

Foxifier

Manual for the mail notifier with the barking fox · version 1.5.1 (12)

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1. Installation

1.1 Installing

1. Open the app on the **Mac App Store** and click **Get** (free).
2. The app is placed in **Applications**. Open it: the fox appears at the top right of your menu bar.
3. The welcome screen helps you along (see 1.2).

Foxifier runs on **macOS 14.6 (Sonoma) or later**, on Apple silicon and Intel.

⭐ **Foxifier Pro.** With one mail account Foxifier is free. Want more accounts? Buy **Foxifier Pro** once in the app: in **Settings** → **Accounts** click **+** and choose *Buy*. Already bought Pro, for example on another Mac? Choose *Restore purchase*.

Already using the version from uijttewaal.info? Quit it with the power button in the panel, drag it from Applications to the Trash and install the app from the Mac App Store. Your mail accounts, rules and settings come along to the App Store version automatically; your passwords stay safe in the keychain.

1.2 The welcome screen

1. Choose your **language**. It also sets the name and logo: *Foxifier* with the US mail cap, or *Vossenpost* with the black Dutch postal cap.
2. Allow **notifications** and choose whether Foxifier opens at login (off by default). If you declined notifications earlier, the button opens **System Settings** → **Notifications** right away. Foxifier also works without notifications.
3. Click **Add account…**: a separate window opens. Give the account a **name** (required, e.g. “Work” or “Gmail”), pick a preset (Gmail, iCloud, Outlook, …) or enter the server yourself, and click **Test connection**. **Save and continue** takes you back to the welcome screen, which moves straight on to the last step. More accounts? Choose **Add another account…**.
4. Done: the fox sits at the top right of your menu bar.

Use **Back** (or ⌘ ←) or click the dots at the bottom to return to an earlier step. You can also skip the account with **Set up later**.

You can reopen the welcome screen via **Settings** → **About** → **Show welcome screen again**.

1.3 Updating and removing

New versions arrive through the **Mac App Store**, just like your other apps (see 3.12). Removing: see the FAQ.

2. Troubleshooting mail accounts

If an account doesn't work, you'll see a ⚠️ after its name in the panel under the fox, with an explanation in a light box. Work through this chapter — it's almost always the password or the server.

2.1 First: Test connection

1. Open **Settings** → **Accounts** and select the account.
2. Click **Test connection** at the bottom.
3. ✅ *Connected!* means everything is fine. Otherwise you'll see an error with an explanation (see 2.6).

> Changes are saved immediately (you'll briefly see ✓ *Changes saved* at the top right). When you change the server, username or password, Foxifier checks the account again right away.

> **Careful with presets.** Choosing a preset for an existing account changes its server; Foxifier asks you to confirm first. If an account suddenly stops working, check that the **Server** is still right.

2.2 Gmail

Gmail doesn't accept your regular Google password in mail apps. You need an **app password**:

1. Go to **myaccount.google.com** → **Security**.
2. Turn on **2-Step Verification** (app passwords don't exist without it).
3. Search for **App passwords** at the top (or go to `myaccount.google.com/apppasswords`).
4. Name it, e.g. *Foxifier*, and click **Create**.

5. Paste the 16 characters into Foxifier as the **Password** (spaces don't matter). *Sign in with* = **Password**.

Server	`imap.gmail.com`
Port	`993`
Username	your full Gmail address

> Seeing *"Application-specific password required"* or *"Gmail doesn't accept your regular password"*? You're still using your regular password — create an app password as above.

Sign in with Google (without an app password) is built in, but only works once this version has a Google connection. If it says *"Signing in with Google is not set up in this version yet"*, use an app password (button **Use app password**).

2.3 iCloud Mail

1. Go to **account.apple.com → Sign-In and Security → App-Specific Passwords**.
2. Create a password and use it in Foxifier.

