Internet Terminology

What do all these acronyms mean?

Internet Address

- For IPV4, it's 4 numbers. Ex: 96.231.36.36
- IPV6 numbering is very different.   Not covered here.

Think of it like the physical street address.

DNS – Domain Name Servers

- This maps IP# to names that people can use.
- Ex: DNS maps "lookhere.com" to 96.231.36.36

Think of it as the Address book for machines on the internet. If you want the address of someone, you lookup in the address book for the address.

Services

- All network servers provide some sort of network service (web, file serving, mail...)
- For today, we will only discuss SMTP, SMTPS, POP3, IMAP.

SMTP – Simple Mail Transport Protocol

- Mechanism (protocol) to transfer email from one place to another.

Think of it like the postal vehicle that carries mail.

SMTP only deals with mail delivery

- Reading mail has nothing to do with SMTP
- SMTP will deliver to something that will hold your email. The destination has nothing to do with SMTP.

Think of the end destination like your residence mailbox, or at post office PO Box.

POP3 / IMAP

- This gives you access to your mailbox.
- POP3 is a very old protocol. It is designed to download your mailbox to a single local machine. It has been hacked to allow multiple devices, but this is not how it was designed to be used. Avoid unless you have no choice.
- IMAP4 is designed to access mail on a server and leave it there. Far better for multiple device use

These are PROTOCOLs

- This is how computers talk to get mail from one server to another. There is a distinction between this and how it shows you the email.

For example, while gmail offers imap access to other mail accounts, what you get when you go to https://www.gmail.com may not use IMAP at all.   Mail accounts aren't IMAP/POP/webmail. Mail accounts are mail accounts.   What access is attached to a mail account varies.