

Improving IMAP Performance

Concept

This process document describes the settings that must be made in <http://webmail.case.edu> (<http://webmail.case.edu/>) to improve performance with IMAP mail clients such as Outlook or Thunderbird.

Google maintains a special grouping of mail messages that appear to IMAP mail clients as a folder called "All Mail". This special folder contains every piece of mail the user has ever received, and over time it can grow to several tens (or hundreds!) of thousands of messages. Every time an IMAP mail client connects to the Google mail server, it downloads the headers of all new and changed messages in every folder including the "All Mail" folder. When the mail client is connecting for the first time, it must download the header of every message, including every message in the "All Mail" folder. When the volume of updates is very large, performance can suffer with symptoms ranging from long delays to download new messages to long delays before seeing message lists when switching folders.

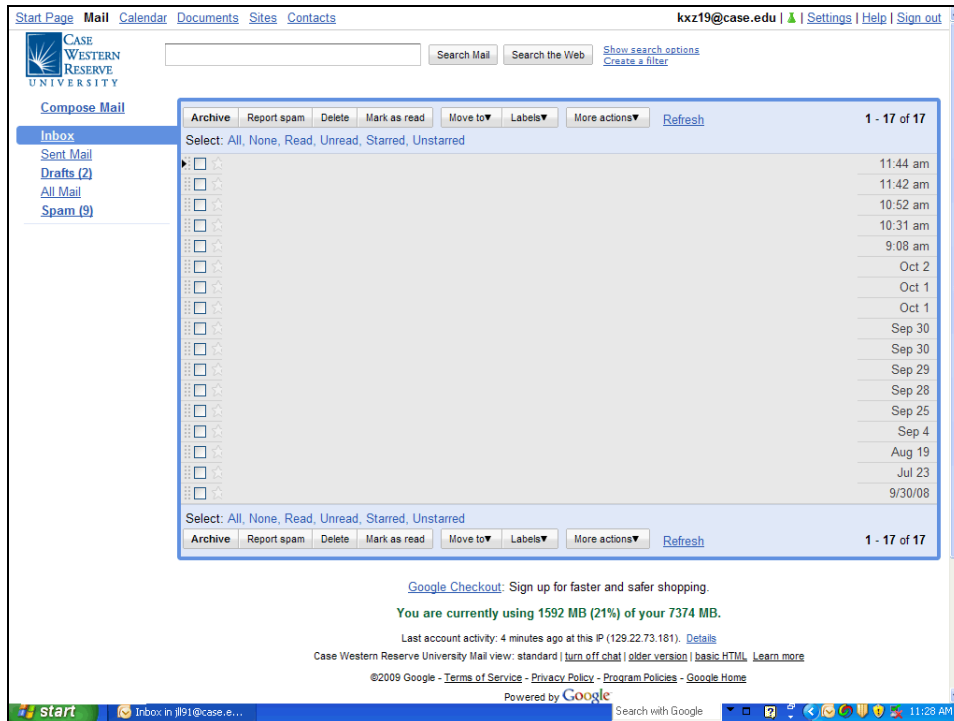
This procedure will allow you to make your "All Mail" folder invisible to your IMAP mail client. Since it will no longer need to download several thousands of message headers each time it connects, your IMAP mail client's performance should improve. This procedure can be used to make any folder that you don't often use invisible to your IMAP mail client; however, the folders will always be visible when viewing your email account online at <http://webmail.case.edu>.



Procedure

Use this process to make certain Google email folders invisible to IMAP mail clients. While this process can be done at any time, it is recommended to make the "All Mail" folder invisible BEFORE setting up your IMAP mail client to connect to Google for the first time.

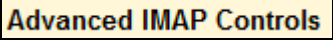
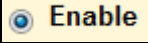
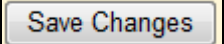
Step	Action
1.	Go to http://webmail.case.edu . Log in with your Case ID and its associated password.

