Anonymous Email and Chat/Messaging Services Smart Card

Last Updated: 08/26/2014

Anonymous Email Services - Do's and Don'ts

- Always use a secure browser that anonymizes your IP address for accessing anonymous messages. Be sure your browser is updated regularly.
- Do not access more than one account in a single browser session, and never access named accounts, such as Google or Yahoo in the same session.
- Do not include personal details in your communication that could be used to identify you, such as your name, phone numbers, or addresses.
- Use public WiFi for additional anonymity and never repeat usernames or passwords. Remember, no set of tools can guarantee online anonymity.

Using an Anonymous Email Account

Anonymous email services can be used to send personal or work-related messages without leaving a trace of your identity. Truly anonymous email accounts require no personal information to register and retain little usage data. Anonymous email accounts should always be accessed and used **in conjunction with an anonymous IP address**.

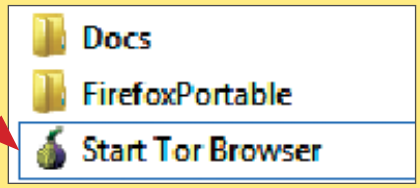
Using Tor to Anonymize Your IP Address

What is Tor?

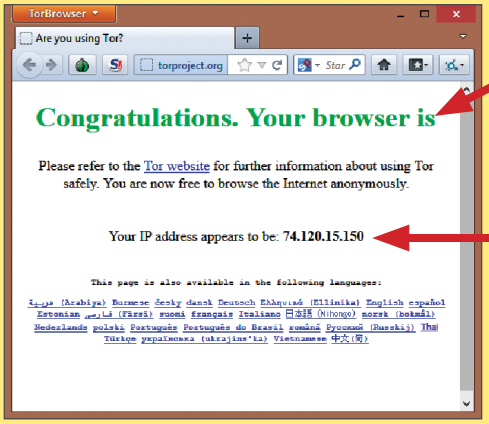
- Tor is a free, open source web browser that uses a volunteer network of servers and a layered encryption process to anonymize your IP address
- Before you access an anonymous email service, you must download and install Tor to protect your device's unique IP address
- Tor does not protect the information transferred between the Tor Network server and your destination site

1. Visit torproject.org and download the Tor Browser Bundle to your hard drive or a flash drive.

2. Open *browser.exe* in Windows Explorer, then open the new Tor Browser folder and double-click Start Tor Browser.



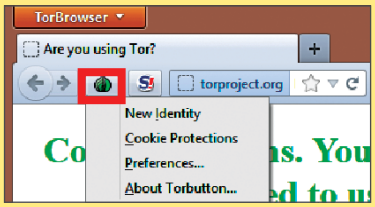
3. Make sure your Tor Browser is providing you with an anonymous IP address.



Your Tor Browser should display this message

Tor will display your device's IP address as it appears online

4. At times, you may have to change to your Tor-generated IP address. You can renew a different IP address by going to **Green Onion > New Identity** in the top corner of the Top Browser.



Choosing the Right Anonymous Email Service

The following two services can be used to send and receive messages anonymously. These services specialize in security and privacy, have simple sign up processes requiring no personal information, and divulge account data only under rare circumstances, if ever. The right service for you will depend on the organization providing the service, frequency of use, and the primary nature of your communications.

Service	Company / Organization	Service Type	Data Retained by Service	Data Sharing Policy	Cost/ Payment Options	Suggested Frequency	Primary Use
Hushmail (hushmail.com)	Hush Communications Canada, Inc., Canada	Webmail	IP Address, purchase information*	No third party sharing unless issued a court order	Premium/Visa, MC, Amex, Paypal, Money Order	Daily to Weekly Access	Scheduling in-peson meetings, private correspondences, press communications
Cloak My (cloakmy.org)	Webmy.me Inc., California, USA	Message and chat	IP address, session cookies	No third party sharing	Free	One-time correspondence	One-time messaging and chat, no account required

* *Name, account and domain, alternate email, billing address, credit card information, IP address of purchase, for accounts.*

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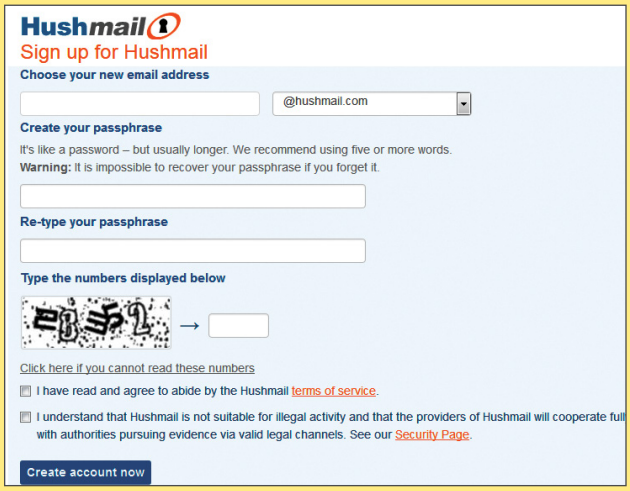
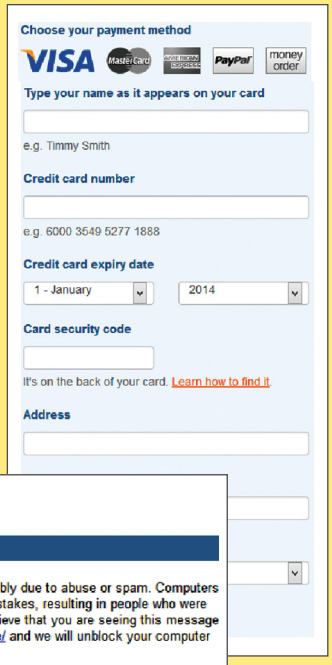
Hushmail - Creating an Account and Using Tor

