

## Re: OE & Yahoo Mail

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6\\_outlookexpress/2005-01/0](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6_outlookexpress/2005-01/0)

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**From:** Vanguard (*see\_signature*)

**Date:** 01/04/05

Date: Mon, 3 Jan 2005 21:13:35 -0600

"RRR\_News" <nospam@isp.com> wrote in message  
news:uJaSQgX8EHA.2600@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...

Vanguard,

1. I have no understanding of "UIDL", or its purpose in YPops. But when I see it in the download status window for YPops, as indicated in your example at (<http://snipurl.com/bpcq>). I have found that there is a corrupted message that is blocking the download, and I need to go through Yahoo's webmail, and delete that message. Then downloading proceeds normally into OE. I receive mail from 4 yahoo accts on my PC, and my wife receives mail on 2 accts on her laptop connected wirelessly.

\*\*\* START OF INLINE REPLY \*\*\*

YahooPOPs \*emulates\* UIDL by using the message-ID from the URL returned to it when YahooPOPs accesses the page to show that e-mail. The link I provided was to show the problems when using POP3 to connect to \*Gmail's\* POP3 server, not what happens when I connect to Yahoo webmail using YahooPOPs (it was to show that although I am still trying to find an alternate and free solution for direct POP3 access that I still ended up back with YahooPOPs because POP3 access sucks with Gmail). For a definition of UIDL, see <http://www.cse.ohio-state.edu/cgi-bin/rfc/rfc1939.html#page-12>. It is possible that the indexing of messages gets changed between when you do a headers-only mail poll and when you send a later DELE command in a different mail session to get rid of that message. The result is that you try to delete a message that no longer has that index (and you get an -ERR status returned) or you delete the wrong message (because, in the next mail poll, a different message has the index you recorded for a message in your prior mail poll).

UIDL means "unique ID listing". It is an ID string that is unique to that that particular message for the lifetime of your e-mail account (i.e., no other message in the past or future will have that unique ID string). This means you can be assured that the action you later attempt on a message in a different mail session will be against the correct message you recorded from a prior mail session. You cannot

guarantee that with relative indexing numbers that change as the order and count of messages change in your mail queue.

Since Yahoo webmail is *\*not\** a POP3 server and won't return status from any POP3 commands sent to it (it won't respond to any POP3 command), YahooPOPs needs to emulate a UIDL based on the message ID within the URL that Yahoo Mail presents for the web page that displays that e-mail (internal to YahooPOPs). This UIDL emulation is only possible because Yahoo Mail sticks in a unique identifier in the URL. I believe that you can see the unique ID that Yahoo assigned to your message and puts into their URL by turning on advanced logging in YahooPOPs. It will look like:

[http://us.f417.mail.yahoo.com/ym/ShowLetter?box=Inbox&PRINT=1&Nhead=f&toc=1&MsgId=894\\_52431\\_217611](http://us.f417.mail.yahoo.com/ym/ShowLetter?box=Inbox&PRINT=1&Nhead=f&toc=1&MsgId=894_52431_217611)

Notice the "MsgId=" parameter in the URL. The unique ID is between the equals sign ("=") and the next parameter delimiter character ("&"). No one has monitored if Yahoo Mail always uses a message ID that remains unique for the life of a freebie Yahoo webmail account but it has been shown to be unique long enough to accomodate typical POP3-like access over many days. In version 0.6, it now truncates the very long message ID strings in the URL down to only 7 numbers which means it is less likely that message IDs are unique indefinitely, but they should remain unique for so long enough a time that any recurrence of that value is unlikely under normal use. Using the emulated (and now truncated) unique ID from the Yahoo Mail's URL for the message is still far more safer than relying on the index numbers for your messages not changing or getting reused between successive mail polls. It's like using MD5 to hash the login credentials. Hashing doesn't guarantee indefinite uniqueness but it is unique enough over the short span of time over which that MD5-enabled login handshaking is allowed to complete.

Do you leave your computer powered on 24x7 (so mail polling occurs repeatedly at the scheduled intervals) and YahooPOPs remains constantly loaded? How often do you poll (i.e., what is the scheduled interval)? Regardless of what the authors claim about YahooPOPs capacity as to how many concurrent e-mail sessions it may open at a time (which they haven't yet actually load tested on the product so they never pin it down when asked), I noticed that using YahooPOPs with 12 accounts is less stable than using it with 4 accounts which is only slightly less stable than using it to poll 1 Yahoo webmail account but which none of them are as reliable as going direct to a real POP3 server. I cannot find the quote right now but somewhere the author has stated that if Yahoo Mail is important or critical to you then pay for it instead of trying to use YahooPOPs.

\*\*\* END OF INLINE REPLY \*\*\*

2. I also is a SPAM filter program called PopFile. It uses Port 110 for incoming mail, which causes me to have to use Port 123 for YPops, on the Yahoo Mail acct's Advance tab i still have it set to 110.

