

POOF! The ~~Magic Dragon~~ Disposable Email!

By Neil Herber

Why do you need one?

- Sites that require you to provide an email address for access
 - You can always try fredsmith@example.com
 - Example.com is a testing domain – there are no such addresses
 - If the site balks at this, carry on!
- To access geo-fenced resources
 - For example, I could not download the Luxembourg bus app unless I had a Luxembourg email account
 - Nothing nefarious on either side (I think Lux removed that limitation now)
- When someone asks for an email address and you are not sure you want to use your own

I use 2 “classes” of disposable addresses (patent pending)

- A real email address which is persistent, such as a free one from:
 - Outlook.com or Gmail.com or Yahoo.com
 - Create an address and just ignore the mail/spam until you want to use it
 - Note that these services will delete inactive accounts, so use them once a year if you want to retain them
- A real email address that will disappear at some point

Real disposable addresses

- Do a Google search for <https://www.google.com/search?q=disposable+email+address>
- Or just go to <https://helpdeskgeek.com/free-tools-review/5-best-free-disposable-email-accounts/>
- Or use one of my favourites:
 - <https://www.emailondeck.com/> --- receive only, dies when browser closes
 - <https://10minutemail.com/> --- receive and reply(!), hit the button for another 10 mins
 - <https://www.guerrillamail.com/> --- receive, reply, send huge attachments!

Do NOT use disposable email addresses for ...

- Any password recovery task
- Any service you want to really use, like your bank
- If it will receive info that you may need to refer to later, like an access code
- In general, if you ever want to see the mail again

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