

Product Review

GoldKey Secure Email

Many email systems nowadays are putting in more advanced security settings – like SMS verification – and good for them. Call me crazy, but with all the effort they've put into securing my account I can't help but feel that there's more to be done. I'm still logging in with my email address and a password and an OTP code. My email is still sitting unencrypted in the cloud somewhere. And it's still being analyzed to give me higher quality ads. Just what I needed. More ads.

After some digging, I came across the GoldKey Secure Mail System. What caught my attention was their authentication. Instead of a two-step process of signing in with my password and then verifying I can read a text message, I sign in with their custom USB hardware device (a GoldKey) and the PIN I assigned. I'm never asked for my email address, and my PIN is never sent over the Internet.

That's definitely a step in the right direction. Real two-factor authentication with fewer steps. Secure and convenient. I was so happy – until I realized I couldn't use that USB device to check my email on my phone. Then I learned about GoldKey Soft-Tokens, which allow me to perform that same, single-step multi-factor authentication on my computer or my phone without using another hardware device. And once my watch gets here, I'll never have to look farther than my wrist.

Now for the next big test. I use email for everything, so what's in my Inbox is really personal. I don't want to be the next one looking at an unintended display of pictures of myself online. GoldKey Mail takes this really seriously and never stores copies of email on my devices – it's all stored encrypted in the cloud, and if I remove my GoldKey or Soft-Token and sign out, there's no way to access that data. GoldKey has also refrained from using email data for advertising. GoldKey Mail is completely ad-free.

Not only that, but they've taken a very different approach to fighting spam. This is the only email solution I've seen that creates an Inbox that can only be reached by invitation or by another secure email account.

For example, if you were to send an email to my secure account, your email would be unceremoniously dumped in the Junk folder. Don't worry though, I'll go through my Junk, find you, and end up making a decision about whether or not you really are junk. If I like your email, I can easily mark your email address or your entire domain as not junk, and from now on everything from you comes to my Inbox. After moving to a secure account, I was able to very quickly get everything I really want coming into my Inbox – but nothing else.

On top of all of that, GoldKey provides a way to easily create groups and invite people to them. When you go to send an email, you have the option of sending an email to your GoldKey groups. Okay, I'll admit it. At this point I started playing. Whether personal or work-related, it's never been easier to send announcements or have group discussions via email – and I never forget to copy someone in.

GoldKey Mail has really pushed the envelope of email security. I finally have an email system that I can use without fear of my account being compromised or my data leaving my control.