

10/01/09 - Thunderbird: Firefox's Sidekick For Email



If you like Firefox, and aren't using Thunderbird, read on. [Mozilla Thunderbird](#), like [Firefox](#), is community built, free, and has won many awards. It's an email client that's fast, secure, and offers add-ons. When I first started using it, the speed difference was pretty noticeable compared with Windows Live Mail, which is Microsoft's new name for Outlook Express.

Even if you like using webmail, it's probably worth installing Thunderbird so that your email is backed up on your computer, and accessible even when you're offline. Thunderbird works well with most webmail providers. Usually you can find simple instructions on how to configure your account with a quick search on Google, such as "[thunderbird gmail](#)".

If you're like me, and work best with a calendar and/or a task list, there's an excellent add-on called Lightening. To install it, [download it](#) to your desktop, go to Tools -> Add-Ons, click Install... and select it from your desktop. After restarting Thunderbird, Lightening will be installed.

Another excellent add-on, [Zindus](#), helped me add all of my contacts from Gmail.

Enjoy!