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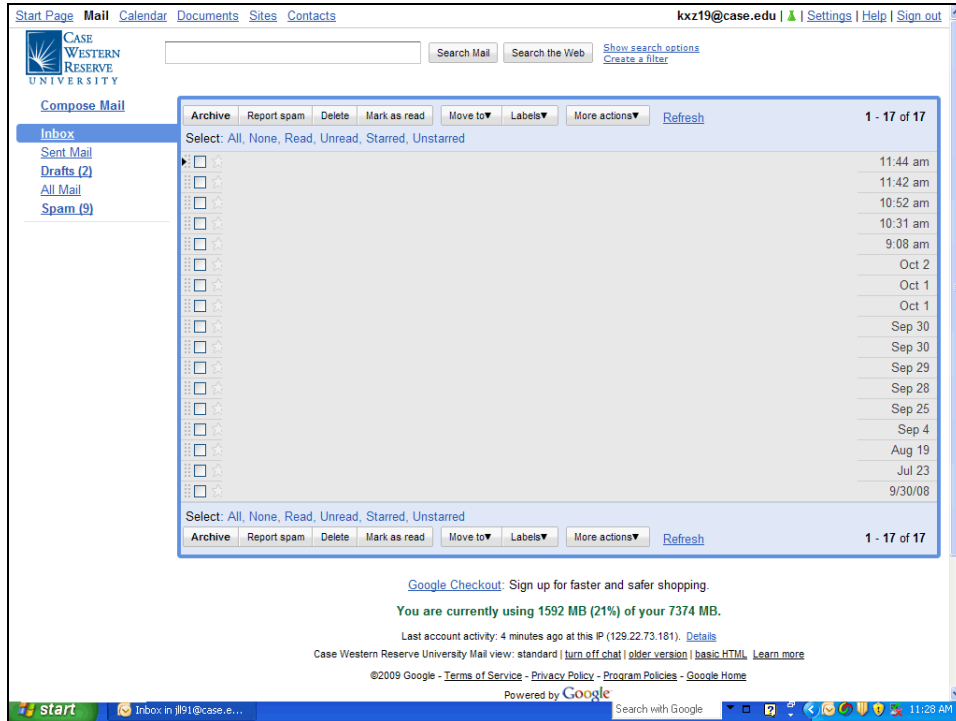


Step	Action
2.	<p>Your Case Google webmail account appears.</p> <p>Click on the green icon, Google Labs, on the top right of the screen.</p> <p>If you did not see the Google Labs green icon, Click Settings and then the Labs link in the Settings menu.</p> 
3.	<p>The Labs tab appear.</p> 

