



Cc: vs. Bcc:

The Art of Proper Email Forwarding



Although the concept of forwarding emails is not new, it is amazing how many people still do not know the difference between Cc: and Bcc:

When you receive an email and forward it to multiple people using either the To: field or the Cc: field, everyone on the recipient list can see everyone else's email address. This is considered bad "netiquette", since most people prefer that their email address not be shared with strangers. A simple change in the way you address your emails can not only make you look like an email professional, it might very well save a friendship or two.

Cc: stands for "carbon copy." Anyone listed in the Cc: field of a message receives a copy of that message when you send it. All other recipients of that message can see that the person you designated as a Cc: recipient has received a copy of the message.

Bcc: stands for "blind carbon copy." This is similar to the Cc: feature, except that Bcc: recipients are invisible to all the other recipients of the message (including other Bcc: recipients). For example, if you send a message To: johndoe@aol.com and Bcc: janedoe@yahoo.com, then johndoe sees himself as the message's only recipient. Janedoe, on the other hand, is "in the know"—she can see that you sent the message To: johndoe, and that you blind-copied her.

Keep in mind that using Cc: is still a great option if you are sending an email to people who already know each other, or if you are collaborating on a subject where everyone needs to know everyone else's email address. To be certain, however, it is probably not a bad idea to ask first before blasting out a multiple recipient Cc: message.

Additionally, you'll want to forward the original email, not an email that has been forwarded with another email attached. An easy way to verify this is to click-through the attachments until you see the original email, then forward it. This prevents

your recipients from having to click through multiple attached emails to get to the content you intended.

Most all email programs provide a Bcc: field, even if it is not visible by default:

- **Outlook Express users** may need to create a new email and click on View>Show all headers to reveal the Bcc: field.
- **Outlook users** may need to create a new message and click the arrow next to the Options button, and then make sure Bcc is checked.
- **AOL users** need to enclose the addresses in your To: or Cc: field with parentheses, like this: (johndoe@aol.com, janedoe@yahoo.com). With the parentheses around the email addresses, these recipients will be sent the email as Bcc:
- **Webmail users**, such as Yahoo!, Hotmail or GMail users should already have the Bcc: option available to them. If not, check your options within the webmail service.

Don't even think about using the Bcc: method to send spam to a ton of people. It's really easy to report spammers, and your email provider could immediately cancel your account if you send too many emails in a short period of time.

If you have questions about configuring your email program to display the Bcc: field or if you'd like some personal tutoring to help you better hone your emailing skills, call Fast Rhino at (520) 818-9650 or email us at info@fastrhino.com.

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How Fast is Your ISP?



Below are some useful websites that can help you measure your ISP's upload and download speeds:

www.speedtest.net offers a free broadband speed test with servers located all over the world. The interface is very well designed and easy to use.

www.dslreports.com/tools allows you to test your connection speeds against various servers located on different networks. It also offers a number of different types of tests based on your needs.

http://performance.toast.net is not the most attractive site for testing your connection, but it gives you the option of choosing various images to measure download speeds.

Test your speed on more than one site. If you are not getting the speeds that your ISP claims, make sure the results are consistent and give your ISP a call. If they can't speed things up, they might lower your bill.

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Goodbye Sprint Broadband Now Fewer Highspeed Internet Options

If you're one of the few who signed up for the much-loved, hard-to-get, line-of-sight-only Sprint Broadband Direct service, it looks like the party is over -- Sprint's telling customers that it is shutting the service down "as the result of a recent FCC action" on July 31 for Tucson area residents and businesses. Broadband Direct was only offered in a handful of cities and it wasn't heavily promoted. The 14-inch diamond-shaped antenna provided business-class Internet speeds and was a much needed service for those who could only get dial-up in their area.

Unfortunately, Sprint's decision will only make it tougher to find highspeed alternatives for those who live in areas not covered by traditional broadband providers such as Comcast/Cox or Qwest DSL. If you happen to be one of these geographically-challenged users, there is hope. The downside, however, is that you will more than likely end up paying more per month than those who are better positioned to get cable or DSL.

Many of the subscribers to Sprint's Broadband Direct service used Earthlink for email. Since Sprint's connectivity service is being discontinued, you'll need to contact Earthlink directly at 1-(800)EARTHLINK if you decide to keep your Earthlink email address. The fee to maintain this address is roughly \$3 a month.

Below are a few alternative broadband providers for Tucson that can help you avoid going back to dial-up.

Simply Bits (www.simplybits.com) provides wireless broadband access and VoIP (Voice over IP). They can be reached at (520) 545-0400.

WildBlue (www.wildblue.com) delivers satellite Internet service and DirecTV television. They can be reached at (800) 331-8295.

