Forwarding Gmail messages as text messages or SMS

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I love my Gmail account because of all the integrated features Google offers, such as the ability to synchronize email, contact lists and browser favorites via Google Chrome, to name a few. Additionally, I consider a new website for a client complete unless I integrate Google Analytics into their metadata. It seems no matter the need, Google has an answer.

My most recent “need” involved the desire to forward email messages from a specific sender as a text message (SMS) to my cell phone. I use Mozilla Thunderbird as my email client on my desktop, but I wanted a way to forward the messages as soon as Gmail receives them and before I view them on my desktop via Thunderbird. Sure enough, Google had the answer!

Getting this to work involved a bit of tweaking of my Gmail account settings as well as determining my cellular carrier’s text messaging address format. Here is a simple two-step process I used to make this happen:

1. Determine your cellular carrier’s text messaging (SMS) address

Most, if not all cellular carriers will provide the ability to send a text message via an email address. Here is a listing of the major carriers. Please note I have not verified all carrier’s addresses, only AT&T as this is my current carrier.

   If your carrier is not listed, do a Google search to find it. Chances are, the service is available.

2. Set up a Gmail email filter

You will need to sign into your Gmail account via any web browser (www.mail.google.com is the URL). Once signed in, do this:

   Click on the Settings link in Gmail. This is located near the upper right when clicking on the little gear-looking icon.
   Click on the Forwarding and POP/IMAP tab that runs along the top of the window.
   Select Add a forwarding address under Forwarding section.
   Enter the address to which you want Gmail to forward mail under Add a forwarding address. This will be one of the cellular carrier’s text message addresses listed in step 1.
   Click Next, and on the next screen click Proceed.
   Now click OK under A confirmation code has been sent to verify permission.
   You will receive a text message with a confirmation code. Enter that code into the confirmation box in the Forwarding an POP/IMAP tab and click verify.
   Back in Gmail settings, go to the Filters tab.
   Click Create a new filter at the bottom.
   Enter your search criteria under Choose search criteria.
   To forward email from a certain sender, enter their email address, name, domain or any part of these under From:.
   Click Create Filter.

   Follow these two steps and you will be pleased with the result. It works like a charm for me!

AT&T:
- my手机号@txt.att.net (the text message sender will be a random phone number)
- my手机号@mms.att.net (I prefer using mms because the text message sender will be the email address that is forwarding the message)

Verizon:
- my手机号@vzwpix.com (mms)
- my手机号@vtext.com (text)

Sprint:
- my手机号@sprint.com (mms)
- my手机号@pm.sprint.com (mms)
- my手机号@messaging.sprintpcs.com (text)

T-Mobile:
- my手机号@tmomail.net (text)

US Cellular:
- my手机号@email.uscc.net (mms)
- my手机号@mms.uscc.net (text)