

How the International Republican Institute Protects Freedom with the Flip of a Switch

"If tools aren't simple, people won't bother. Now my staff just turns on Virtru and knows their information is protected."

— SHAWN BEIGHLE, Chief Information Officer, The International Republican Institute



The Need for Email Security—Anywhere, Any Time

The International Republican Institute (IRI) strives to spread and build democracy across the world. Formed by President Reagan in the 1980s, the organization provides training and tools for traditionally marginalized citizens looking to speak out and shape positive change for their countries. With more than 500 employees across 32 different countries, IRI's work crosses borders where Internet security and governmental control are high concerns.

Sharing information with people is the foundation of democracy building, but IRI conducts training in countries where communication is both challenging and dangerous. In many cases, organization leaders must carefully safeguard events to ensure they are not thwarted by violence. By providing a conduit for uninterrupted communications, secure email can be a literal lifesaver for the IRI team and its communities.

Serious Security Concerns in a Pre-Virtru World

Before partnering with Virtru, IRI field agents patched together various techniques, like creating fake email accounts, in an effort to evade the eavesdropping of hostile governments. They hoped that removing IRI email addresses would keep the logistics of political meetings under the radar, but this was not the case. Messages sent this way could not be verified by staff

and could be even more vulnerable to hackers, thus jeopardizing the safety of thousands of IRI volunteers and field workers.

With both information and people's lives at risk, Chief Information Officer Shawn Beighle was tasked with finding a secure email solution that could support an organization that crosses time zones, language barriers, and volatile political environments. After researching various options, Virtru was the clear winner for the following reasons:

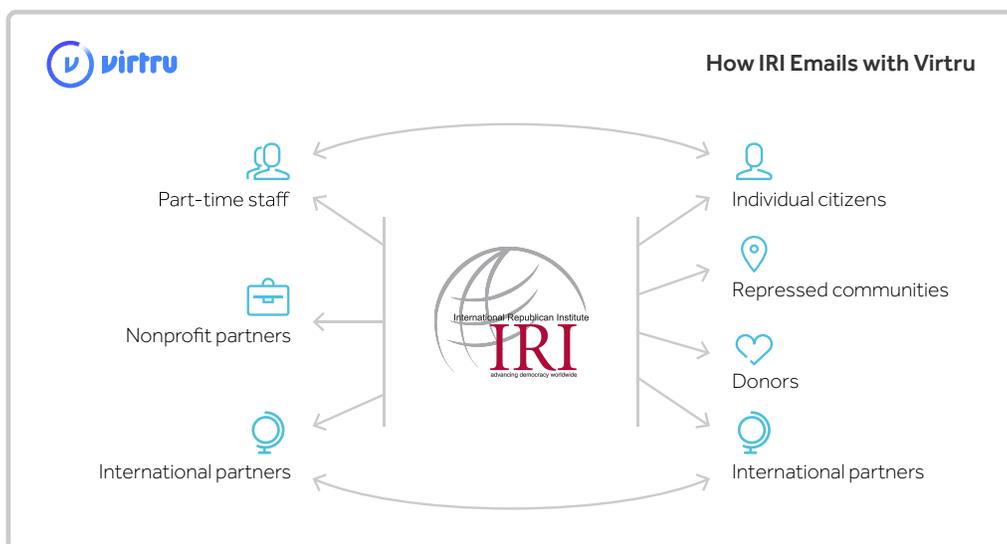
Client-side encryption—IRI emails and attachments remain protected no matter where they travel, and access can be revoked at any time.

Evolving technology—Virtru adapts its product to keep up with an evolving digital world, including extra administrative controls and monitoring features.

Instant implementation—Virtru can be remotely installed in seconds on any computer, worldwide. No technical expertise required.

Easy Implementation—Around the Globe

"Virtru provided us a package that allows us to push out software to our remote offices everywhere—from Berlin to Beirut," Beighle says. "The user turns off her computer and the next time she boots up, she has it installed." Since Virtru can also be downloaded on cell phones and tablets, IRI's workers can send secure emails from any device, anywhere.



What's more, Virtru implementation is so easy that Beighle has not had to rely on trainings or in-house PR campaigns to get employees on board. "Within a

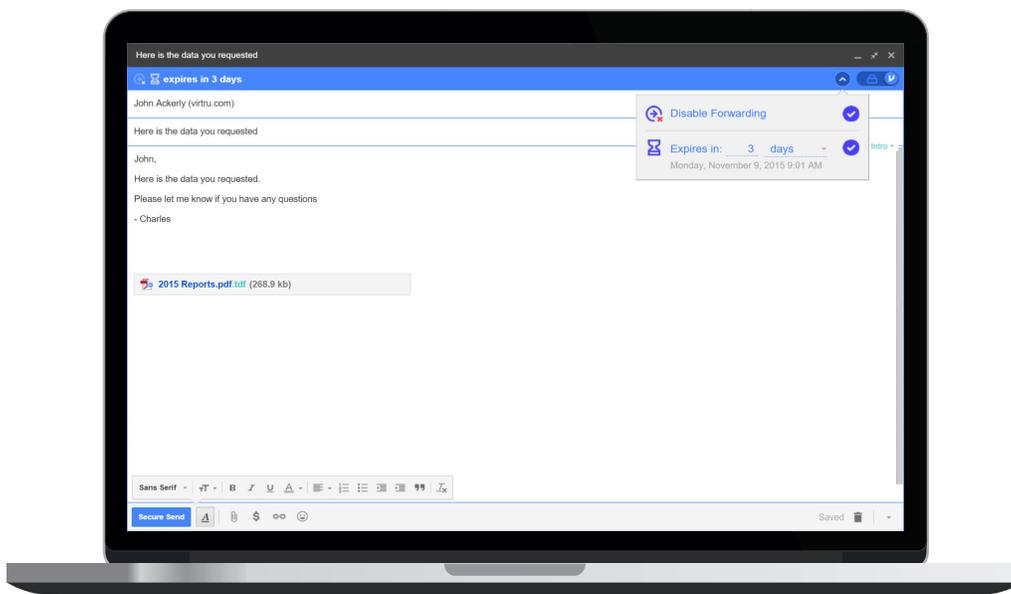
week of the launch, the good news had spread," he said. "We had people in the doorway asking for Virtru. It's become a mandatory and invaluable device for us."

Compliance, Control, and Protection

In addition to keeping emails safe, Virtru also allows senders and administrators to control their content—even after it's left the inbox. They can prevent recipients from forwarding their emails to other people and revoke emails after they've been sent or opened by a recipient. This means that attachments, such as sensitive IRI event plans and membership info, can't be stolen or reproduced.

IRI's staff loves the following easy-to-use Virtru features:

- ⓧ **Disable forwarding**—the ability to disable the forwarding function means information can be carefully controlled.
- ⓧ **Revoke send**—emails can even be revoked after sending.
- ⓧ **In-browser secure replies**—allows IRI partners to encrypt their responses to Virtru messages.



Since IRI is a government-funded organization, management must follow strict guidelines and provide evidence that they are delivering on their stated mission. By partnering with Virtru, Beighle's team can now demonstrate that they are meeting the government's strict email retention policy. With fears of email interception eradicated, field agents can confidently send from IRI email accounts again no matter where in the world their work takes them. All of these changes mean that IRI can better focus on the missions that they care about, as opposed to the people who might be trying to disrupt them.