E-MAIL WORKING

E-mail System

E-mail system comprises of the following three components:

- Mailer
- Mail Server
- Mailbox

Mailer

It is also called **mail program, mail application** or **mail client.** It allows us to manage, read and compose e-mail.

Mail Server

The function of mail server is to receive, store and deliver the email. It is must for mail servers to be sunning all the time because if it crashes or is down, email can be lost.

Mailboxes

Mailbox is generally a folder that contains emails and information about them.

Working of E-mail

Email working follows the client server approach. In this client is the mailer i.e. the mail application or mail program and server is a device that manages emails.

Following example will take you through the basic steps involved in sending and receiving emails and will give you a better understanding of working of email system:

- Suppose person A wants to send an email message to person B.
- Person A composes the messages using a mailer program i.e. mail client and then select Send option.
- The message is routed to **Simple Mail Transfer Protocol** to person B's mail server.
- The mail server stores the email message on disk in an area designated for person B.

> *The disk space area on mail server is called mail spool.*

- Now, suppose person B is running a POP client and knows how to communicate with B's mail server.
- It will periodically poll the POP server to check if any new email has arrived for B.As in this case, person B has sent an email for person B, so email is forwarded over the network to B's PC. This is message is now stored on person B's PC.

The following diagram gives pictorial representation of the steps discussed above:

Person A's PC

A's local storage

A's mail Server (SMTP or POP)

storage for Person A

Mail client

SMTP Link

Outgoing email

network

Incoming email

Email sent via SMTP

Person B's PC