Server	`imap.mail.me.com`
Port	`993`
Username	your iCloud address (e.g. `name@icloud.com`)

2.4 Outlook.com, Hotmail, Live, Microsoft 365

Microsoft no longer allows signing in with just a password. Choose **Sign in with: Microsoft** and click **Sign in to Microsoft…**. You sign in on Microsoft's own page; Foxifier never gets your password, only an access token that's stored in your Mac's keychain.

Server	`outlook.office365.com`
Port	`993`

> If it says *"Signing in with Microsoft is not set up in this version yet"*, this test version doesn't have the Microsoft connection yet. It's coming in a future version.

2.5 Other providers and your own domain

Provider	Server	Username
KPN (NL)	`imap.kpnmail.nl`	full KPN address
Ziggo (NL)	`imap.ziggo.nl`	full Ziggo address
Your own domain (e.g. Plesk)	your domain or `mail.yourdomain.com`	full address

Foxifier always uses an encrypted connection (IMAP over TLS, port 993). Servers that only work unencrypted are not supported.

2.6 Error messages explained

Message	What it means / what to do
Username or password is incorrect	Check both. Use an app password for Gmail/iCloud. Mind upper/lower case.
Gmail doesn't accept your regular password	Create an app password (2.2).
Microsoft no longer allows signing in with a password	Choose *Sign in with: Microsoft* (2.4).
Google wants you to confirm it's you in the browser first	Sign in at mail.google.com, confirm, and try again.
No password set / Not signed in yet	Enter the password, or click *Sign in to…*.
Time-out: the server does not respond	Is the server right? Is your internet working? Try a longer time-out (Settings → General → Advanced).
Network error / No internet	No connection. Foxifier tries again automatically once you're back online.
Server does not allow login without security	The server wants a different sign-in method. Contact your provider.
The server closed the connection	Usually temporary. Click Check now; if it persists, check server and port.

An error in the panel shows the server in brackets, e.g. `(imap.gmail.com)`, so you can see at once which server is failing.

2.7 No notifications or no sound

- **System Settings → Notifications → Foxifier**: allow notifications.
- Is a **Focus** on (Do Not Disturb, Work, Sleep) with the *Follow Focus* plugin enabled? Then the fox is quiet on purpose.
- **Quiet hours** (Settings → General): no automatic checks during those hours.
- The speaker at the bottom of the panel: crossed out = sound off.
- The timer/pause button at the bottom of the panel: paused = no automatic checks.
- Settings → Plugins: are *Notifications* and *Barking fox* enabled?

2.8 Sending debug information

Still stuck? Go to **Settings → General → Advanced → Send debug information to the developer**. An email to the developer opens with a file attached containing your settings, server names, the log and any crash reports — **never** passwords or usernames. You see the email yourself before sending it.

If Foxifier quit unexpectedly, it asks at the next start whether you'd like to email the crash report.

3. All features

3.1 The fox in the menu bar

- **Click** the fox: the panel with your unread mail per account. **Right-click**: Settings, About tab.
- Next to the fox is an **envelope** that fills with gold as more unread mail arrives (1 = a thin layer, 10+ = full). A red edge means there's important mail. You can also choose a plain number (Settings → General → Display).
- The fox **sniffs** while checking and **jumps** when new mail arrives. For important mail a fox also jumps across your screen (adjustable).
- Buttons at the bottom of the panel: mail window, new message, sound on/off, automatic checking on/off, settings and quit (red). Hover over a button for an explanation.

- In the panel: **double-click** opens a message in your mail app, **right-click** shows all actions. Deleted messages blow away, read messages light up in gold with a seal (also in the mail window). Turn each effect on or off in Settings → General → Display → *Mail effects*. *Other animations* below it switches off the remaining animations too (Mailbag, sparkles, popping questions).
- **Several messages at once:** click a message to select it, ⇧-click selects everything up to that message, ⌘-click adds or removes one. A gold bar appears below the list with Read and Delete (⌫); esc or the cross clears the selection. The buttons and right-click menu of a selected message then apply to all selected messages.
- **Resize:** drag the small gold grip in the bottom-right corner of the panel. Foxifier remembers the size; double-click the grip to go back to the default.
- If an account is **disabled**, a red *Account disabled* bar appears at the top of the panel (and in the mail window). Click it to switch the account back on in Settings → Accounts. There, the **Theme color** button resets an account's color to the theme's.

