

This report is a comparative study of Zimbra™ Collaboration Suite and Exchange 2007.



**ABOUT ZIMBRA** - The Zimbra Collaboration Suite (ZCS) is an open source server and client software solution for messaging and collaboration - email, group calendaring, contacts, and Web document management and authoring.



**ABOUT MS EXCHANGE** - Microsoft Exchange Server is a messaging and collaborative system that is widely used by enterprises for their messaging needs. Exchange Server 2007 addresses deficiencies in Exchange Server 2003 - in particular built-in protection, performance and reliability.

### Product Comparison

- Exchange's technology was designed in early 1990s and cannot scale to growing mailbox sizes without significant investments.

**Zimbra's architecture was designed in 2004, scales effortlessly, and can accommodate limitless mailbox sizes.**

- Exchange lacks compelling support for Mac and Linux machines and non-Windows mobile devices and browsers.

**Zimbra's open solution lets you use the systems and software you desire.**

- Exchange 2007 is based on Microsoft Windows platform that is plagued with security issues.

**Zimbra is built on a hardened Linux-based platform.**

- Exchange is difficult and complex to manage. An average unscheduled downtime of 4 hours/month is not uncommon. Admin and outage costs to support and manage an Exchange deployment can often run into tens of thousands of dollars over a 3-5 year period.

**Zimbra can be administered from a simple web interface.**

- Exchange 2007 requires third party solutions. Spam filtering, virus protection, legal compliance and email archiving require third party bolt-on solutions, often at considerable expense.

**Zimbra has native solutions for anti-spam, anti-virus and archiving & discovery.**

- Search capability in Exchange is poor. Exchange does not support advanced structured search criteria, keywords from non-Office attachments or across-folders.

**Zimbra search is across folders, keywords in 200+ document types, and supports advanced structured searches.**

### Exchange's Challenges

**Exchange 2007 is not cost-effective for many enterprises.** In addition to requiring a complete overhaul of hardware to 64-bit servers and upfront (perpetual) investment in server license and user CALs, customers must also invest in Software Assurance (SA) in order to receive new software releases.

**Customers must additionally pay for Enterprise CAL, SharePoint and Office 2007 license & support** in order to use new unified messaging, built-in protection and Documents features, as well as Outlook 2007.

**Exchange's age-old software architecture cannot be easily fixed.** To meet the growing mailbox size and user messaging needs, Exchange must be redesigned from scratch using new-age design methodologies as implemented by the Zimbra solution. In 2004, Microsoft canceled an architecture overhaul (codenamed Kodiak) as it was too complex to pull off.

**Exchange must live with a less reliable and insecure Windows platform** that makes Exchange complex to manage.



**Feature Comparison**

	Zimbra	Exchange	Comments
Mail	Good	Good	Zimbra has more robust conversation views and superior integration of mail with contacts and calendars for quick creation/reference of contacts and appointments.
Search	Good	Poor	Exchange cannot search across folders and can only search From, Subject, Body and Category. Zimbra searches across folders based on dozens of potential criteria (domain, size, dates , and more). Exchange does not support indexing and searching of attachment content.
Contacts	Good	Good	
Calendering	Good	Good	Zimbra's calendar overlay view, subscription to external calendars, calendar publishing and hover over details are not supported by Exchange.
Tasks	Good	Good	
Online Documents	Good	N/A	Sharable, rich web documents are not supported in Exchange.
File Storage	Good	Good	Zimbra's briefcase is more fully integrated than Exchange Public Folders.
Web Access	Good	Fair	Exchange Online Web Access is much less feature rich than Zimbra and differs from Outlook's interface.
Mobile Support	Good	Fair	Both support BES, iPhone, Windows Mobile. Zimbra mobile web client is optimized for iPhone and Smartphones.

	Zimbra	Exchange	Comments
Sharing	Good	Poor	Zimbra end users can share address books, calendars and documents with internal users and groups, external users or publicly.
System Security	Good	Fair	Zimbra has integrated, proven anti-spam and anti-virus solutions. Exchange requires add-ons.

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