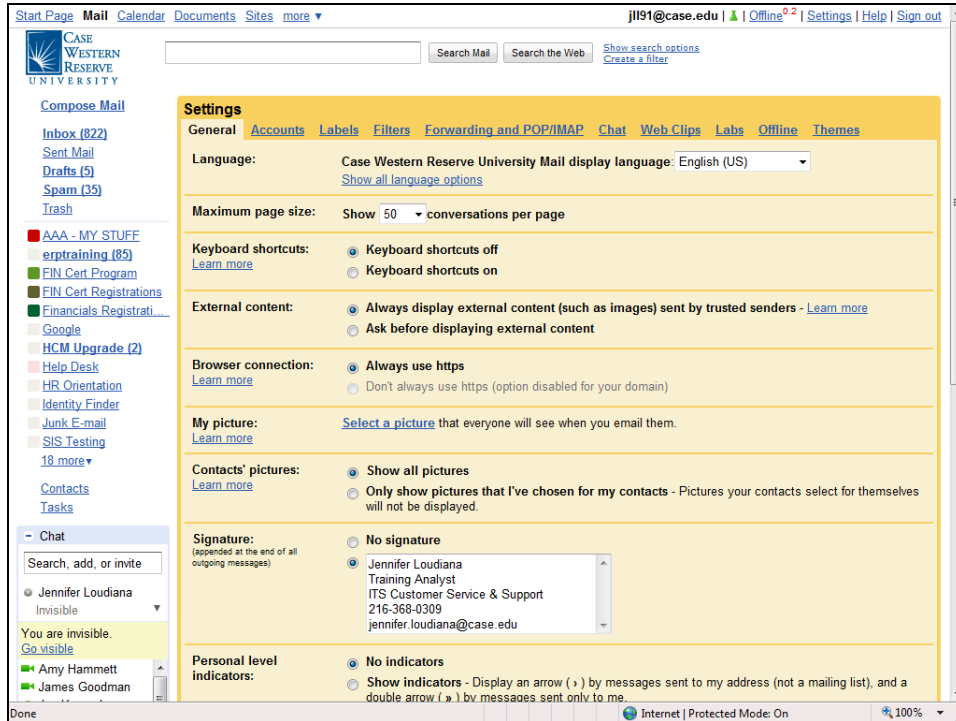


Step	Action
4.	Scroll down the Labs page until you find Advanced IMAP Controls . 
5.	Select the Enable radio button. 
6.	Click the Save Changes button. 

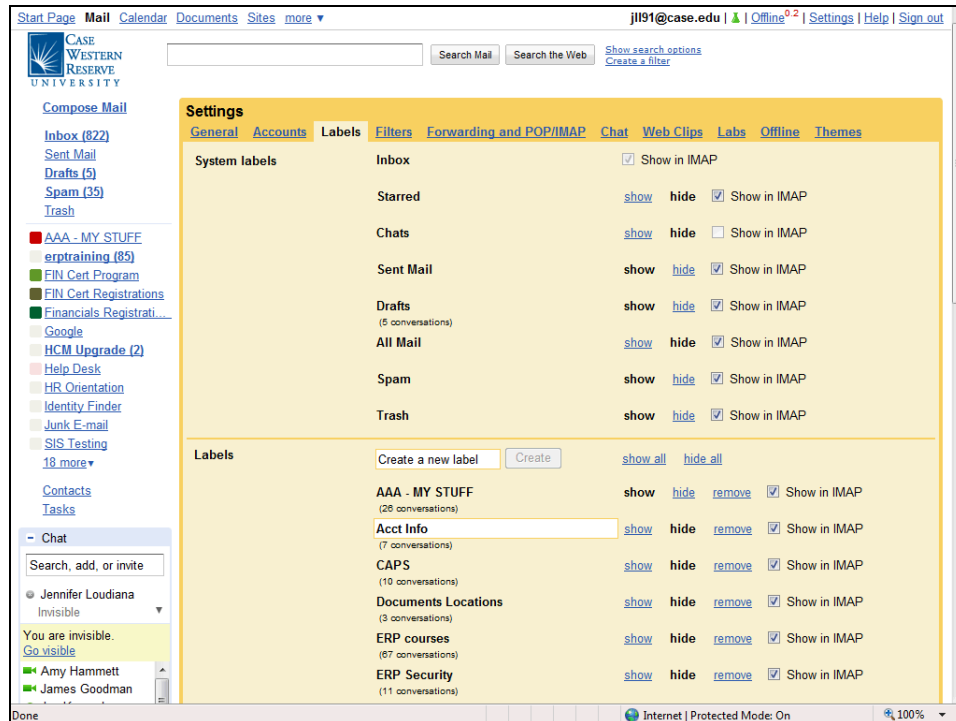
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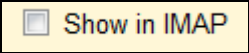



Step	Action
7.	You are returned to your Case Google Mail inbox. Click on the Settings link. Settings



Step	Action
8.	<p>The Settings page appears.</p> <p>Click on the Labels link.</p> <p>Labels</p>



Step	Action
9.	The System Labels section appears. Find the All Mail label.
10.	In the All Mail label row, uncheck the Show in IMAP checkbox. 
11.	If your email client is running, close and restart it. The IMAP email client will no longer download headers from the All Mail folder. 
12.	This completes the process of improving your mail performance using IMAP. End of Procedure.