

Groupware comparison

FEATURE COMPARISON

ZARAFI VS. MICROSOFT EXCHANGE

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Collaboration servers, also known as groupware software, are designed to ease the daily work by making it possible to work more extensively together, contributed by several users on different workstations. Once you have decided to use groupware software, there is one dilemma: which software to choose for your company? In this article we will compare two of the best groupware packages currently on the market.

Zarafa is the leading European provider of open source groupware and collaboration software. The core product is the Zarafa Collaboration Platform (ZCP), the European open and compatible groupware platform can be used as a drop-in Microsoft Exchange replacement for email, calendaring, collaboration and tasks. Zarafa is acclaimed for its unrivalled expertise in calendar sharing and mobile compatibility.

Microsoft Exchange Server is the server side of a collaborative application product developed by Microsoft. It is part of the Microsoft Servers line of server products and is used by enterprises using Microsoft infrastructure products. Exchange's major features consist of electronic mail, calendaring, contacts and tasks; support for mobile and web-based access to information; and support for data storage.

FEATURES

Client side	Zarafa 7	Exch. 2010	Comments
Outlook Sharing	Yes	Yes	Both products support Outlook 2000-2010.
Offline Caching Mode	Yes	Yes	Both support Outlook Caching mode. Zarafa supports no offline Public Folders.
Resource booking	Yes	Yes	Booking is possible through Outlook and web client of both products.
Categories for contacts and tasks	Yes	Yes	Both products support this feature.
BlackBerry support	Yes	Yes	Both products can be integrated with the BlackBerry Enterprise Server.
Smartphone support (push mail over Active Sync)	Yes	Yes	iPhone, Android, Nokia, etc. can be synchronized. Both work over secure https.

Client compatibility	Yes	Yes	Both support Outlook. Zarafa supports Outlook2011 for Mac only through imap and pop3. Exchange has native support for Outlook2011 for Mac through Webdav (not in 2010 version). Imap4 and pop3 clients have limited access to calendar information for Exchange. Exchange has no public folder support through imap.
Conversation view	No	Yes	There is an integrated conversation view with Exchange bringing together information across all folders: inbox, sent items and deleted items. The conversation view will be available in Zarafa too with support for OL2010 and the Zarafa Web App.
Unified messaging	No	Yes	Access to voicemail messages through the outlook client. Installing and running the Unified Messaging server role in a virtualized environment isn't supported.

Web Client specific	Zarafa 7	Exch. 2010	Comments
Drag & drop of items	Yes	Yes	Both products support this feature.
Right Mouse click	Yes	Yes	Both products support this feature.
Data Sharing	Yes	Limited	With Exchange it is not easy to open shared folders through the web client. Opening calendars is possible.
Multi-user calendar	Yes	Yes	Both products support this feature.
Keyboard shortcuts	Yes	Yes	Both product support this feature
Advanced Find	Yes	No	The outlook Advanced Find is fully available in the Zarafa web client but not in the Exchange web client.
Today view	Yes	No	With Exchange not available in the web client.
Delegation wizard	Yes	Limited	With Zarafa easy possible to set delegates on client level. With Exchange you need a third party tool.

Architecture	Zarafa 7	Exch. 2010	Comments
Operating System	Linux	Windows	
Easy mail restore	Yes	Limited	For Exchange you need to purchase commercial backup tools like Veritas. Zarafa includes a default brick-level backup tool.

Antivirus Scanning	Yes	Yes	Zarafa can be integrated with all default Linux virus scanners on MTA level. Exchange needs specific antivirus software with an exchange plug-in, which can be quite expensive.
Unlimited database size	Yes	Yes	Exchange has improved database size since version 2010. There are no limits in database size with Zarafa.
Migration tools	Yes	Yes	Zarafa's migration tool can migrate directly from Exchange or from Scalix, and import or export pst files. Exchange has Exmerge to import pst files.
32bits/64bits server	Yes	No	From version 2007 on, Exchange is only available on 64bits servers. Old 32bits servers can still operate as archiving server in a Zarafa environment.
Archiving	Yes	Yes	Exchange has integrated archiving in their enterprise version. Zarafa offers modular archiving integration with the Zarafa Archiver. With every Zarafa Professional or Enterprise edition, 20 users are offered for free for the most heavy email users.
Indexing/searching	Yes	Limited	Both solutions do full-text indexing. Exchange Search does not index public folder databases. Zarafa uses Lucene to index all data (including the public folders) where you can use the Advanced Find to do the search.
Specific folder search	Yes	Yes	With Exchange you can search in other people's mailboxes, with Zarafa you can search in public folders.
Administration	Zarafa 7	Exch. 2010	Comments
Flexible user management	Yes	Limited	Exchange needs Active Directory. Zarafa integrates with Active Directory, e-directory, openLDAP and other.
Web based administration	Yes	Yes	Exchange has a web based Exchange Control Panel. Zarafa has his own admin tool Z-admin, an openLDAP-based management tool.
Policy and model	Zarafa 7	Exch. 2010	Comments
Open standards compatibility	Yes	Limited	Zarafa supports also public folders through imap connection. Multiple browsers are supported by both Zarafa and Exchange.
Available as hosted	Yes	Yes	Zarafa through various partners, Exchange is also offered directly by Microsoft.