Smart IT Services

What is the difference between POP3 and IMAP?

POP3 is a protocol to download and locally store your e-mails. When your client connects it will download all mail stored in your mailbox and save it to your hard disk. It will then (by default) delete the copy that is held on our servers.
POP3 is good if you want to keep all mails you are sent on your pc as you are not limited by your mailbox quota once the mail has been downloaded or if you wish to keep local backups of your mail.

Once a message has been downloaded to a computer and removed from our server it can only be viewed on that computer.

IMAP4 is a protocol used to access and manage the contents of the mailbox on the server in real time. You can open mails, create folders to store mails, delete messages from the server and otherwise use the system as normal. The primary difference is that current messages are saved and stored on the server, not on your local computer.

IMAP4 is good if you want multiple computers or devices (such as a smart phone or tablet) to be able to see the same mailbox, messages and folders. It also allows you to access your mails via the Webmail system and see and respond to them there.

When configured properly email sent from one device will also be visible in the Sent Item folder on other devices and in Webmail.

Note: Your mailbox on the server has a maximum quota. You will need to manage your mailbox and e-mails by removing or archiving older messages that are not required in order to ensure that the mailbox does not fill up and prevent you from receiving new messages.

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