

Revised DISTRICT 25 TechAdmin Report 12/3/22
(requiring at least 10 minutes of presentation and discussion)

District Zoom:

as requested by HappyHour Zoom-host, have added Happy Hour (with a new meeting ID#) to the District's Zoom Account management page (at [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com))—at the end of December will update the corresponding HappyHour link as posted on the District website, so that the web-link will go to the new Zoom meeting instead of the old one; corrected a Zoom Account setting that conveyed the incorrect impression Zoom was creating meeting transcripts

District Website:

up-to-date with all meeting & event information so far received;
added earlier District Business Meeting documents thru-&-including Sept. '22;
will add older District Business Meeting documents from before Sept., back to Feb. (the earliest i have personal records), or even earlier if provided with those records

District Email Accounts:

when I accepted the TechAdmin position, no information was provided to me about several District25 tech services, including emails;

i immediately discovered there were a few Gmail addresses created & used by individual District officials, some of which had become inaccessible due to changes in staffing, and which were complex and quite time-consuming to transfer from the prior staff;

i personally am not willing to manage similar Gmail accounts in the future, as they are not owned or set up by District, or associated with the District's web-domain (WhatcomAFG.org), and they take great effort for a volunteer to manage—moreover, Gmail accounts clearly seem to violate the:

- (1) 7th Trad of self-support in that they are surely an outside contribution, which is publicly demonstrated by their very name (Gmail), which refers to a particular Google commercial product, just like a sponsor-label on a race-car or a sponsor-name on a sports stadium;
- (2) 10th Trad of avoiding “outside issues” in that Google and its overall corporate policies & behaviors are widely recognized to be a matter of public controversy on which AI-Anon is supposed to have no opinion;
- (3) 12th Trad of anonymity, as Google is able to provide its supposedly “free” services only by harvesting and selling as much as possible of any information created by all users of every one of its services

after becoming better acquainted with the overall web services of the prior District web-host (Lithium), i was surprised to discover that there were already about a dozen existing WhatcomAFG.org email addresses, provided at no extra cost by Lithium, but that had, for some time, been almost completely unused;

i began a process of getting the Gmail users to use the Lithium addresses, at least to reduce the management overhead related to future transfers of those Gmail addresses

—however, because of the failure of the entire Lithium web-service, that process did not & could not complete, and thus i had to investigate free email services that could be an alternative to Lithium’s free service, in an effort to preserve District financial resources (replacing free with free)

the new webhost, Wix, does not provide free email service, but i did find a free service available from [Zoho.com](https://www.zoho.com), that was not labelled as an outside product because it was able to be linked publicly only to [WhatcomAFG.org](https://www.whatcomafg.org);
however, the free Zoho email service limits accounts to just 5 user-addresses, and does not provide any additional individual sub-services, such as forwarding to non-Zoho addresses;

out of the limited number of free addresses allowed, since their creation only 3 of those 5 have ever been accessed, and – other than the “tech” address – none have been used regularly (and tech only used lightly, mostly for set-up purposes)—this led me, personally, to question whether public, open email addresses are a substantial service priority for District;

recently, Zoho updated its email service fee descriptions: even at the cheapest level of service, expanding the number of addresses available to more than 5, and extending the flexibility of the sub-services provided, normally costs \$12/month/USER (not per account), making it an ongoing drain on District finances

(for the moment, however, there is a 30% discount available for the first year of Zoho service);

other paid email service providers are available, including from the current webhost (Wix), but i have not been authorized to research or make recommendations from among them since District has not yet made a decision to spend any additional funds on an email service that is (based on past behavior) quite likely to be in only very light use

Current status: the 5 free Zoho addresses assigned to [WhatcomAFG.org](https://www.whatcomafg.org) are all still available for use, and can be (re)named & (re)allocated, or even deleted, however determined and required by District;

if District decides to pay for email services, i will immediately research various providers, their reliability & security, the levels of their service offerings, and the current prices for which such services are available

-Kaz, Dist25 TA

PRIOR tech report version:

[Nov 29, 2022, at 4:58 PM:](#)

[Discovered that Zoho Mail would charge per-user, not per account:
current 30% discount comes to \\$8.40/user per month for the minimal data use.
I do not recommend that expense given the minimal use of email so far.](#)

[In the meantime, have updated the 5 available free addresses,
and reflected that on the website.](#)