<skip setup description>

\*\*\* START OF INLINE REPLY \*\*\*

I also run a local proxy to perform spam filtering (SpamPal). I always configure proxies to use ports other than the standard ones for whatever protocol they support on their listening ports. Although some anti-virus software runs as an LSP (layered service provider) in your TCP service, as does EzAntivirus, lots of anti-virus programs run as a [transparent] proxy. It's transparent if you don't need to change your e-mail account's settings to have it point at the proxy whereas non-transparent proxies have you modify the e-mail account to point at their proxy. Some non-transparent AV proxies may make the change automatically and is why some users complain about their e-mail settings getting changed to include 127.0.0.1 in the Account Name field.

Transparent proxies are often not configurable as to which ports they monitor; for example, if you use non-standard ports then Norton Antivirus cannot interrogate your e-mail traffic but, I believe, you can configure Avast! to monitor on non-standard ports. Even if the proxy is transparent and even if it seems to work with YahooPOPs and/or SpamPal to share the same port number, I configure the proxies to use different ports to avoid any current (and possibly hidden) problems and to avoid any potential conflicts later.

For my configuration, I have (parenthesized values are the port numbers):

POP3 e-mail client (7110) <---- SpamPal (8110) <-- YahooPOPs (80 or 443)  
<-- Yahoo webmail

YahooPOPs uses port 80 to connect to Yahoo webmail if I configure it to use MD5 hashing of login credentials, or it uses port 443 when using HTTPS (i.e., SSL over HTTP) if I configure it that way to secure my login credentials. MD5 and SSL only secure the login credentials (username and password) and do not encrypt the contents of your e-mail (you'll have to use a digital certificate if you want to encrypt the content of your e-mails; otherwise, after the secured login has completed, all your e-mails get transferred as clear text). In my e-mail client, I have:

SMTP server = myISPsmtpServer  
SMTP port = 465 (SSL enabled)  
POP3 server = SpamPal  
POP3 port = 7110  
Account Name = "myusername@YahooPOPs:8110"

I define "127.0.0.1 SpamPal" and "127.0.0.1 YahooPOPs" in my hosts file so I can use host \*names\* instead of the IP address (localhost or 127.0.0.1) to clue me in as to which proxy is actually getting used in each field in the e-mail account's definition. I have also tried using

just 127.0.0.1 because some users have claimed that sometimes the resolution from the hosts file will fail. I use my ISP's SMTP server (via an SSL connect) to send outbound e-mails to avoid the spam/promotional signature that Yahoo appends to any outbound messages sent using their freebie account.

Since none of these ports are the standard ones (110 for POP3 and 25 for SMTP), my anti-virus program's transparent proxy (ccApp.exe for Norton Antivirus) cannot interrogate that traffic. YahooPOPs occasionally going brain dead is not due to the AV proxy going unresponsive or causing timeouts, plus I have also tested with e-mail scanning disabled in the AV program.

\*\*\* END OF INLINE REPLY \*\*\*

3. You may still have a timeout problem, if you are polling 2 or more Yahoo accts, one after the other. If you have other POP3 accts, try altering the names of the Yahoo accts, so that they are separated from each other, in the Mail acct tab. It appears that this can be done in OE6, which seemed "hit or miss", in earlier versions, of OE.

\*\*\* START REPLY \*\*\*

So is what you are suggesting to \*alternate\* YahooPOPs-accessed accounts in OE with real POP3 accounts? I haven't tried that. However, I eventually pared down my 8 Yahoo accounts down to 4 and now I'm down to just one Yahoo account. So there would be no way to alternate just one Yahoo account with other Yahoo accounts by interceding the mail poll to include a account that accessed a real POP3 server. YahooPOPs will go unresponsive even when polling one Yahoo webmail account. It doesn't happen a lot unless you believe going unresponsive about 2 to 4 times per week to be excessive. If you power cycle your computer between your uses of it (so YahooPOPs gets loaded anew) then it is far less likely that you will generate enough traffic or have YahooPOPs allocated resources often enough within that Windows session to incur the hang-up problem.

I have worked on several occasions with the authors on trying to resolve YahooPOPs going unresponsive but nothing in their logs or debug output has helped. It happens. Once folks start using it a LOT with many accounts, leaving it up 24x7, using a short poll interval (which should be longer than 5 minutes to ensure you aren't trying to do the next mail poll before completing the last one) that ends up with hundreds of mail polls per day, you'll see them show up in the forums noting that e-mail went dead until they restarted YahooPOPs.

NOTE: Please stop using quoted-printable format. It screws up replying to your messages. OE and other e-mail clients won't handle it correctly. No quote character gets prepended to your lines. While OE supports sending in quoted-printable format, it can screw up OE when trying to reply to a message that uses it, and most times whenever I've

experimented with it in other more usenet- or mail-oriented newsgroups I get lambasted for using quoted-printable because it looks like one huge long line to some users. That's why I didn't bother adding all the prefix quote characters when replying to your post (they weren't there on a reply to your quoted-printable post and I wasn't going to bother to add all of them). You can still use quoted-printable with e-mail but just don't use it for newsgroups (Tools -> Options -> Send -> Plain-text Settings (News sending format)".

\*\*\* END OF REPLY \*\*\*