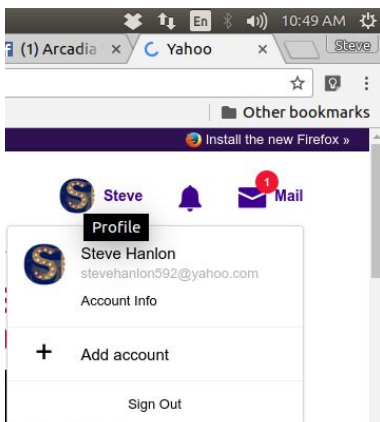
My major concern for AV residents with regards to the Yahoo hacking has to do with the increased probability of **identity theft** stemming from bad guys getting into your email. Most identity theft involves bad guys convincing your bank that they are you and they do that by having access to to your email account. They call your bank and request a banking password change. The bank sends a reset email to your yahoo account and **THEY** change your bank password and then the bad stuff happens. Like taking out bogus loans, issuing new credit cards, even remortgaging your house. Yowza. Thus, having a control of your email account data is very important.

If you switch email accounts you'll have to change all the online accounts that have your Yahoo email. This means your accounts for Facebook, bank(s), credit card(s), financial services(s), online shopping (ebay, Amazon, etc). Before you start it's best to make a list of your "Connected Accounts". Switching doesn't have to be a crazy hassle. If you approach it methodically you'll find yourself better organized than before after it's done.

Ok, here we go...

If you feel you must stay with Yahoo:

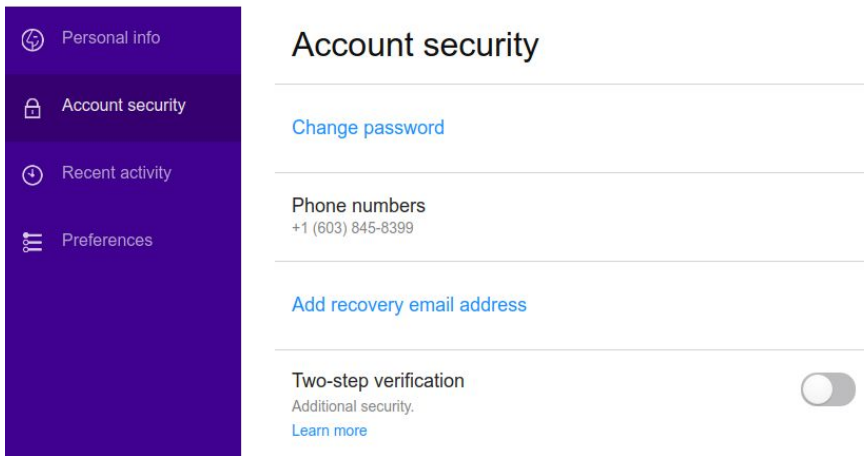
1. Change your password. And please don't use any personal information in that password. Including kids names, pet names, birth dates, lot numbers, etc. The bad guys have all that info. An email password like **Steve592** would not be good. Write that password down. Or better still use [this form](#) from the Arcadia Village Computer Club for keeping track.
2. If you have a smartphone that accepts text messages turn on 2-Factor Authentication. That's a big word but it means whenever you log in from a device the Yahoo doesn't recognize Yahoo will send you a TEXT Message with a 5-digit code. To turn this on you must first go to your personal settings page. Click on **Account Info**



3. Then click on Account Security.

4. Then click on the Two-step verification button and follow the instructions. Remember you must have a smartphone to enable 2-Factor authentication

YAHOO!



Switching From Yahoo

Now you have work to do. The first thing to do is to get a Gmail or Outlook email address. I would recommend Gmail because Google spends real money on security engineering making it the best & most secure email on the planet.

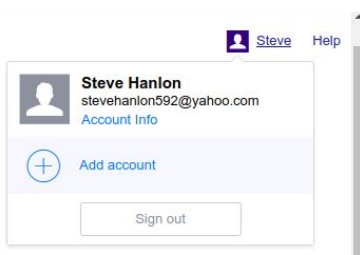
If you have a Android, non-Apple smartphone (Samsung, LG, HTC, Motorola, etc) you probably have a gmail account. On your phone go to Settings->Accounts. Click on the Google Account to see your email address you created when you set up the phone. Write it down. Make sure you know the password or better still change it right there.

