Thunderbird or LCmail - What's Right for You?

As you decide whether to stick with Thunderbird or start using LCmail as your primary email client, here are some things to consider. There's no reason why you can't use both!

Word on the Street

I use **Thunderbird** because:
- I'm familiar with it
- I'm a sorter (LCmail does not allow you to sort mailbox listings)
- It's already set up the way I like to work
- It supports multiple accounts better
- Easier to manage windows, tabs
- It has plug-ins I need to use

I switched to **LCmail** because:
- I'm familiar with the Gmail interface
- I like to search
- I like to use multiple labels
- I use many different computers/devices
- I like conversation threads

Advantages/Disadvantages - LCmail (Gmail interface)

Software you access through a web browser is convenient and works the same wherever you happen to be, but there are restrictions to what you can do when you need an Internet connection to check your email.

Pros	Cons:
- One stop shopping - Contacts, preferences, interface identical from any computer. All you need is an Internet connection. - No installation required. Security and bug fixes are applied automatically. Software will never be out of date. - More than one label can be applied to a message. - Searching LCmail is faster and more comprehensive - More secure - messages remain on the sever instead of being downloaded to desktop computer.	- Offline access only possible with special add-on software - Can't display and sort messages by size, sender, etc. - Desktop programs have more extensions and can be programmed to work with other desktop programs. - Can't delete/detach attachments from messages - Lack other desirable features (tabs, saved searches, integrated calendar, etc.) - Cannot view more than one email account in the same Inbox or window.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Thunderbird and other Desktop Clients (Outlook, Apple Mail, etc.)

Programs like Thunderbird, Apple Mail and Outlook are designed to be used both with and without an Internet connection. They also can be easily extended to add extra functionality and can make it easier to keep track of multiple email accounts.

Desktop Client (Thunderbird, Outlook, etc.) Pros	Cons:
- Offline access - Display and sort messages by size, sender, etc. - More options for checking and managing multiple email accounts (can consolidate Inbox, drag and drop between accounts, etc.) - Can set advanced folder policies to such as quotas and future deletion - Encryption support - Delete/detach attachments from message - Unique Extensions/Addins - Application Specific Features (tabs, saved searches, integrated calendar, etc.)	- Changes to contacts, preferences and the like must be made computer-by-computer - Requires installation - Need to update software periodically (LCmail will never be out of date) - Can't file same message in more than one folder - Searching LCmail is faster and more comprehensive - Can be less secure as data is downloaded and stored on the local computer - Messages sent to yourself may not show up in your Inbox

Still not sure? Email consult@lclark.edu or call one of the IT Consultants and we can answer your questions.

Further Information

[Thunderbird Configuration step-by-step](#)

Instructions for other IMAP clients (Apple Mail, Outlook, etc.)
    https://support.google.com/mail/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=75726&topic=1668961&ctx=topic

Learn to use Google Apps Sync for Outlook
http://support.google.com/a/bin/topic.py?hl=en&topic=23333&rd=1