Division of Information Technology
POSSIBIL**IT**IES
Summer 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

A Sneak Peek at the "New" Texas A&M Gmail

Google is redesigning its email interface this summer, including Texas A&M Gmail. You will also see enhanced security features and handy gadgets. Here are some things you can expect:

- **Snooze (but don't lose)** One of the most requested features is a new "snooze" feature. This tool allows you to have a message return to your inbox at a later date.

- **"Mission Impossible" mode** Ever wanted to send a message and have it available for a limited amount of time? Using confidential mode, you can set an expiration date (when the message self-destructs) or even revoke a sent mail (such as the embarrassing rant you accidentally sent). You can also set passwords for emails to ensure the intended recipient is the one opening the message.

- **Take me off that list** Gmail will now have an "Assistive Unsubscribe" tool. Using artificial intelligence, Gmail will keep track of the messages you interact with and suggest unsubscribing to others.

- **The other side** Google Calendar, Tasks and some third-party apps will be accessed from a handy-dandy sidebar. This allows you to work more efficiently since you won't need to leave Gmail.

- **Give me a nudge** You can now be given a "nudge" if you haven't responded to a message Gmail considers important, as it is bumped to the top of your inbox. You can also receive nudges when you haven't received a reply to an important message you sent.

- **Go offline** No internet? No problem. Gmail will allow you to search and draft messages while offline.

These are just a few of the new features you'll find in the new Texas A&M Gmail in late August or early September. To learn more about the updated features, read Google's official blog post.

Just "Duo" it

Amazon, Google and many other services utilize two-factor authentication for an added layer of security. Texas A&M University enabled NetID Two-Factor Authentication (Duo) in 2015. On December 31, 2019, all Texas A&M employees will be required to use the tool.

Two-factor authentication is more secure than a password alone since it requires "something you know" (password) plus "something you have" (mobile device or landline phone). The following campus groups will be required to use Duo by the specified dates:

- **October 15, 2018:** All incoming students (regardless of classification)

- **October 30, 2018:** All campus IT professionals

- **May 15, 2019:** All Texas A&M University employees

- **December 31, 2019:** All remaining students

Duo recommends adding more than one device or phone number in case you lose access to one of them. The Duo app also allows you to integrate third-party accounts such as Google.

Why wait to further secure your account? Sign up today at duo.tamu.edu.

Ensure you Receive Code Maroon Notifications

Do you or a family member receive Code Maroon text alerts through Twitter's "Fast Follow" feature? If so, you may not receive future notifications due to changes in Twitter's operating procedures.

Twitter now requires "Fast Follow" users to have a Twitter account associated with a mobile phone number. In the past, users could receive alerts without setting up a Twitter account. Everyone is encouraged to notify non-campus members of this change since they are most likely to use this method to receive alerts. Those who signed up for text alerts at codemaroon.tamu.edu will not be affected.

To test whether your "Fast Follow" notifications are still working, text "follow TAMUCodeMaroon" for Texas A&M or "follow TAMUCM_LAW" for Texas A&M School of Law, to 40404. You will either receive a success message or an error stating the "follow command is no longer supported." If you get the latter, you will need to sign up for a Twitter account. If you already have a Twitter account, log in and add your phone number to the "mobile" properties under "settings and privacy." If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please email helpdesk@tamu.edu or call 979.845.8300.

Filter your Gmail for Spam

Tired of opening your Texas A&M Gmail only to find tons of spam? Fortunately, Gmail categories, labels and filters can help.

Gmail has four categories to help organize and cull your messages: Social, Promotions, Updates and Forums. Advertisements are automatically placed in Promotions, while messages from services like Twitter and Facebook are placed in the Social tab.

To activate categories, click on settings (the gear icon) in the upper right and select "Configure Inbox." Select the inbox tabs you wish to use and click save. Incoming messages will now be filtered based on content.

Labels and filters are also powerful ways to help sort and isolate spam. Help Desk Central has detailed instructions and a how-to video to help use these tools.

Kudos

- Dee Childs, Vice President for Information Technology at Texas A&M University, is featured in the cover story of the [latest Toggle magazine](). Toggle is a quarterly trade journal showcasing technology in a variety of companies and organizations.

- Business Relationship Manager Jana McDonald is featured in the [#IAmBRM]() spotlight through the BRM Institute. Earlier this year, McDonald was named one of the "2018 Top BRMs" by the institute.

Congratulations!

The PossibilITies newsletter is delivering more news and useful tips that help put technology to work for you. If you have questions about any IT service, contact Help Desk Central at 979-845-8300 or [helpdesk@tamu.edu]().

This newsletter is produced by the Division of Information Technology. Tell us what you think about this newsletter by emailing [tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu]().