3.2 The mail window

The large window with your accounts (and folders) on the left, the list in the middle and the message at the bottom. Open it with the tray button in the panel. The toolbar has Check, Reply, Read, Spam, Move and Delete (⌘⌫). When there's nothing, the fox waits at the mailbox. Drag the **gold bar** between the list and the message to make the reading pane bigger or smaller; double-click resets it.

While the mail window or Settings is open, Foxifier also appears in the Dock and in ⌘Tab. The Dock icon then shows the number of unread messages in a red badge. Rather not? Turn it off in Settings → General → Advanced → *Unread count on the Dock icon*.

3.3 Reading mail

- Select a message: it is loaded in full and shown nicely — HTML mail as intended, plain text in the house style (quotes with a gold bar).
- The message stays **unread** on the server until you mark it as read.
- **Safe:** no JavaScript, forms do nothing, links open in your regular browser.
- **Privacy:** images from the internet aren't loaded, so senders can't see that you opened the mail. Click *Load images*, or turn it on permanently in Settings → General → Display.
- **Attachments** are shown in a bar above the message: click to open, right-click for *Save as…*.

- Double-click opens the message in your mail app. If Spark is set, it opens in Apple Mail instead (Spark can't jump to a single message).

3.4 Folders

- Click the folder icon next to an account to show its folders. Each folder shows its number of messages; an orange badge = unread.
- **Inbox, Sent and Trash** are always at the top. System folders (Drafts, Archive, Calendar, …) are hidden; you can turn that off.
- A folder shows its newest 150 messages, read and unread. In Sent, the first column is *To*.
- In the Trash, deleting is permanent (after confirmation), and **Empty Trash** removes everything at once.
- **Moving mail:** right-click a message → *Move to*. Your recently used folders are at the top, all folders below. Lots of folders? Choose *Find folder…* (or the *Move* button, ⇧ ⌘ M) and type a few letters: the list jumps straight to the right folder. Use ↑ ↓ to choose, ↩ to move. Moving works within one account, also for several messages at once.
- **Drag and drop:** drag a message (or your whole selection) from the list, or from the menu bar panel, onto a folder in the sidebar. The folder lights up in gold; drop to move. Dropping on Trash deletes it. You can only drop onto an actual folder, not onto the account name.
- **Watching several folders:** Settings → Accounts → *Also watch these folders*. New mail there is announced the same way, optionally with its own sound per folder.

3.5 Searching the server

Type in the search field of the mail window. If it's not in the list, click **Search on server**. It searches sender and subject (and with *also in the text* the message itself), in whatever is selected on the left: a folder, an account or everything. With *all folders* it searches the Inbox and all your own folders (without system folders such as Sent, Trash and Junk). Up to 100 results per folder.

3.6 Remind me later (snooze)

Right-click a message → **Remind me later**: in 15 minutes, 1 hour, 3 hours, this evening 18:00 or tomorrow morning 08:00. The message disappears until then and the fox barks again. The mail window shows *Remind me later* on the left with all snoozed messages; *Show again now* brings one back.

3.7 Notifications and daily summary

- One notification per new message (a summary when many arrive at once), optionally with a bit of text.
- Click the arrow next to a notification for: **Mark as read, Reply, Remind me in 1 hour, Delete**.
- **Daily summary** (Settings → General → Notifications): once a day at a set time, one notification with how much unread mail there is, what's important and who sends the most. *Try now* shows it immediately. If your Mac was off or closed at that time, the summary arrives as soon as Foxifier runs later that day (after the first check).

