Virtual Yale Station (@aya.yale.edu) Email Forwarding Service – Transition to “YaleMail” Gmail Service for Alumni

FAQs

Why is this happening?
The Virtual Yale Station email forwarding service (VYS), while cutting edge when it was originally launched, is no longer a stable or viable solution for alumni email. The Association of Yale Alumni and Yale’s IT department have researched options and determined that Yale-branded Google Apps for Education email will be more useful and reliable to the alumni community.

What actually happens to my @aya.yale.edu account after the migration to YaleMail?
With the transition, your current @aya.yale.edu address becomes a fully-functioning Gmail account, hosted by Google’s Apps for Education. In other words, the @aya.yale.edu email address you have now will remain the same. There will be no need to update friends and subscriptions with a different email address.

Is YaleMail the same as Virtual Yale Station?
No. The new Yale-branded alumni email service – YaleMail – is a fully-functional web-based email account on the Gmail platform. You will be able to access your inbox from anywhere in the world via the web or handheld device. You can also send emails using your @aya.yale.edu alumni address as the “from” address, which was not possible when using VYS with many email clients.

What happens if I don’t do anything?
On the date that the new YaleMail service launches (February 2016, exact date TBA), any email sent to your @aya.yale.edu address will go to your new YaleMail Gmail inbox. To access the emails, you must activate this new account. You will be sent activation instructions, including a temporary password, in advance of the February 2016 launch date.

How do I activate my account?
Go to http://www.gmail.com

• Select “Sign in” in the upper right hand corner
  o Current Google/Gmail Users:
    ▪ If you have a current Google/Gmail account(s), you will need to sign out in order to activate the new YaleMail account.
    ▪ You may have to select Add a New Account if you have Google/Gmail account(s). Use your full @aya.yale.edu address as your user ID.
  • Enter the temporary password sent to you in the Google activation email. If you do not have access to that email, contact aya@yale.edu.
  • Create and confirm your new password.
  • If you would like your YaleMail messages to be forwarded to another email address, Gmail allows for forwarding set up (see below for a link to Gmail Help).

Will there be an interruption in receiving my emails?
There should be no interruption in service on your @aya.yale.edu address. To access your messages in the new YaleMail inbox, however, you will need to first activate the account and setup a new password.

If you activate your Gmail account after Yale has transitioned your account, the emails sent to your forwarding address will be waiting and available to you in your YaleMail inbox once you activate the account.

I already have a Gmail account, why do I have to have another one?
In order to continue using your @aya.yale.edu address, you will need to activate your YaleMail Gmail account. If you no longer use the Virtual Yale Station forwarding service and would like to deactivate your @aya.yale.edu address, please go to: http://aya.yale.edu/content/online-services and log into your account. Once signed in, check the box next to Forwarding status “Disable my permanent email forwarding until further notice” and select "Update Forwarding Info."

Can I set up my new Gmail account to forward my emails?
Yes, you can easily forward emails sent to your @aya.yale.edu account to any address you choose. To set up your new Gmail account to forward your emails, please follow the instructions from this Gmail help page.

Why did Yale choose Google?
Yale implemented Google Apps for Education accounts for Yale College students (known as EliApps) in 2011 and has been satisfied with the service. As old infrastructure has been replaced, students in some professional schools and faculty in some departments/schools have also moved to EliApps.

I am concerned about Google's privacy and security policies.
Gmail for consumers and Google Apps for Education both run on the same infrastructure, however, Google Apps is a separate offering that provides additional security, administrative and archiving controls for education, work, and government customers. Google Apps for Education services don't collect or use individual's data for advertising purposes or to create ad profiles. Google will never sell or share your personal information.

For additional questions, please contact the AYA at aya@yale.edu or (203) 432-1907.