HughesNet (www.hughesnet.com) is also a satellite Internet provider. You can contact them at (888) 667-5537.

BestComm Networks, Inc. (www.bestcomm.net) provides a number of highspeed Internet solutions to businesses in the Tucson area. They can be reached at (520) 326-8411.

Keep in mind that just because an Internet provider claims to provide broadband speeds, you should get something in writing to verify their upload and (more importantly) their download speeds to insure that they are, in fact, delivering what they claim. Look for providers that offer download speeds of 1Mbps or more for the least amount of money and try to avoid any long-term contracts.

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Wireless Networking 101

Wireless routers

A router is a device that allows you to connect multiple computers to a single (preferably broadband) Internet connection by “splitting” your single, public IP (Internet Protocol) address into several private or local IP addresses. This provides each computer with its own unique identity on your network and, once the router is connected to the Internet via a modem, each computer can access the web simultaneously. Wireless routers perform the exact same function, but can broadcast a wireless signal in addition to accepting hardwired connections.

What is an SSID?

SSID stands for, “Service Set Identifier”. This is the name given to the wireless signal or canopy emitted by your wireless router. When you connect a wireless device, such as a laptop or iPhone to your wireless network, you select the name of the network (or SSID). When you view available wireless networks, you will see the name of the network(s) within range of your device. These networks are also referred to as “Wi-Fi signals” or “hotspots”. Think of these signals as different radio stations and your computer as a radio receiver. If your computer or wireless device is not within range of the radio station’s signal, you will not be able to “hear” the signal and therefore will not be able to connect to it. Most residential hotspots have a range of about 125-300 feet.

Connecting to a wireless network

In order for a wireless router to emit a wireless signal, it must be configured with an SSID and have its wireless broadcast feature enabled. Microsoft’s Windows XP and Vista both provide utilities to view and connect to wireless signals, provided your computer has a wireless adapter installed. Look for a wireless network adapter icon in your system tray located near your clock in the lower right-hand corner of your screen. If you don’t see this icon, open Control Panel and look for a wireless adapter listed under Network Connections (or in Vista, under Network and Sharing Center). Some computers have third-party wireless network adapters which require you to use their software to connect wirelessly.



Once you see an available SSID within range (normally 2-3 bars or more), select it and click “Connect”. If it is a secured network, you will need to provide a key for access. These keys are usually 10 digits and alpha-numeric. Check with the owner of the router to get the key.

Secured vs. non-secured wireless networks

Usually, if a wireless network is secured, you’ll see a graphical padlock or some descriptive text stating that the network is, in fact, secure. Commonly, when the owner of a router wants to limit access to users, he/she can prevent nearby people with wireless devices from surfing the web through the owner’s Internet connection. This act of authenticating restricts public use, but allows access to those who have the key.

There are a number of ways to secure your wireless router. Some of these procedures are more secure than others, but having a secured wireless network is always a good idea to help prevent unwanted users from using up your bandwidth and/or “snooping” inside your local network.

Summary

If you’d like to get a wireless network for your home or business, simply call Fast Rhino at (520) 818-9650. If you already have a wireless network but would like to secure it down, we can help with that, as well.

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**monsoon
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It's That Time Again...

Researchers in southern Arizona are expecting stronger-than-usual storms with a lot of lightning during the monsoon this year. It is the wise Tucsonan who remembers that although the monsoon brings welcome rains and relief from the summer heat, the thunderstorms that come with the monsoon bring their own hazards.

Lightning can cause serious damage to a computer if it strikes the system directly through the electrical grid, even if the computer is turned off. Power outages, another result of lightning, are also a threat to your computer and, since they are somewhat common occurrences, can be your system's worst nemesis if not properly protected.

Fortunately, Fast Rhino has some great defensive measures to help you protect your computer during these sometimes destructive thunderstorm events.

If you own a computer and you haven't yet purchased a **UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply)**, it's time to call Fast Rhino. Hard drives can easily crash in a power outage if not protected. The technologies used in today's UPS units

allow your computer system to do its own proper shutdown, completely unattended, during a power outage. They also provide surge protection, which can keep your power supply from getting zapped. This simple and affordable solution can help save your important data and your computer hardware investment. Having a UPS is a smart idea, regardless of the time of year, since power outages can occur anytime, regardless of the weather. If you go through a monsoon without a UPS, the odds of avoiding a power outage are not on your side. Do yourself a favor: Call us today and get one professionally installed.

In addition to a UPS, a great way to protect your data is to get an **external hard drive**. Fast Rhino carries a wide assortment of backup solutions to help you sleep better at night, knowing your data is safe. Our technicians can install and configure an external hard drive and program it so that it backs up your files automatically, without you having to do anything.

