

Friday, March 21, 2008

Google e-mail move set for April 2

On Wednesday, April 2, Oakland University student e-mail will be transitioned to a Webmail system powered by Google. This change will considerably improve the e-mail issues currently being experienced by Oakland e-mail users.

Earlier this week University Technology Services (UTS) launched a **Webmail Frequently Asked Questions** Web page, which provides more information on the switch to Webmail powered by Google. Details and how-to instructions will be added to the page as the transition nears.

Students are reminded to beware of a recent phishing e-mail that asks for the recipient's e-mail username and password. The e-mail appears to come from onlineservices@oakland.edu, and it is not valid.

"The timing of this phishing e-mail is unfortunate. We would like to remind the OU community that UTS will never ask you for your username or password via e-mail, and you should never provide it," said Terrie Rowe, OU's Chief Information Officer. "If you receive an e-mail that asks for this information, always delete it immediately without responding, and do not click on any links in the e-mail."

With Webmail powered by Google, students will retain their existing oakland.edu e-mail addresses. Faculty and staff, including those who also hold student status, will remain on the existing e-mail system but will notice a significant improvement in functionality once the student transition is complete.

Each student account on the new Webmail system will have more than 6 GB of storage space. Webmail powered by Google also offers improved spam prevention. Spam solutions for faculty and staff on the existing e-mail system are in the works.

Students will continue to log in to Webmail powered by Google from the existing **Webmail** page. Faculty and staff will also log in to the existing e-mail system from that page. The Webmail page will sport a new look when the transition is complete. Instructions for using an e-mail client to manage Webmail powered by Google will be added to the **Webmail Frequently Asked Questions** page in the coming days.

After the transition is made on April 2, students will have the option of importing their mail and contacts from the existing e-mail system to the Google system. On Friday, May 2, student e-mails and contact lists residing on the existing e-mail server will be permanently deleted. Because e-mail is not backed up for security reasons, messages that are not imported will be irrecoverable.

SUMMARY

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