

What your e-mail address says about you.

E-mail has always served two purposes. It allows you to communicate, and it allows you to weed out evolutionary weaklings from the herd.

You know the old saying: Never trust a man with an @yahoo email address.

E-mail says something about you. It says, "I can be reached here," but, like a physical address, it also carries a certain cachet. Gmail? You're probably reliable and tech-savvy. AOL? You are probably someone's grandmother. @mindspring? You probably live in a box under a bridge.

This is the breakdown:

@AOL.com You miss that screaming sound your computer used to make before getting online. Your screen name might be bizarrely personal, like AllenTada@aol.com. You used to pride yourself with being ahead of the curve in the 90's. You use verbs like "twittering" and spend a lot of time worrying about "sexting rampages." Your password probably memorializes your deceased dog. You have a tendency to forward people joke e-mails and you still send e-cards.

@YourWorkEmail You either work somewhere important or don't understand the concept behind e-mail. You have a tendency to forward people joke e-mails with picture attachments.

@YourCableProvider You wish you had an office e-mail address to use. You are going to miss Oprah a lot when it goes off the air.

@Yahoo You're not sure how you got this e-mail address. You might be a fine person, but it is difficult to tell at this point. (Who has a Yahoo e-mail address?)

@Gmail You actually know your way around a computer. You view anyone who doesn't have Gmail in the same way that the caveman who had figured out fire viewed all his non-fire-equipped contemporaries or the way most people nowadays view the Amish. You don't understand how to get in touch with anyone who doesn't have G-Chat.

@Hotmail This e-mail address says, "I probably carry my phone in a holster." You keep insisting that this e-mail service has "a lot of good features," but you don't sound entirely convinced.

@Facebook You figured you might as well get one of these, because you were going to be on Facebook, anyway.