

Aussie Mobile PC Doctor

Goodbye Hotmail Hello Outlook.com!

Volume 4, Issue 8

Whats Hot

- Kaspersky Lab is appealing to the public to help crack a code embedded in a piece of malware it believes is nation-state sponsored
- Called Gauss, it is the latest in a string of malware that has possible links to Flame, Duqu and Stuxnet. Kaspersky researchers, so far, believe it is an espionage toolkit, designed to steal browser passwords, banking details and other credentials, but what it is meant to do on the intended target's computer is hidden within encrypted code



So long, Hotmail. It was nice knowing you!

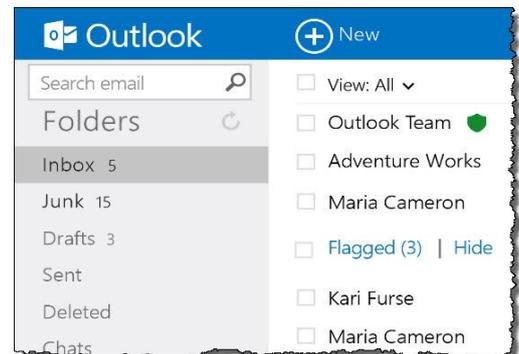
A New Outlook!

Microsoft unveiled a major update to its consumer mail platform, with a new look, a slew of new features, and a new name that is surprisingly familiar. The “modern email” service has been in super stealth mode for several months under the code-name NewMail. With its formal launch as an open-to-the-public preview, the

Outlook, of course, is the serious, business-focused mail client included with Office. Microsoft used the brand with Outlook Express, its lightweight email client in Windows XP, but dumped the name with the launch of Windows Vista in 2006.

Restoring the Outlook name to Microsoft's consumer email service accomplishes two goals. First, it dumps the Hotmail brand, which is tarnished beyond redemption,

service gets a new name: Outlook.com.



Outlook Interface

I've been using the NewMail beta for a few weeks now and can share some first impressions.

especially among technically sophisticated users who have embraced Google's Gmail as the default standard for webmail. More importantly, it replaces the Hotmail domain with a fresh top-level domain that's serious enough for business use.

The Outlook.com preview will run alongside Hotmail for now, but when the preview ends, this will be the replacement for all Hotmail

and Live Mail users.

With Outlook.com, Microsoft is taking dead aim at Gmail, positioning Google's flagship service as the old and tired player that is ready for retirement. Gmail, they point out, is eight years old, and its interface and feature set aren't exactly modern. It doesn't play well with any social media except its own, it handles attachments in a stodgy and traditional way, and it's not particularly

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elegant when it comes to managing the deluge of email we all have to deal with every day.

So what's new about NewMail—sorry, Outlook.com? And why would anyone consider switching from Gmail?

The most obvious change in the web interface, of course, is the overall design, which gets the full Metro treatment.

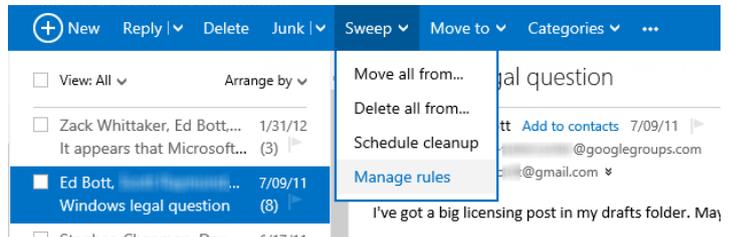
That three-pane layout follows the familiar Outlook standard, but the typography is definitely new. It's clean and crisp with no wasted ornamentation or clutter. It should come as no surprise that the default organization is optimized for use on touch-enabled devices.

Facebook chat) in that pane. In a demo, Microsoft showed off Skype integration and said it will be coming later in the preview.

If you've selected no message, the right pane might show ads, which appear in Metro style boxes with text--an image preview appears if you hover over the ad. As part of its positioning against Google, Microsoft has taken pains to note that your messages aren't scanned to provide context-sensitive ads, as they are with Gmail.

This is a pure HTML interface, which means the functionality is consistent across different browsers and on

A command bar at the top of the page provides access to commands



Command Bar

as needed. If a command isn't available in the current context, it's not visible on the screen.

The preview pane (a feature that's still experimental in Gmail even after eight years) lets you read and reply to messages without leaving the main screen. Action icons that appear when you move the mouse over an item in the message list let you file, delete, or flag the message with a single click or tap.

THE VERDICT

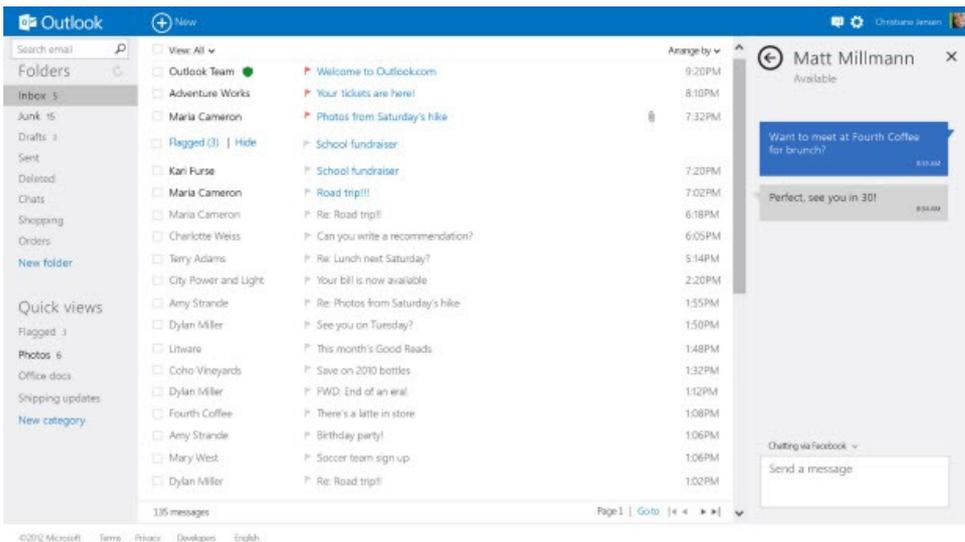
With a myriad of changes that are beyond just cosmetic, this is all part of Microsoft's big plans for Windows 8 and the Metro interface discussed in a Volume 4 , issue 6. So far, we think it's positive!?!

For all your IT needs, either at home or in the office, contact

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A pane on the right shows **Outlook Interface** alternative platforms. I tested NewMail on a Mac using Safari and Chrome and in both Firefox and Chrome on several Windows PCs. Everything worked as expected. I also tested the web-based interface in mobile Safari on an iPad, where it also displayed perfectly.

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