3.8 Rules and white/black lists

Just like PopTray: rules on sender, subject, text, size etc. (with wildcards or regular expressions). Actions: mark important or spam, custom sound, protect, ignore, mark as read, delete, colour, run a command (with macros like `%FROM%` and `%SUBJECT%`) or log. Senders on the **white list** are always trusted, on the **black list** treated as spam.

> Note: the white and black lists only work in Foxifier. They are separate from the spam filter on your mail server, which is often managed by your provider (for example Microsoft or Google). Mail the server has already filed as spam is not seen by Foxifier, and a sender on your black list is not blocked by your provider. Click the gold exclamation mark in Settings → White/black for this explanation.

3.9 Plugins

Plugin	What it does
Notifications	macOS notifications for new mail.
Barking fox	The fox sound (or your own) for new mail.
Instant (IMAP IDLE)	The server tells the app about new mail itself, usually within seconds.
Follow Focus	Quiet during a Focus. Most reliable with two Shortcuts automations that open `foxifier://focus/aan` and `foxifier://focus/uit`.
Read aloud	Reads new mail aloud. English: Daniel (en-GB); Dutch: Xander or Ellen. Install voices via System Settings → Accessibility → Spoken Content.

Learning spam filter	Learns from what you mark as spam or not spam.
Desktop widget	Your unread mail on the desktop (small, medium, large).
Shortcuts	Runs a shortcut from the Shortcuts app with the new mail as input.
Webhook	Sends new mail to a URL, e.g. ntfy.sh or Home Assistant.

3.10 Appearance

- **Themes:** Classic gold (follows light/dark), Evening (dark brown with gold), Retro terminal (green on black).
- **Ambient background** with the fox behind the computer, **coloured or monochrome fox** in the menu bar, **sender logos** (optional).
- The window buttons at the top left always stay in colour.

3.11 Settings

- **General:** startup, appearance, language, mail app, display, notifications, quiet hours and advanced (time-out, confirm on quit and delete, count on the Dock icon, updates, log, debug information).
- **Accounts:** server, sign-in, check interval, sound, mail app and extra folders per account.
- **Rules, White/black, Plugins, About** (with the donation link if you enjoy Foxifier 🙌). In About, click **ℹ pimuijttewaal.nl** to meet the maker: a portrait in a baroque gold frame. Click the photo to enlarge it, the name plate to open pimuijttewaal.nl; close with ✕ or `Esc`.
- Quitting asks for confirmation (turn off with *Don't ask again* or in Advanced).
- Deleting asks for confirmation, in the panel and in the mail window. Tick *Don't ask for confirmation again* to delete right away from then on; turn it back on in Settings → General → Advanced → *Ask for confirmation when deleting*. Permanently deleting from the Trash always asks.
- The **golden question mark** at the top right of every screen opens this manual at the right chapter.

3.12 Updates

New versions of Foxifier arrive through the **Mac App Store**. With automatic updates switched on (App Store → Settings → *Automatic Updates*) it happens by itself; otherwise look under **Updates**

in the App Store.

The first time you start the app after an update, the fox shows a card with **what's new**. You can look again later via Settings → About → ✦ **New**, next to the version number.

3.13 📬 Mailbag

A wink for the curious: the fox keeps track of everything that passes by. In **Settings** → **About**, click 📬 **Mailbag** next to the version number. You'll see:

- **Received:** today, the last 7 and 30 days, the total and the daily average.
- **Peaks:** the busiest day ever, the busiest day of the week and the busiest hour.
- **Top 5 senders:** who emails you most.
- **What you did:** read, deleted, moved, snoozed and your fastest response.
- **The fox:** how often it barked and jumped, how much spam it caught and the longest silence.

Each block comes with a (changing) joke from the fox. At the top you see since when it has been counting: the installation date or the last reset. **Reset numbers** sets everything back to zero, after a confirmation. The numbers stay on your Mac and are never sent anywhere.

