

# In With The New, Out With The Outlook

*Possibilities that could come with a new email system*  
by Nathan Leckband

At a laptop university, e-mail performs a vital function to campus happenings. Students e-mail professors, professors e-mail students, students e-mail each other, and various departments communicate almost exclusively through e-mail. In the past, Microsoft Outlook has been the program with which all this has happened. In the future, this may change. Concordia's technology department has been looking at some different options when it comes to e-mail on campus. A panel made up of technology department members, students and professors is exploring the pos-

sibility of Concordia changing the e-mail system from Microsoft Outlook to Google Mail, a web-based Google-owned e-mail system commonly known as Gmail.

Jonathan Breitbarth, Director of Computing Services, says that Concordia is looking into various advantages and disadvantages of switching from Outlook to Gmail. "From a business standpoint," said Breitbarth, "Gmail is offered as a free service." That alone offers the potential of saving Concordia a significant amount of money. Currently, Concordia pays for its Microsoft Exchange servers, as well as the licensing fees for each individual copy of Microsoft Outlook. By switching to Gmail, Concordia could possibly save these costs.

Gmail also offers what Breitbarth calls, "a stronger web-based program than Microsoft Outlook." Having a stronger web-based program will benefit off-campus students and those accessing their e-mail from computers other than their laptops.

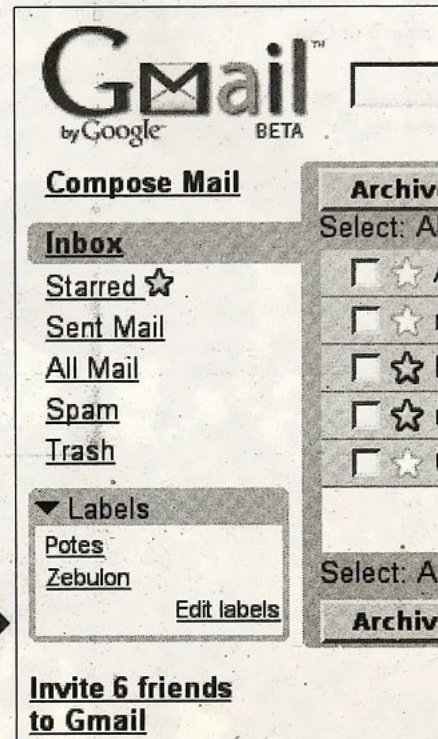
Gmail has also been utilized on other campuses, including Arizona State. Macalister has also been exploring the possibility of switching to Gmail as their campus e-mail system.

Should Concordia switch to the Gmail system, Concordia students would still be able to keep their same e-mail addresses, and future e-mail addresses would still end in csp.edu.

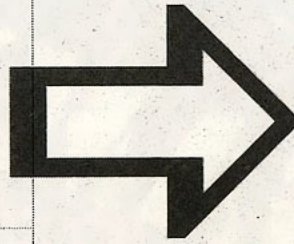
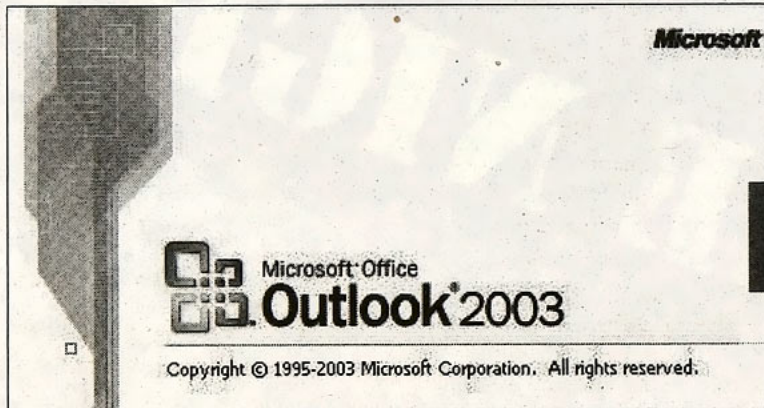
"There are several options we could decide on for e-mail," Breitbarth says. "We could decide to stay with Microsoft exchange, move to Google's

service, or stay with Exchange for now and consider moving to Google in the future, but it will probably be one of the first two options."

An e-mail exploratory committee has been formed to look at Gmail as an option, and plans to make a decision by April 20.



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