(Approx. 687 words)

Popular Email App Undergoes Major Overhaul With
Complete Redesign Due in 2023

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Hate your email app?

Consider switching. One option is Thunderbird, a major player that's been around for years. However, it's now undergoing a major redesign since it was first created nearly 20 years ago.

Version 102 is introducing folder colors, new icons, a revamped address book, and more. Developers say this is just the beginning.

They plan to introduce a greatly "modernized" Thunderbird in 2023 with version 114.

It's already one of the most popular email apps in the world – with more than 20 million users running it on Macs, Windows, and Linux computers. An Android version is in the works, and developers are eyeing the possibility of a version for iOS.

Thunderbird is free, but if you use the app on a regular basis, developers ask you to donate here: <https://give.thunderbird.net/en-US/>

It's an open-source app for managing email, calendar, news feeds, newsgroups, and a chat feed.

TechRadar says Thunderbird offers "one of the best sets of features you'll find in an email client." All Things Newz writes,

"Mozilla Thunderbird is having a resurgence right now, armed with an expanded team of developers and a plan to take over the email world (including Android)."

Thunderbird began 19 years ago when the Mozilla Foundation – known for its Firefox browser – introduced Thunderbird's predecessor.

In 2012, Mozilla announced it was no longer making Thunderbird a priority and stopped ongoing development.

An all-volunteer council met in Toronto and decided there was enough demand to keep Thunderbird alive and add features users requested.

In 2020, a new wholly owned subsidiary called MZLA Technologies Corporation assumed project leadership.

Fast forward to 2022, and headlines proclaim:

***The Thunderbird Mail Client Will Be Full of New Features***

***This Year***

***Here's How Mozilla Thunderbird is Making a Comeback in 2022***

***Mozilla Thunderbird Will Receive a Major Update With Version 102***

Because Thunderbird is open-source software, it's developed, tested, and supported largely by dedicated volunteers.

One of the features that sets it apart from most other email apps is the ability to customize Thunderbird through extensions and themes – similar to the Firefox web browser.

TechRadar concludes, "Thunderbird is a desktop email client we can recommend all day. It offers an extensive feature set for users despite being free. Because it's open source, there's an endless number of customizations for the platform, which sets it apart from the competition. The main drawback is that it's pretty difficult to use, making it best suited for technical users."

<https://www.techradar.com/reviews/mozilla-thunderbird>

If you've never tried Thunderbird, you might want to give it a chance.

You can download Thunderbird for Mac, Windows and Linux at www.thunderbird.net.

Version 102 (released in late June) supports Windows 7 or later, macOS 10.2 or later, and most Linux distributions that have GTK+ 3.14 or higher.

If you're already running Thunderbird version 91.12.0, you can upgrade to version 102:

**Mac:** Click on Thunderbird in your menu bar. Click on "About Thunderbird" in the drop-down menu. A box will open on your screen allowing you to update and restart Thunderbird. If you're running a version older than 91.12.0, you need to replace your current version by downloading version 102 and install it from the www.thunderbird.net website.

**Windows:** Click on Thunderbird in your menu bar and select "About Thunderbird." The About Thunderbird window will open and start downloading the latest version. If you're

running a version older than 91.12.0, you need to replace your current version by downloading version 102 and install it from the www.thunderbird.net website.

**Linux:** Open the "About Thunderbird" box from the Help menu or click on the small (i) icon next to the version number in the main window and upgrade to 102. If you're running a version older than 91.12.0, you need to replace your current version by downloading version 102 and install it from the www.thunderbird.net website.

As I type this, Thunderbird has now been updated to version 102.4.1. Look for more incremental updates before versions 103, 104, and especially version 114 arrive next year.

Thunderbird 102 details:

<https://blog.thunderbird.net/2022/06/> thunderbird-102-released-a-serious-upgrade-to-your-communication/