3.14 🛟 Feedback

Spotted something that could be better, got an idea, or just a compliment? In **Settings** → **About**, click 🛟 **Feedback**, between Mailbag and New. A small form opens:

- **Your email address**, twice to double-check. If they don't match or the address isn't valid, the field turns red. The address is remembered for next time.
- **Your feedback:** as short or long as you like (up to 5000 characters; the counter is at the top right).
- **Attach additional files…:** add a screenshot, PDF or log file, for example, or drag files onto the window. Up to 5 files, 22 MB in total (images, PDF, text, JSON, CSV, RTF, MOV and MP4). Click ✕ to remove a file.
- **I'd like a reply:** tick this if you want an answer. It is then clearly shown at the top of the email.
- **System information** is attached as a text file: app and macOS version, Mac model, processor, memory, free disk space, displays, language, theme, plugins and each account's server and status. **No** passwords, user names or mail. Click **Preview** to see exactly what is sent.

- **Include settings:** your settings, accounts and rules are attached as JSON files, without passwords, user names or full email addresses. Untick it if you'd rather not.
- **Include debug information:** the app's log and any crash reports from the last 14 days are attached as *debug-informatie.txt*, just like *Send debug information to the developer* in Settings → General → Advanced. Without passwords or user names. On by default; **Preview** shows the start of the file.

Click **Send** (or ⌘ ↩). The fox asks once more if everything is right; **Edit** takes you back to the form. If you attach files of your own, a second question lists all file names once more. After sending, a little envelope flies off and a small thank-you appears. **Cancel** (or Esc) first asks whether you really want to discard your text.

If sending fails (no internet, or too many times in a row), the fox tells you and your text stays put.

4. Tips

- ⌘ R in the panel: check now. ⌘ ⌫ in the mail window: delete.
- Right-click the fox in the menu bar to open *About* directly.
- Curious who emails you most? Have a look in the 📬 Mailbag (Settings → About).
- **Drag and drop** (mail window):
  - drag mail onto a **folder** = move;
  - onto **Trash** = delete (with confirmation);
  - a selection of several messages moves in one go;
  - also from the menu bar panel onto a folder in the mail window;
  - only onto an actual folder (not the account name), within the same account.
- Let your server sort mail into folders (e.g. newsletters) and watch only the folders that matter, each with its own sound.
- Use a rule *Sender matches* `*@yourwork.com` → *Mark as important* and the fox jumps across your screen.
- Push notification on your iPhone: Webhook plugin with `https://ntfy.sh/a-secret-topic` and the ntfy app.
- Handy links for Shortcuts or your browser: `foxifier://mailbox`, `foxifier://check`, `foxifier://settings`.

- Hover over a button for a short explanation.

5. Frequently asked questions

▼ Does Foxifier mark my mail as read?

No. Checking and reading happen without changing anything. Only when you choose *Mark as read* (or a rule does) does anything change on the server.

▼ Where are my passwords stored?

In the macOS keychain. Settings live in `~/Library/Application Support/Foxifier`, without passwords.

▼ Does Foxifier store my mail?

No, your mail stays on the server. Foxifier only temporarily keeps the headers and a bit of text to be able to alert you.

▼ Does POP3 work?

No, only IMAP (over TLS). Nearly every provider supports IMAP.

▼ Does Foxifier send data anywhere?

Only to your own mail server. In addition, only if you turn it on: sender logos (directly from their website), your webhook, and the update check. Debug information is only sent if you send the email yourself.

▼ Which macOS version do I need?

macOS 14.6 (Sonoma) or later.

▼ Is Foxifier free?

Yes: free software under the GNU GPL (version 2 or later), just like PopTray, which inspired it. If you enjoy it, you can make a contribution via Settings → About.

▼ How do I remove Foxifier completely?

Quit the app, move it to the Trash and optionally delete the folder `~/Library/Application Support/Foxifier`. Remove the passwords in Keychain Access (search for “foxifier”).

▼ Why is it called Vossenpost in Dutch?

The Dutch version is called Vossenpost (“fox post”, with the black Dutch postal cap), the English one Foxifier (with the US mail cap). The language you choose decides.

