

## No. 279: My Email Address Was Wrong!

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Well, AT&T really messed us up. My email ([wb9rqr@att.net](mailto:wb9rqr@att.net)) stopped working, as did my wife Nancy's ([kc9fzk@att.net](mailto:kc9fzk@att.net)). When I contacted them, they told me my account did not exist. When I explained that I had been using that account for well over five years, they told me "that cannot be since there is no record that it ever existed"! Gregg Lengling (W9DHI), who used to work for them as a master troubleshooter, told me the account probably did exist in a completely retrievable form, but the troubleshooters I contacted did not have the knowledge needed to get the account back. Rather than trying to pursue this with AT&T, I simply created a new account with Gmail to substitute as my new main email address, and that is shown in the header in this article. So, if you tried to contact me to pick up a DVD as offered in the last article (#277), my apologies. I never received it. Just ask me again with an email to the new Gmail address above and I will honor it, quickly. Or call me.

I have fixed our addresses in the ORC roster, and elsewhere, but it is possible that I missed some folks. It is amazing how dependent we become on an email account always being there. For this reason and to help maintain my personal sense of security, I am never without two accounts, with two different entities. For example, I still maintain an old account with RoadRunner. And it still works well. Think about doing that yourself. After all, email accounts are free for the asking.

How did I come up with Gmail? I looked, but MajorGeeks does not rate email providers, just email clients (the program you use to get and send emails), so I went looking on the web. What I found was a really good, balanced article at <https://www.lifewire.com/best-free-email-accounts-1356641> by Stacy Fisher that had been updated on 2 April 2021 (you can just click or control-click this hyperlink address to go right to the article). In it, she rates ten providers, and Gmail was at the top. It was followed by Outlook, Yahoo, AOL, Yandex, ProtonMail, Zoho Mail, Tutanota, iCloud and 10 Minute Mail, in that order. The strong and weak points of each are listed, making it pretty easy to select issues that seem important to you in making a choice. I went with Gmail rather than Outlook to avoid Microsoft, and Gmail was rated first in the list, anyway. So far, it looks like a good choice.

It might be prudent to avoid using AT&T. On the other hand, Gmail is reported to sell your email and addresses – not much privacy, if any, which AT&T does not. So, the lesson I learned is: 1. Be wary of your email provider. 2. Have more than one, as a backup. Happy computing!