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Hotmail email has been the main free email provider which started on 4th of July, 1996. It was founded by Sabeer Bhatia and Jack Smith. The real reason for picking July 4 as a launch day was particularly to characterize independence, it being Independence Day. The benefit of Hotmail email when it was commercially introduced was that it is possible to check out your email around the globe with no inconvenience.

Being one of the free email providers, its popularity and benefits became the key center of attraction and aspect of its success. Hotmail email proved to be a prominent turning point in the history of internet and e-communication.

The name Hotmail was derived upon by adding to HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), which is the prevalent encoding computer language back then. One other explanation it was decided to be referred to as Hotmail was that it ended in "mail" and also happened to suit in properly with HTML. As a result, its initial name was chosen to be HoTMaiL. It was launched with the assistance of Draper Fisher Jurvetson, a venture capital corporation. It became very popular, so much that it had 8.5 million users by the point it was sold to Microsoft in December of 1997. It was sold for 400 million dollars and was renamed as MSN Hotmail and later was renamed Windows Live Hotmail, as it is known now. The count stood at 343 million in July 2009, which up to now is a growing number.

Hotmail ran on Solaris and FreeBSD operating systems until about 2000 when Microsoft had re-structured it over to Windows 2000 but still keeping the DNS functions on FreeBSD for a while. The early period of transition saw a number of security threats that threatened the Hotmail system. The first was when "eh" was accepted as the password to access any Hotmail user account. This accompanied by a security breach, a year later, when a user could log in to his account and access another user's message by modifying the account username and message number value (that was valid) in the URL of a single email message. In reports that came out, the situations between the 7th and 31st of August of such hacking numbered into millions.

Hotmail email's characteristics were always up with the developments. When Google released Gmail and a limitless amount of storage space, Hotmail also followed suit together with opponents like Yahoo in doing the same and more. Hotmail has been integrated with other Microsoft Web Services including Windows Live ID, Live Messenger, Live Spaces, Windows Live Calendar, Windows Live Messenger and social networking websites and programs.

The features that keep Hotmail email up on the email service charts is the ability to search for emails using advanced query syntax, a mouseless navigation option which you can do everything only using keyboard, virus scanning, rich text formatting and signatures. All these capabilities are obtainable in 36 different languages globally. Registered members can have any of the three domain options - live.com, msn.com or hotmail.com. The POP3 facility on Hotmail offers users the facility gain access to their mail on any mail sites.

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