

Gmail Setup

Gmail Setup for NeoMutt

This guide covers configuring **NeoMutt** to send and receive emails using a Gmail account via IMAP and SMTP, including Google Account security setup, GPG password encryption, and sidebar configuration.

1. Prerequisites & Google Account Configuration

Modern Gmail requires two-factor authentication (2FA) and an **App Password** for IMAP/SMTP client access. Direct password authentication is blocked by Google.

1. **Enable 2-Step Verification:**

- Go to [Google Account Security](#).
- Under "How you sign in to Google", turn on **2-Step Verification** if not already enabled.

2. **Generate an App Password:**

- Navigate to [App Passwords](#).
- Enter a custom app name (e.g., `NeoMutt`).
- Record the generated 16-character password (e.g. `abcd efgh ijkl mnop`).

3. **Enable IMAP in Gmail:**

- Open Gmail in your browser -> Settings (gear icon) -> **See all settings**.
 - Go to the **Forwarding and POP/IMAP** tab.
 - Select **Enable IMAP**.
 - Click **Save Changes**.
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2. Securely Encrypt Your Password with GPG

Run `gpg` interactively to encrypt your App Password directly to a `.gpg` file:

```
gpg -e -r "your.email@gmail.com" -o ~/.config/neomutt/gmail_pass.gpg
```

1. Run the command above.
2. Paste or type your 16-character App Password.
3. Press **Enter**, then press `Ctrl+D` (EOF) to save and finish.

3. Configuration (`~/.config/neomutt/neomuttrc`)

Create `~/.config/neomutt/neomuttrc`. The `imap_pass` and `smtp_pass` settings dynamically decrypt the GPG file at runtime:

```
# =====  
# Identity & Account Settings  
# =====  
  
set realname = "Your Full Name"  
set from = "your.email@gmail.com"  
set use_from = yes  
  
# Authentication (Dynamically decrypt password via GPG)  
set imap_user = "your.email@gmail.com"  
set imap_pass = `gpg --batch --quiet --decrypt ~/.config/neomutt/gmail_pass.gpg`  
  
# IMAP Server Settings  
set folder = "imaps://imap.gmail.com:993"  
set spoolfile = "+INBOX"  
set postponed = "+[Gmail]/Drafts"  
set record = "+[Gmail]/Sent Mail"  
set trash = "+[Gmail]/Trash"
```

```

# SMTP Server Settings (Sending Mail)
set smtp_url = "smtps://your.email@gmail.com@smtp.gmail.com:465/"
set smtp_pass = `gpg --batch --quiet --decrypt ~/.config/neomutt/gmail_pass.gpg`

# Mailboxes for NeoMutt Sidebar
named-mailboxes "Inbox"      "+INBOX"
named-mailboxes "Sent"      "+[Gmail]/Sent Mail"
named-mailboxes "Drafts"    "+[Gmail]/Drafts"
named-mailboxes "All Mail"  "+[Gmail]/All Mail"
named-mailboxes "Spam"      "+[Gmail]/Spam"
named-mailboxes "Trash"     "+[Gmail]/Trash"

# =====
# NeoMutt Sidebar Settings
# =====

set sidebar_visible = yes
set sidebar_width = 24
set sidebar_short_path = yes
set sidebar_next_new_wrap = yes
set sidebar_format = "%D%?Z? [%Z]?%* %?N?%N/?"

# Sidebar Navigation Keybindings
bind index,pager \Cp sidebar-prev      # Ctrl+p: Previous folder
bind index,pager \Cn sidebar-next      # Ctrl+n: Next folder
bind index,pager \Co sidebar-open      # Ctrl+o: Open folder
bind index,pager B sidebar-toggle-visible # B: Toggle sidebar visibility

# =====
# Cache & Performance
# =====

set header_cache = "~/.cache/neomutt/headers"
set message_cachedir = "~/.cache/neomutt/bodies"
set certificate_file = "~/.config/neomutt/certificates"

# Connection & Sync Settings
set move = no                # Do not auto-move read messages
set imap_keepalive = 900     # Keep IMAP connection active
set mail_check = 60          # Poll for new mail every 60s
set timeout = 10             # Idle timeout before checking mail

```

```
# =====  
# UI & Threading Settings  
# =====  
set sort = threads           # Thread conversation view  
set sort_aux = reverse-last-date-received  
set sort_re = yes
```

4. Usage & Verification

1. Launch NeoMutt:

```
neomutt
```

2. **Sidebar Navigation:**

- `Ctrl+n` / `Ctrl+p`: Move cursor down/up through mailboxes in sidebar.
- `Ctrl+o`: Select and switch to the highlighted sidebar folder.
- `B`: Toggle sidebar visibility on/off.

3. **Send Test Email:** Press `m` in index view to compose and send a message.

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