



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

uw.edu for UW email

June 2009

What is new?

You now have the option of using a shorter “uw.edu” suffix for your UW email address. Your UW NetID (the information to the left of the @ symbol in your current email address) remains the same. For example, *your_uwnetid@u.washington.edu* and *your_uwnetid@uw.edu* work.

Whom does this affect?

The option to use uw.edu is now available to all UW email users who currently use either “u.washington.edu” or “washington.edu” for their UW email address. Email addresses that have a departmental washington.edu suffix (such as astro.washington.edu) cannot yet use the shorter uw.edu address.

Why are we making this change now?

A shorter email address is more practical in this age of digital communication and mobile technology. It’s just simpler to use. And, because the University of Washington is widely known as the UW, the shorter email address reinforces how others already refer to us. Furthermore, UW risks losing uw.edu if it is not actively used.

When can we start using the new uw.edu address?

You may begin sharing your shorter uw.edu email address with people commencing June 29, 2009.

How do I convert to the shorter uw.edu email address?

Everyone who currently has a u.washington.edu or washington.edu address will automatically receive, in the same UW email inbox they use today, email addressed to the shorter uw.edu address. However, if you want your outgoing email messages to reflect the shorter uw.edu address, you must make individual changes to your email setup. Consult with your computing support person. Self-service instructions are available at: <http://www.washington.edu/computing/uwedu>

Will I continue to receive email addressed to my current UW email address (e.g., @u.washington.edu)?

Yes. Incoming email may be addressed using @uw.edu, @u.washington.edu, or @washington.edu indefinitely. All email will be delivered to your UW email inbox (or whatever forwarding destination you have selected).

Can I publish my new email address on business cards and stationery?

Yes. You may specify your new email address on business papers ordered through Creative Communications. Because your original email address continues to work as well, it is recommended you consume your existing supply of business cards.

Will changing to uw.edu affect my subscriptions to discussion/email lists?

Maybe. UW Mailman email lists will recognize your UW NetID regardless of whether you send email from uw.edu, u.washington.edu, or washington.edu. No change is required to continue to use UW Mailman lists offered by UW Technology. For all other list subscriptions, you may need to update your email address with the provider to continue sending email to the list.

Do I need to update online directories if I begin using uw.edu?

Your existing email address will continue to work. However, if you wish to list your shorter uw.edu email address, you must update your directory information using Employee Self Service (ESS) in [MyUW](#), and any other departmental or personal directories.

Will UW receive additional spam as a result of adding uw.edu?

We expect the same efficiency for blocking unwanted spam before it enters the UW email system. However, over time it is expected that spammers will begin targeting the uw.edu addresses as well. The current UW anti-spam system has sufficient capacity for handling up to a 50 percent increase in spam messages. Today the UW blocks close to two billion spam messages each year.

What effort is needed to implement uw.edu?

UW Technology anticipates minor system updates to accommodate the limited-scope use of uw.edu for email and UW home page shortcuts. To avoid unnecessary expenditures, there are no current plans to do a major conversion of existing systems to use the uw.edu address. As new systems and technology solutions are introduced in the future, it is likely that uw.edu will be used more widely at that time.

Is UW Tacoma going to begin using uwt.edu?

No. Unfortunately, current Department of Commerce policies restrict educational institutions to a single .edu email suffix. An exception permits grandfathered status for additional suffixes that were registered prior to November 2001 such as uw.edu and uwb.edu for UW Bothell. It is not possible to obtain any additional .edu suffixes for UW under current Department of Commerce policy.

Will everything move to uw.edu?

No. Most services will continue to use the washington.edu address. Allowing the alternate email shortcut is the first use of uw.edu. A new UW home page shortcut using the uw.edu address will be available near the start of Autumn Quarter 2009. The shortcut will forward to the existing www.washington.edu Web pages and will continue to display the existing address (including security-enabled pages). All content locations will remain the same. No other significant changes are planned at this time.

What if my department wants to reserve a customized name using uw.edu?

New requests will be handled on a case by case basis. All existing suffixes in the washington.edu namespace have been reserved in uw.edu. Our goal is to ensure consistency between washington.edu and uw.edu to provide flexibility for the future.

Where can I find more information about uw.edu?

- <http://www.washington.edu/computing/uwedu>