



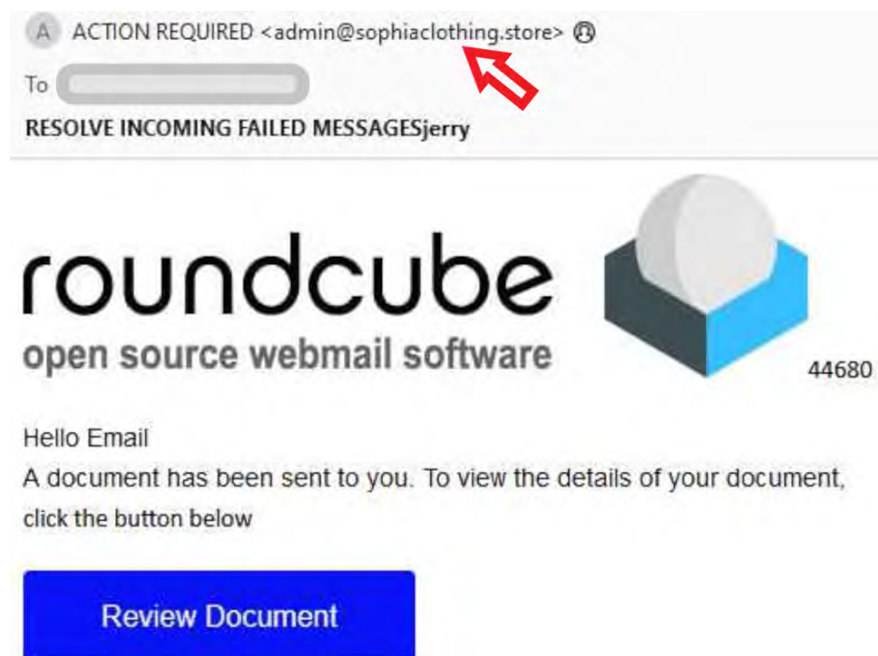
Don't Click: Email Warnings are Fake

When you get an email that says your account is full, or needs a password, or some other allegedly urgent FUD message; that's some Fear, Uncertainty, & Doubt phishing bait that wants you to log in and fix things, STOP. Unless you are the person running your web site, it's a fake. Look at the sending email address, and you'll see a complete mismatch between what the sender should be, and what it is. For the Outlook users, position the mouse over the sender and Outlook should allow you to see the sending email. The scary messages come from free email accounts and hijacked email accounts.

Here are the most common mismatches:

Comcast is business internet. Xfinity is home internet. Together, they're Comcast, the company. Notices about home internet come from addresses that end in @xfinity.com. Your business accounts will get sales email from comcast.com. Any message coming from comcast.net is using a free email address, and is not an official service message from Comcast Corporation.

Verizon has similar policies. Verizon.com and verizonwireless.com are corporate email. Verizon.net was the old personal email for customers, and what is left of that is now run by Verizon's former subsidiary AOL.com, which later became part of Yahoo, then Oath Media, and most recently, Yahoo Media Group. But official Verizon service notices come from Verizon.com addresses, never a verizon.net address.



RoundCube is web-based email software that runs on many, many servers.. It does not send out 'full' messages. Those come from the server hosting the email, will never include a RoundCube logo, and go to the administrator running the accounts, and not the 'full' address, which would not make sense: Why send a warning email to a mismanaged account that where email is not read and filed away?

And the big one: No email server sends 'full' messages from a Gmail account. Not Google, not anyone. Actual Gmail messages arrive from an account at Google.com. Not Gmail. And no custom hosting accounts send errors from

Gmail.



Science Translations 35th Anniversary

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<https://www.sciencetranslations.com/referrals/maryland-secretarys-citation-2025/>



Windows 10 to 11 Upgrade Planing

Windows 10 security updates end on October 14th of this year. Microsoft and the large vendors of hardware will tell you that all Windows 10 computers should be replaced for the new higher-productivity models running Windows 11. Well, if you have stock in those companies, yes, then the computer life cycle is less than 3 years. Just like a car, once you drive it off the lot, the dealer wants to sell you a new one.

Meanwhile, back in the actual business world, I still estimate desktop computers kept off the floor as reliable for 7 years, laptop computers that are parked on a desk at 6 years, mobile notebooks at 3-5, and small file servers at 5-6 years. Go beyond that, and the repairs and risks and work interruptions will increase.

The hardware requirements for qualifying for the free Windows 11 upgrade are basically met by default on nearly all computers from after 2020. (Dates here are based on the shipping date, not the purchase date. Discounted deals may have spent 2 years in a warehouse when purchased.) 2017 models and older are mostly not upgradable. The 2018 to 2020 models need my manual intervention to turn on some motherboard features that are now required for Windows 11. I can check those remotely, and then tell you if a computer can install Windows 11 now, after some setting changes, after a small hardware change, or not at all. Upgrade checks and planning are free consults.

Small Packages from China, Update!

Last month, this newsletter covered the soon-to-be \$50 or much higher import tariffs on small packages shipped from overseas. Since then, the Hong Kong post office has announced that they will no longer accept postal items containing goods addressed to the US.

Reminder: Hong Kong is a 'Special Administrative Region' of China, which carries over much of the business activity that ran there when it was a colony of the United Kingdom, which ended in 1997. A lot of small Chinese goods were mailed from Hong Kong.

This does not mean the end of junk sold by Marketplace vendors; this stuff always finds a way to pop up somewhere. My recommendation remains: Do not buy 'Marketplace' items unless the shipping and return service are provided by the company you are paying, which is usually Amazon, Walmart, or eBay. Marketplace warranties on internally-shipped goods are worthless.

Marketplace, defined: Stuff sold on big sales websites by third parties you've never heard of, some of which is shipped direct, so that the web site has no control or knowledge of results.

More online:

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/15/business/hong-kong-suspends-postal-service-to-us-intl-hnk/index.html>



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