



## Forwarding Gmail messages as text messages or SMS

August 21, 2016

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 don't consider a new website for a client complete unless I integrate Google Analytics into their meta data. 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.

#### AT&T:

- my10-digitcellphonenumber@txt.att.net (the text message sender will be a random phone number)
- my10-digitcellphonenumber@mms.att.net (I prefer using mms because the text message sender will be the email address that is forwarding the message)

#### Verizon:

- my10-digitcellphonenumber@vzwpx.com (mms)
- my10-digitcellphonenumber@vtext.com (text)

#### Sprint:

- my10-digitcellphonenumber@pm.sprint.com (mms)
- my10-digitcellphonenumber@messaging.sprintpcs.com (text)

#### T-Mobile:

- my10-digitcellphonenumber@tmomail.net (text)

#### US Cellular:

- my10-digitcellphonenumber@email.uscc.net (mms)
- my10-digitcellphonenumber@mms.uscc.net (text)

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 in to your Gmail account via any web browser. ([www.mail.google.com](http://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 an POP/IMAP** tab that runs along the top of the window.
- Select **Add a forwarding address** under **Forwarding** section.
  - You do not have to select *Forward a copy of incoming mail to* for this to work; *Disable forwarding* can be selected under *Forwarding*; and your existing Gmail forwarding settings will not be changed.
- Enter the address to which you want Gmail to forward mail under Add a forwarding address. This will be one of the cellular carrier 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 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 all mail (like the standard Gmail forwarding does), enter "@" in the From: field, for example.
  - To forward mail from a certain sender, enter their email address, name, domain or any part of these under From:
- Click **Create filter with this search** ».
- Make sure **Forward it to:** is checked.
- Select the desired email address to receive the forwarded emails under **Forward it to:**.
- Click **Create Filter**.

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

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