As with any thunderstorm, monsoon or not, it is always a great idea to **power-down your system** completely when there's lightning outside. If you plan on going away for a weekend or longer, turn your system off and unplug it from the wall. The same can be said for any other devices, such as televisions and home theater/stereo equipment.

Computers are wonderful tools, but since they are electronic devices, they are subject to power outages, surges and lightning strikes. Losing data is one thing. Losing your entire system is quite another. Lightning doesn't play favorites and most people cannot afford to go without protection, especially during a monsoon.



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TECH Product Review



Eye-Fi Share: Wireless Photo Upload

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The Eye-Fi Share wirelessly connects to your home Wi-Fi network and automatically uploads your pictures for you. It delivers photos to your computer, but also includes an unlimited, secure web sharing service to automatically upload your pictures to your favorite photo site. Choose from among more than 20 of the most popular websites and some up-and-comers too. Online Destinations include Costco, Flickr, Facebook, Picasa, Shutterfly, Webshots, Photobucket, Kodak, Snapfish and many more.

The Eye-Fi Share offers the added convenience of uploading your photos, even when your computer is turned off. Using its Smart Boost capability, the Card will determine the most efficient path to upload pictures, going quickly to your computer if it's on and then from there to the web if you've elected to share online, or going straight to the web if the computer is off. Your photos will be stored securely and delivered to the computer the next time it is turned on. Suggested Retail is \$99.



Fretlight FG-421 Electric Guitar

Ever wanted to learn to play guitar? Fretlight is the world's first real computer-powered electric teaching guitar that teaches you how to play through a series of lights that are embedded in the guitar. Available in red, black, white, tobacco and pink for women, the interactive guitar learning system includes a variety of software for all types of players and lessons for every level of player. Just hook it up to a laptop or desktop (Mac or PC) via a USB cable, install the software, follow the software generated LED's in the neck and you are off and learning. It is not a toy, but rather a real guitar for people who are serious about learning how to play.

A Stratocaster* style guitar incorporating sleek lines and supple contours fit snugly into your body. The Standard has a robust, one custom humbucker/two single coil set-up, providing you with a palette of tones to choose from. Finished with chrome hardware, it accentuates a classic look. Includes a 10ft. cable, software CD, Getting Started DVD, Truss rod and bridge saddle wrenches, and Fretlight documentation. Price is \$499.

Logitech mm32 iPod Speakers

Flexible design and a clear sound make the Logitech mm32's easy to pair with just about any MP3 player. In the center of the speakers is a truly universal cradle: there's no iPod dock to speak of, meaning you can rest other players there without worrying about damaging a dock connector. Audio outputs from a music player via a 1/8-inch mini jack.



The mm32 speakers can be powered with the included AC adapter or batteries. And at the affordable price of \$59.99, who couldn't afford to release their music from the confines of their MP3 player? A handy carrying case is also included.

All Hail the Mighty Bengals

Fast Rhino recently sponsored a talented group of 8 & 9 year-old girls, "The Mighty Bengals", who placed 2nd in their division this season. The Mighty Bengals are part of the Oro Valley Fast Pitch Softball league, which provides a supervised program of softball for young girls who reside in Oro Valley. The final division playoff game went into extra innings, sudden death overtime and was a very close game. Our congratulations go out to The Mighty Bengals for doing so well in the tournament. Way to go, girls!



Coaches: Scott Foerster, Rob Siegler & Bob Stickle **Managers:** Julie Foerster & Tammy Mercado

About Oro Valley Fast Pitch Softball

The Oro Valley Fast Pitch Softball league is a non-profit, self-governing organization operated by an all-volunteer board and staffed by volunteers. The organization provides a supervised program of softball for all girls, ages 5 to 18, residing in the Oro Valley Area. Their philosophy is "everyone plays" and they strive to develop and improve players; softball skills and, while winning games is important, they are focused on instilling in them the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, friendship, and enjoyment of the game.

Each season, OVFPS typically has over 300 girls participating in the league. Games are played at Canada Del Oro Riverfront Park, located at 551 W. Lambert Lane (between First Avenue and La Canada). Team practices start in early March with games running March through May. City Championship and All-Star tournaments are typically held in the month of June. During the regular season, games are usually played Monday-Friday evenings and Saturday throughout the day and evening. Next season, you are invited to come out to this wonderful park with your family to take advantage of the great weather, enjoy a softball game and drop by the snack bar for a bite to eat!

OVFPS is a charter member of the Baja Arizona Girls Softball Association (Baja) that is affiliated with the Baja Baseball Academy founded by Jerry Stitt. For more information about Baja, please visit <http://www.bajasoftball.org>. To learn more about OVFPS, please visit <http://www.eteamz.com/ovfps>



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