6. Changes

This manual grows along with the app.

- **1.5.1 — October 2026:** ↩️ **Undo**: after deleting or moving, a gold bar for 5 seconds to put it back (also with ⌘Z). Switching from the website version: your accounts come along automatically. Read aloud works again after sleep.
- **1.5 — October 2026:** 🍏 Foxifier is on the **Mac App Store**, with updates through the App Store. ⭐ **Foxifier Pro**: unlimited mail accounts with a one-time purchase; with one account Foxifier stays free. 📶 A notification when there's no internet, and how much new mail arrived once you're back online. Useful mailbox statistics in the Mailbag (About). Improved widgets. Open at login is now off by default.
- **1.4 — September 2026:** 🛡️ officially signed and notarized by Apple (no more security warning when installing); after the update macOS asks once for access to the keychain: enter your Mac's password and choose *Always Allow*; improved user experience (right-click the fox in the menu bar: About, Settings and Quit).
- **1.3 — September 2026:** visual improvements.

- **1.2 — September 2026:** 🔴 Unread count on the Dock icon while Foxifier is in the Dock (on by default, can be turned off in Settings → General → Advanced). When deleting: tick *Don't ask for confirmation again*; turn it back on in Settings → General → Advanced.
- **1.1 — September 2026:** 🛟 Feedback button in Settings → About: send quick feedback, with system information attached, the option “I'd like a reply” and optionally your settings and your own files (up to 22 MB in total). The buttons in About now have the same width. The link in About opens a portrait of the maker in a gold frame. New installer (.pkg) in the app's own style; started outside Applications, the fox offers to move itself there.
- **1.0 — September 2026:** first official release. First version of the manual (installation, troubleshooting, features, tips, FAQ). Folders, server search, remind me later, notification actions, daily summary, watching several folders, reading view, envelope in the menu bar, sign in with Microsoft/Google (prepared), automatic updates, crash reports, golden question-mark button to this manual. Larger panel by default, resizable with the grip in the bottom-right corner. Move mail to another folder (find it by typing a few letters). Questions such as Empty Trash and Delete in the app's own style. Notification and gold bar when an update is ready. Welcome screen: add an account in its own window with Save and continue; account name required (red when missing); go back to any earlier step. Red bar for disabled accounts; Theme color button. Livelier read/delete effects, each can be switched off; an open folder updates when new mail arrives. Search all folders; gold drag bar for the reading pane. Drag mail onto a folder. Daily summary still arrives if the Mac was off at that time. Note on white/black lists vs. your provider's spam filter. New: 📬 Mailbag with pointless statistics. The panel also shows read mail when it isn't hidden; questions asked from the panel keep the panel open; select several messages with ⇧/⌘-click. Animation while checking for updates (gold radar or three others), with our own message when you're up to date; "What's new" card after an update; the menu bar fox jumps longer.

7. Copyright

Once upon a time there was a clever fox who was tired of sneaking through the woods. He moved into the menu bar of a Mac, put on a mail carrier's cap, and decided to keep an eye on the post from then on. And so Foxifier was born: the very first macOS app of his human, Pim Uijttewaal (pimuijttewaal.nl).

© 2026 Pim Uijttewaal.

The fox lives at uijttewaal.info, and you can pick him up for free on the Mac App Store.

Because a fox never sits still, the app is updated regularly. New versions arrive by themselves through the Mac App Store.

Want to tell the fox something, an idea, a wish or a complaint? Whisper it via **Settings → About → 🛟 Feedback**.

The fox has a family too. On uijttewaal.info you'll find their stories: the family archive with a blog (in Dutch), photo album, family tree and guestbook. There you'll also meet his little cousin *The Jumping Fox*, a screensaver that hops across your screen all day.

…and if he hasn't been quit, he's barking still.

Vossenpost / Foxifier · versie / version 1.5.1 (build 12)

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Deze handleiding groeit mee met de app · this manual grows along with the app