

HOW TO STOP PAYING AOL (and speed up your PC) [©]

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DO YOU WANT TO STOP PAYING AOL FOR YOUR E-MAIL ACCOUNT?

- Are you a paying member of AOL who no longer needs the various AOL services, but wants to keep your AOL email address active? Do you want to stop paying them a monthly fee? If you are using an ISP provider other than AOL to access the internet, you can leave paid AOL, keep all your AOL email addresses, and not even lose any of your email messages in the process! Free AOL email is available to everyone. In addition, removing all the AOL Programs from you system will speed it up significantly.
- Here's how:
 1. First, I suggest you export all your AOL E-mail contacts from your AOL mail to your PC or preferred e-mail client. *(See below). If privacy is a concern, you can (as a paid AOL Member) try downloading & installing the "AOL Desktop" program <http://daol.aol.com/software/desktop/> and see if it will export your AOL contacts. (Note: I have not tried this, since I am not an AOL member)*
 2. Call AOL and persuade them to permanently close your Account. *(This may take some time. If you don't believe me, watch this 5 min youtube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmpDSBAh6RY> . If the link doesn't work, just search youtube.com for "cancel AOL").*
 3. Use one of these three phone numbers: 1-888-265-8008, 2nd Phone 1-877-773-4462, 3rd Phone: 1-800-827-6364. *(Note: The first number is the official secret "Cancel AOL Hotline").*
 4. As soon as you close your AOL Account, all the Primary and Secondary e-mail addresses connected with that Account will be deactivated (but not closed).
 5. Once your paid AOL Account is fully closed, you can start using your same old xxxx@aol.com addresses as "Free AOL Addresses" by doing the the following for each address:
 - a. Go to <http://www.aol.com/> and sign onto your AOL e-mail using your old AOL email address and password.
 - b. There will be a button that says "Click here to Reactivate your Free AOL Screen Name".
 - c. Click that Button and fill out the form with your info, including an alternate email address.
 - d. Once you have done this, your AOL mail will start working again, and will be available to Thunderbird, other E-mail clients, or as AOL Free Webmail via Firefox or Internet Explorer.
- After all the dust has settled, I suggest you remove all AOL Programs from your computer using Add/Remove Programs. This will speed up your system significantly. *(XP = Control Panel > Add/Remove Programs) or (VISTA = Control Panel > under Programs, click uninstall a program). Remove anything that begins with "AOL" or "AIM" (unless you use the AOL Instant Messenger).*

SET UP "FREE AOL MAIL" ON YOUR E-MAIL CLIENT

- THUNDERBIRD: See my "THUNDERBIRD SETUP - Step-by-Step" Guide, or see to the AOL help page at:
<http://help.aol.com/help/search.do?cmd=displayKC&docType=kc&externalId=http--helpchannelsaolcom-kjumpadparticleId223571&sliceId=&dialogID=1780446&stateId=1%200%201800509>
- OUTLOOK: See the AOL Help pages at:
<http://help.aol.com/help/search.do?cmd=displayKC&docType=kc&externalId=http--helpchannelsaolcom-kjumpadparticleId217453>
- OTHER E-MAIL CLIENTS: See the AOL Help pages at.
<http://help.aol.com/help/search.do?cmd=displayKC&docType=kc&externalId=http--helpchannelsaolcom-kjumpadparticleId217449>

EXPORT YOUR AOL CONTACTS:

- A trick to get your AOL e-mail contact addresses exported into Gmail or any other e-mail provider. Note: You must follow this trick exactly, and be sure to access your AOL Mail from your browser to do this. **WARNING: All recipients listed in Step 1 will receive an e-mail that includes the addresses of all the other recipients. This trick does not work if you use BCC so if privacy is a concern, you can (as a paid AOL Member) try downloading & installing the "AOL Desktop" program <http://daol.aol.com/software/desktop/> and see if it will export your AOL contacts. (Note: I have not tried this since I am not an AOL member)**
- To GMAIL:
 1. In AOL webmail, create a new mail list (*Contacts > New > New List*) that contains all the e-mail addresses you want to export. I named it "Export"
 2. Send an e-mail to that List (*Compose > To: Export*). Be sure to (Cc) to your new Gmail address. Include a quick blurb that says "Test Message. Please ignore", since everyone will get a copy of the message.
 3. Exit your AOL webmail, and open up your Gmail. You should see the email that you just sent in your Inbox.
 4. Open the email and click "Reply to All". Enter some text like, "Hi, just a test message from my new Gmail Account." Everyone will get a copy of this note also.
 5. You're done. Gmail automatically put everyone who you emailed in your Gmail Contacts List. Look in your Gmail contacts. Everyone should be there. *Thanks for this idea go to Nicholas Roussos: <http://www.nicholasroussos.com/favorites/how-to-export-contacts-from-aol-to-gmail>*
- TO THUNDERBIRD: Another version of this trick is to access your Gmail or other NON-AOL mail via Thunderbird. Temporarily activate (*Tools > Options > Composition > Addressing Tab > check Automatically add outgoing addresses to my Address Book*), then send out the email using Thunderbird as in step 4 above. All the addresses should now be in the Thunderbird address book. NOTE: Be sure to go back and uncheck the box when done.