If you don't have an Android smartphone go to Gmail.com, click on "Create an Account" and follow the account creation steps. Make sure you write down the email address and password you create. If you have a cell phone that takes TXT messages or another email account (CenturyLink, etc) use those as "recovery options".

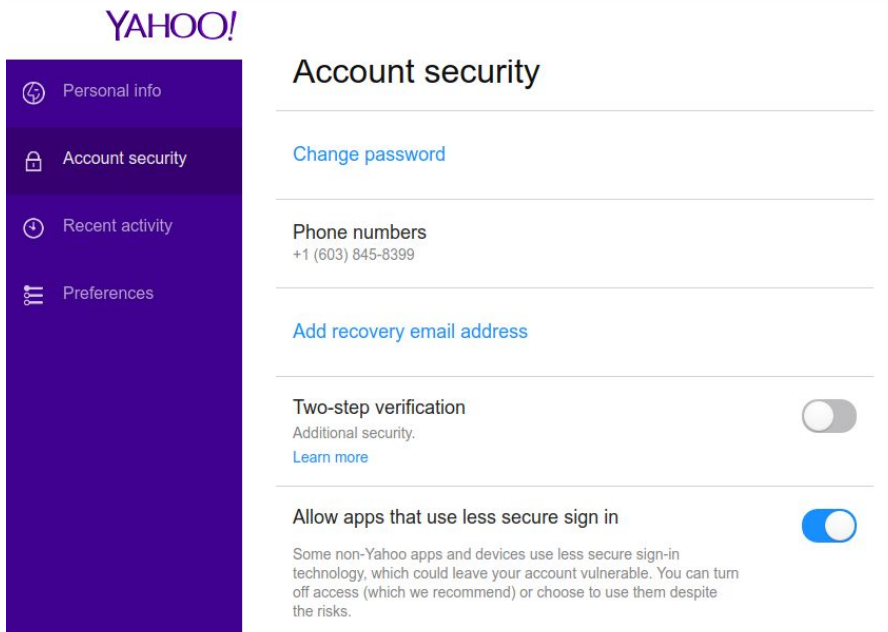
Once your new shiney Gmail account is setup play with it a bit. Send yourself some email from your Yahoo account.

Next you need to tell Gmail that you want to "fetch" all your Yahoo email. But before we can do that we need to tell Yahoo it's ok for another program to access your Yahoo email.

Go to your Yahoo account, Click on your name and then Click Account Info



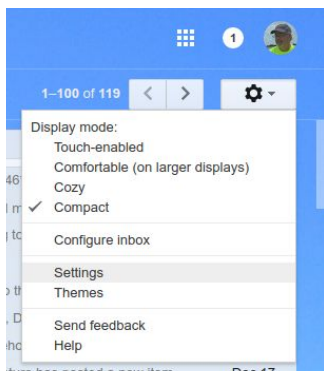
and then Account Security.



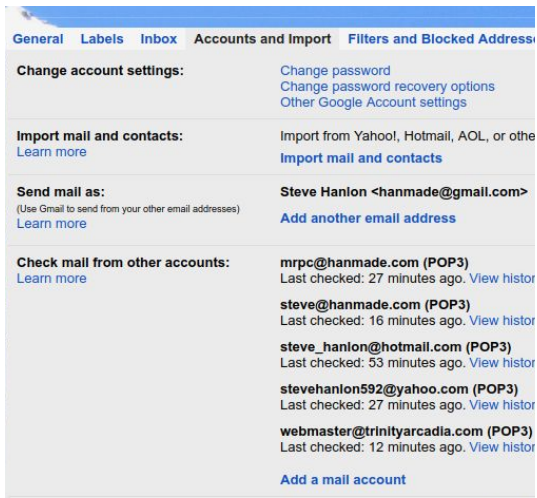
Make sure the **Allow apps...** is turned on.

Back to Gmail...

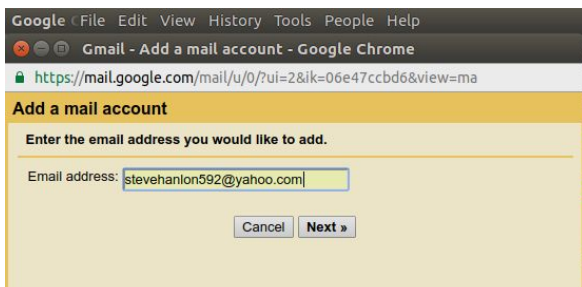
In Gmail click on Cog Wheel/Gear icon in the upper right corner then click on Settings.