Hushmail is a traditional webmail service, similar to Gmail or Yahoo! Mail, that you can access through the Tor Browser. Unlike most webmail services, Hushmail does not collect personal information during registration. However, the service costs a minimum $34.99/year and requires payment methods that may expose your identity. To register for Hushmail:

1. Fill out Hushmail's required registration information and create account.

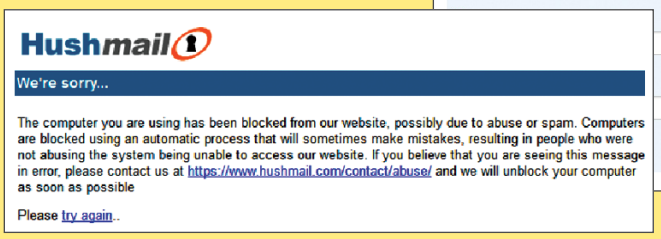


2. Hushmail requires you to purchase a subscription using Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Paypal, or a money order.



3. You can login to Hushmail's webmail client on the top right of the hushmail homepage to send and receive messages.

4. If you see the message below when attempting to sign in to your Hushmail account, you must use a new Tor Identity (see step 4 on the previous page).

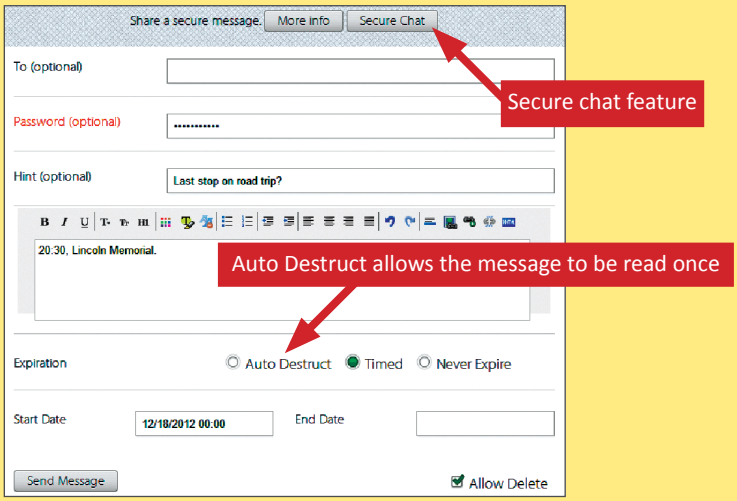


Cloak My - Sending Messages and Options

CloakMy is a one-time message and chat service. CloakMy is free, requires no personal information, and is accessible through Tor. However, ClockMy does require you to provide your recipient with unique URL outside of the service.

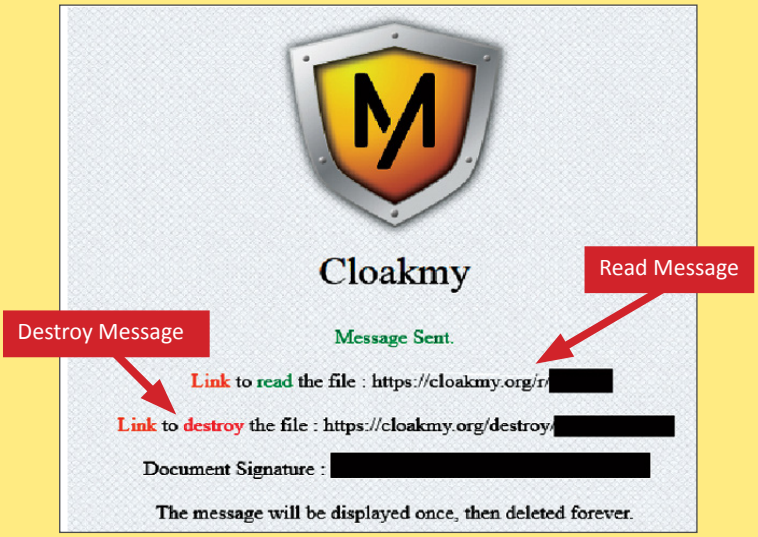
1. Enter the desired message. Supplemental information is optional.

2. Choose an expiration setting for the message.



3. After the message is sent, a unique URL location is created for the message.

4. You must distribute this URL to the recipient. **Only a user with this URL can view the message.**



Useful Links - For more information or questions regarding this card email smartcards@novetta.com

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety	www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse	www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs18-cyb.htm
Microsoft Safety and Security	www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/social-network
Online Guardian	www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx