



# What is **Exchangelt!** ?

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# *What is ExchangeIt!?*

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## *Purpose Of This Document*

There are some subtle, yet important, differences between using Microsoft® Outlook® with Microsoft Exchange Server and using Microsoft Outlook with *ExchangeIt!* This document will clearly and concisely explain what Outlook with *ExchangeIt!* supports.

For a more detailed explanation on how to use *ExchangeIt!*, please refer to the *ExchangeIt!* Usage Guide.

Please refer to your Microsoft Outlook manual for more detailed information on Outlook.

## *Introduction*

### *What are Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft Outlook?*

Microsoft Exchange Server refers to the server and server-side software developed by Microsoft, whereas “Outlook” is used to refer to the client-side software that accesses the Exchange server.

Essentially, Microsoft Exchange is a mail and collaboration server that allows people to collaborate using Outlook.

### *What is ExchangeIt!?*

*ExchangeIt!* is an alternative solution to the key collaboration services provided by Microsoft Exchange Server. Running as a fully integrated service on the Net Integrator server, *ExchangeIt!* works seamlessly with Microsoft Outlook to help you create, organize and share information quickly and easily.

Thanks to its complete integration into the Net Integrator operating system (“NIOS”), *ExchangeIt!* takes full advantage of advanced NIOS technologies such as NetIntelligence, idb, and System ER. This makes *ExchangeIt!* an incredibly easy groupware system to set up (there is hardly any setup at all), maintain (again, there is hardly any maintenance to be done), backup (fully automatic, auto-pilot idb backups), and recover in case of disaster (SystemER can have *ExchangeIt!* recovered in minutes).

*ExchangeIt!* and the Net Integrator are virtually “bulletproof” compared to other collaboration servers. For instance, pulling the power cord on a Net Integrator server running *ExchangeIt!* under a full load will not result in lost data, a lengthy reboot process, and days of disaster recovery. Instead, when powered back on, the Net integrator will, with almost no exception, gracefully re-boot in minutes and *ExchangeIt!* will continue to function like nothing happened!

## *Outlook + ExchangeIt! - What do they do?*

In order for Outlook to work with *ExchangeIt!* a small Outlook plug-in, developed by Net Integration and available free of charge, needs to be installed on every workstation that requires *ExchangeIt!* functionality. (*ExchangeIt!* licenses is handled on the server).

When you use the Microsoft Outlook mail client with *ExchangeIt!*, the following features are added to its functionality:

- **Schedule Sharing:** Personal Outlook calendars can be shared with other *ExchangeIt!* users.
- **Group Schedules:** Shared calendars can be created for multiple users (or Net Integrator “teams”); each team member will have access to the shared calendar. These shared calendars are the equivalent of shared public resources, and can relate to people or to conference rooms and other meeting resources such as video projectors.
- **Meeting Invitations:** Users can schedule meetings with other users and also book conference rooms and other meeting resources. Invite users to meetings; when they accept, the event appears in their calendar. View the free/busy times for meeting invitees and resources when scheduling a meeting.
- **Contact List Sharing:** Share personal contact lists with other users.
- **Group Contact Lists:** Maintain shared contact lists that everyone can access and contribute to.
- **Task List Sharing:** Share personal task lists with other users.

- Group Task Lists: Maintain shared task lists that all users or team members can contribute to.
- Journal Sharing: Share personal Outlook journals with other users.
- Notes Sharing: Share Outlook notes with other users.
- Group Notes Sharing: Maintain shared notes folders that all users or team members can access and contribute to.
- Access Control Lists and Shared Folder Permissions: Give other users or teams permission to view, edit or change calendars, contact lists, notes, journals and task lists. Each user or team can have “Read,” “Read/Write” or “Read/Write/Admin” rights to a folder.
- Outlook Synchronization: Information contained within Outlook personal folders (with the exception of deleted items and email messages) is uploaded and synchronized with the *ExchangeIt!* database. This yields the following advantages:
  - Backup – if a workstation’s Outlook data is lost, it can easily be re-synchronized from the server. The *ExchangeIt!* database is also backed up by the idb backup system on the Net Integrator server.
  - RoamingAccess – Outlook will have your synchronized personal folders even if you are on a different computer.
  - WebAccess – *ExchangeIt!* data is synchronized with the Net Integrator. WebMail web-based mail and collaboration interface. This allows easy access to a user’s Outlook data from any browser.

**Please Note:** This feature is NOT available in the *ExchangeIt!* 1.0 release, but will be available in a future release.

**Please Note:** *ExchangeIt!* requires Microsoft Outlook 2000 or Microsoft Outlook 2002 running on a Windows 2000 or Windows XP platform.

## *Outlook with Exchange or ExchangeIt! - What is the difference?*

Outlook users will have a very similar experience regardless of which “back end” is deployed, Microsoft Exchange Server or *ExchangeIt!*. The key words here being very similar, which means NOT IDENTICAL; We changed a few things around. If your users already use Exchange, there will be a few things you need to point out:

- Inbox – In the current *ExchangeIt!* release, email is not synchronized like all other Outlook data. Instead of using proprietary mail protocol, *ExchangeIt!* relies on Internet stan-

dards, POP3 or IMAP, both of which are supported by Outlook (and EVERY other email client). We think this is better because:

- We use standard protocols.
- Performance – given the ever-increasing amount of email everyone has in their inbox, (gigabytes per user are not uncommon) it made sense to us to leave email to systems designed to deal with large amounts of email (POP or IMAP) and keep information separate in the *ExchangeIt!* database, thereby drastically scaling down the amount of information *ExchangeIt!* has to handle.
- Server backup – IMAP mail is kept (and backed up) on the server as well as locally. POP can do the same if set to “keep messages on the server.”

Of course, for every good thing there is a price to pay, and in this case “price” is a slight change in user experience:

- IMAP – if IMAP is used for mail access, (which we recommend) Outlook will not receive email in the Inbox, instead, a new top-level folder will be created, (you can choose the name) and the Inbox will be in this folder.

The IMAP inbox behaves different from a regular Outlook Inbox, for example, when you delete a message, the message stays on the screen, but it is stroked out. In order to really delete it, the user has to select “Edit > Purge deleted messages” from the Outlook menu (this is a standard IMAP process).

Another example, by default, only message headers are downloaded and the message content is downloaded when the message is opened. (This works really well for remote access over slow lines).

- POP3 – When using POP3, email will actually be received into the Outlook Inbox within the Personal Folders, just the way everyone is used to. However, email will not be uploaded/synchronized to the *ExchangeIt!* database. You have to select “keep messages on the server” in order for a copy of the email to be kept on the server. This approach works quite well, but it starts to have problems when a user accumulates many thousands of messages, which for some people might not be a problem.
- Email sharing – The current *ExchangeIt!* release does not support sharing email items.
- Document sharing – The current *ExchangeIt!* release does not support file sharing.
- Access Control Lists - *ExchangeIt!* has simplified the setting of permissions and privileges. The granting and setting of privileges is done on the basis of individual folders with automatic inheritance that can be manually modified.