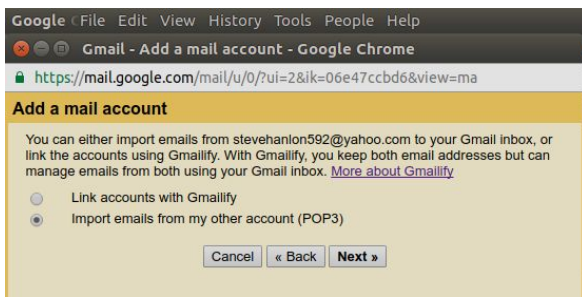
Then click on **Accounts and Import**



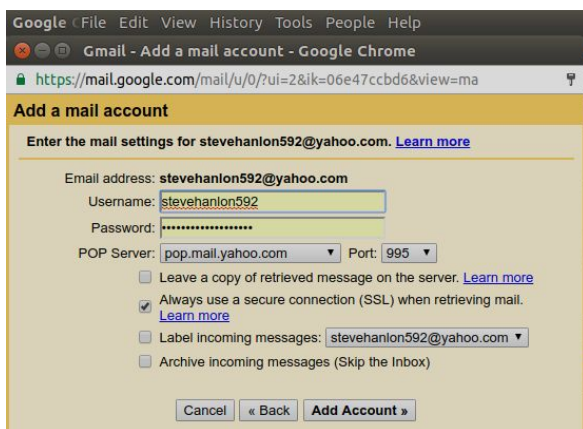
In the **Check email from other accounts** section click on **Add a mail account**



Enter your Yahoo email address. I created a Yahoo account for this tutorial...
Click **Next >>**



In this step you want to choose **Import emails from my other account (POP3)**. The **Link accounts with Gmailify** option is used if you want to keep your Yahoo account and not use your a Gmail account. In this case however, you are moving away from Yahoo so select the bottom **Import emails from my other account (POP3)** option. Click **Next >>**



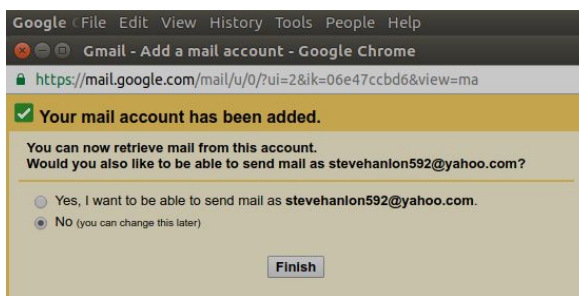
This is the last step (yea!). This screen sets up the credentials you'll need to give Gmail that authorizes Google to import all your Yahoo email. You'll need to fill in the Username and Password fields. For the username use the part of your Yahoo email address upto but not including the @ symbol. Since my Yahoo email is **stevehanlon592@yahoo.com** my username is **stevehanlon592**.

Leave the **POP Server** settings alone, as well as the **Leave a copy...** and **Always use a secure connection...** settings as they are probably correct.

The last two settings can be an actual benefit to you in Gmail but they are optional. The first one **Label incoming...** will apply a special label (think of it as a folder) to each email that comes from Yahoo. The default is a label named as your Yahoo email address. But you can change that if you want. The second one means that if an email comes in from Yahoo it won't land in your inbox but rather in a folder for you to look at later.

Since you are going to replace your Yahoo email with your new Gmail address you can leave these last two unchecked. But say you already had and were using your Gmail account and wanted to merely have Gmail fetch the few Yahoo emails when they come in. In that case I'd check the last two and have those emails put in a folder when they arrive. This is what I do with my **mrpc@hanmade.com** and **steve_hanlon@hotmail.com** because I don't get much email from those.

