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Virtru Email Security
End-to-end email encryption

Last month we described the limitations in Gmail's recently announced encryption security. Briefly, Gmail can only enforce encryption policies within its own network, between Gmail users, and not everyone uses Gmail. Furthermore, there is no assurance of the extent to which email stored on Gmail servers is actually secure.

Recent national security bombshells have prompted many Americans to reconsider what they say and do online, realizing that public surveillance is far greater than was realized.

In January, responding to amplified privacy concerns, Virtru (www.virtru.com) launched a free service that allows users to easily encrypt their Gmail, Yahoo and Outlook email.

The original intent of email was simply that it should work, and until recent times that magic was enough. But for the most part, basic email is like sending a postcard – anyone along the chain of transmission can potentially intercept and peep at the content if they're inclined to do so.

Previous options for email encryption have either been too complicated for average use, or too easily compromised, or both.

Virtru is new, and they appear to have made an important breakthrough. Every message is encrypted with a unique high-level key, and each key is destroyed as soon as the message is received and decrypted.

Virtru doesn't store or even see the actual messages -- they simply provide the lock-unlock encryption keys, and their key servers have never been vulnerable to the Heartbleed bug (see adjoining story). Senders and recipients must initially verify that they are in fact who they claim to be.

Recipients of a message encrypted by Virtru do not need to have Virtru or any other special software installed. Upon identity verification (by return email authentication), they can simply read the decrypted message in a Virtru web viewer.

However, a recipient who doesn't also have Virtru installed

The Heartbleed Bug
OCS not affected, but it's still serious

Even as last month's newsletter was barely in the mail -- in which we described the security in HTTPS encryption -- researchers were announcing a fatal flaw in a key safety feature behind surfing the Web -- the one that keeps your email, banking, shopping, passwords and communications private.

It's called Heartbleed, and it is essentially an information leak. It starts with a hole in the software that the vast majority of websites on the Internet use to turn

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Virtru Email Security
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cannot send a Virtru-encrypted reply. The good news is that Virtru is free, and it's available for Gmail, Yahoo Mail, Microsoft Outlook.com (formerly HotMail and Live.com), Outlook 2010 and 2013 (desktop apps), and the iPhone (iOS7) -- support for Android and Mac Mail is in the works.

Currently supported browsers include Firefox and Chrome, with Microsoft IE and Safari in the works.

Installation is fast and easy. Just go to www.virtru.com and click "Get Virtru," then choose your browser or app. It installs quickly as an add-on, and from then on when composing a new message you'll see the option to enable Virtru security protection. It's just that simple.

This is only a review, not an endorsement of Virtru. But we've been interested in enhanced email security for some time -- see "Email Privacy" in our December 2013 newsletter -- and after trying Virtru we're now using it.

There's a lot of chatter via email that probably doesn't need to be secured, but you may want to think twice about anything containing personal, sensitive, medical, business, financial, or other information that's simply none of anyone else's business.

The Heartbleed Bug
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your personal information into strings of random numbers and letters. If you see a padlock image in the address bar, there's a good chance that site is using the encryption software that was impacted by the Heartbleed bug.

For more than two years now, Heartbleed has offered the potential for outsiders to peek into the personal information that was supposed to be protected from snoopers. Making matters worse, the Heartbleed bug leaves no traces – you may never know when or if you've been hacked, or by whom.

The good news is that websites hosted by OCS, including Webmail and Internet service bill payments, were not affected -- the encryption software we use does not contain the bug.

However, it's probable that nearly all of our subscribers use online services outside of OCS that *are* affected -- for example, Gmail, Yahoo Mail and Finance, Google Search and Wallet, YouTube, and Facebook, just to name a few. Online banking and shopping sites must also be considered suspect.

What can you do? Log out of all websites – email, social media, banking, everything. Check for information posted by each entity certifying that their website encryption is now fixed and secure, then -- and only then -- change your password. Affected websites are all racing to fix the issue, and if you act too quickly, you might change your password on a site that is still vulnerable.

Undoing the damage that has potentially already been done won't be easy, and there will likely be servers that still have this problem for years to come.

Portions of this story are from money.cnn.com

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds (Mbps)		Monthly Usage	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service
	Max	Typical			Installation	Equipment Deposit	
	(Note 1)		*(Note 2)*			*(Note 3)*	
RESIDENTIAL					*All Plans*		
Basic	**1.5M**	1M	20GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	**3M**	2M	30GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS							
Business	**3.5M**	2.5M	40GB	10			129.95
Professional	**4.5M**	3.5M	50GB	25			159.95
Corporate	**6M**	4.5M	60GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	**8M**	6.5M	80GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS							
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek	*(Note 4)*						
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	**750K**	375K	8GB	5			69.95

(1) Residential and Mountain Area plans are asymmetrical, with uploads at 50% of download speeds. All Business plans are symmetrical.
(2) Usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
(3) Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon service termination after one year. No contracts are required.
(4) Add $10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.