Click **Add Account >>**

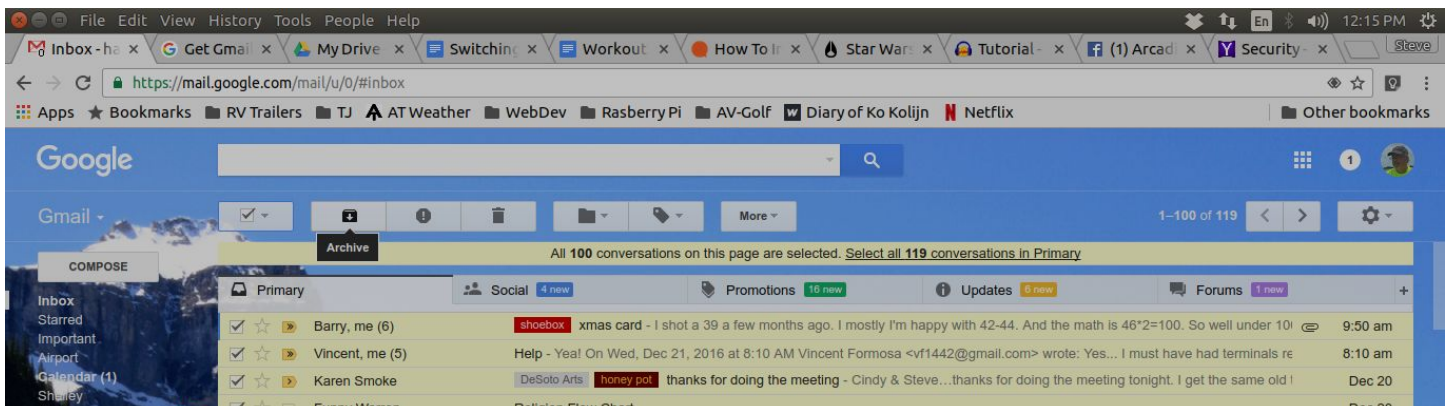


Congrats your Yahoo account has been added to your Gmail. This last screen might be a little confusing but Gmail is awesome and they are giving you the ability to actually SEND email as if it's came from your Yahoo email address. This is not critical but since you will be moving from Yahoo to Gmail it makes sense to just select **No**. Click **Finish**. Yea! You're done. Now what?

Within a few minutes a few minutes, Gmail will start fetching all your email from Yahoo. I'm not sure of the exact detail of how fast this can happen but if you have less than 100 emails in Yahoo it should happen very fast. If you have thousands of saved emails then it will take longer. Perhaps a day.

Navigate to the main Gmail screen, and click on the inbox. You'll see the email coming in. One very special thing to note is that if you have your Yahoo emails in custom folders in your email account **THOSE FOLDERS DO NOT GET TRANSFERRED**. Just the emails inside of them.

You can make Gmail labels (like a folder) and re-organize your email just like you had it before but I feel this isn't necessary. I think it's easier to Archive and then Search for saved email than taking the time to put each saved email in a folder/label. To Archive all your saved Yahoo email you can do this:



By clicking the box above the list of emails you can select all of them.



Then you can click on the **Archive** button to the right of it as shown above. This will put all the selected emails in the "All Mail" Archive folder/label. Which doesn't matter because instead of organizing your saved emails into folders I think it's best to just search for a saved email. If Google is good at one thing it's searching right?

If you wanted to search for an email I sent to you then just add my name in the search box:



And you'd get back any Archived email from me. Done. Way easier than putting email in a dozen folders.

Steps to Take Before Deleting Your Yahoo Account

Remember that you'll need to change all your "connected accounts" that have your Yahoo email address as the primary way to contact you. Here's a list of steps to take:

1. Print out that [password tracking document](#) I mentioned before. You can use that to organize and re-write down all your connected account passwords. Facebook, Amazon, Banks, Credit Cards, etc.
2. Go to each connected account and change your contact email address. You may have to verify the address change. I know this is a lot of work. I had to do it once and it was a super pain, but make a list of the accounts you need to change and check them off one by one when you're done. Start with the banks, credit cards and financial services first. Those are the real ID Theft targets.
3. When you are done wait a few weeks before deleting your Yahoo account. Because you probably forgot one or two. And if you need access to your Yahoo account to verify the email change you'll be stuck. So wait a few weeks to remember the accounts you forgot.

If you've had your Yahoo account for years it will take more than a day to switch. When the day comes that you feel satisfied with your switch to Gmail you can find the information about deleting your Yahoo account [here](#). If for some reason that link doesn't work just Google search for: "delete yahoo account" and find the info from Yahoo there. Don't bother looking for an Account Delete link somewhere in your Yahoo profile or account. It's not there. It's separate.

If anyone in the park feels this is too hard to do, or too confusing it's OK. Call me and I can come over and do it in a few minutes. You'll have to change all your connected accounts however. But I can show you how to do one or two of those as well.

Good Luck!

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