

ORACLE BEEHIVE INTEROPERABILITY WITH MICROSOFT EXCHANGE

OVERVIEW

KEY FEATURES

- Full Scheduling Capabilities across Systems
- Free/Busy Propagation
- Task Assignments across Systems
- Users can stay on Microsoft Outlook
- Flexible Coexistence Options
- Streamlines Migration to Beehive

Changing enterprise messaging platforms is not something done without a lot of forethought and preparation. An equal amount of groundwork has gone into Oracle Beehive's approach to enterprise messaging coexistence. In supporting full coexistence with Microsoft Exchange, Oracle Beehive goes beyond plain vanilla interoperability to deliver a solution that enables seamless communication for users across systems, whether it's sending email, scheduling meetings, or assigning tasks.

Superior Calendar Coexistence

The lack of calendaring standards between enterprise messaging applications of different vendors has led to difficulties with event scheduling when users are on different systems. Today this is typically handled via email using iCalendar attachments, but this approach has serious shortcomings since any scheduling changes are not maintained on both systems.

Oracle Beehive solves this problem. Its coexistence support for Microsoft Exchange provides full scheduling capabilities so that Oracle Beehive users and Microsoft Exchange users can invite each other to meetings, receive attendance status updates, and receive any other meeting changes, such as meeting cancellations or time changes. A user's free/busy availability, as determined by the contents of their calendar, is also propagated between the systems, ensuring that you are always looking at the most recent availability of other people. Finally, assigning tasks between users of the two systems is also possible, with task updates being propagated directly between the tasks on either system.

Easing the Transition to Oracle Beehive

Oracle Beehive's support for Microsoft Exchange coexistence eliminates the traditionally difficult task of transitioning all users from one system to another at the same time. By leveraging Oracle Beehive's coexistence technology, users can be transitioned to Oracle Beehive in smaller groups while still sending email and scheduling meetings with those that have stayed on Exchange. In addition, users moved to Oracle Beehive can continue to use Microsoft Outlook by taking advantage of Beehive's Outlook extensions. This takes a lot of the stress out of transitioning users and ensures a more manageable and successful migration.

Minimal Impact on Microsoft Exchange

A key goal for messaging coexistence is minimal disruption to the existing environment. To that end, the Oracle Beehive coexistence components for Exchange are designed to be as lightweight as possible and have minimal impact on

the performance and availability of existing Exchange servers.

By leveraging Microsoft's recommended integration approach and Exchange's existing interfaces, Oracle designed a very lightweight notification component that is installed on existing Exchange mailbox servers, with the rest of the coexistence components residing on separate hardware. This approach minimizes the impact on Exchange mailbox servers and hence the impact on Exchange users.

The bulk of the processing for coexistence is done on dedicated servers before being sent over HTTP or HTTPS to Oracle Beehive. The use of the HTTP transport protocol allows this coexistence scenario to be deployed in almost any environment and decouples the management of Oracle Beehive from Exchange.

Flexible Deployment Options

Generally, coexistence with Microsoft Exchange would be implemented for a finite period of time as users are transitioned to Oracle Beehive enterprise messaging. However, it is possible to deploy Oracle Beehive messaging to some users and have coexistence with Exchange users indefinitely.

This has an impact on how Oracle Beehive is deployed and how it is configured to coexist with Exchange, but Oracle Beehive provides a number of flexible deployment options that can handle various coexistence scenarios. Oracle Beehive is designed to coexist with large Exchange environments, including allowing IT to be selective about which users and resources are configured to coexist between both systems. In addition, Oracle Beehive can support being deployed with the same LDAP directory as the Exchange environment or being completely decoupled. This allows for many deployment scenarios from the most centralized to the most disjointed environments.

Simplify Your IT Infrastructure

By supporting coexistence capabilities with multiple systems, including Microsoft Exchange, IBM Lotus Domino, and Novell GroupWise, Oracle Beehive provides a path for organizations to transition their messaging infrastructure without migration headaches for IT or loss of productivity for end users. And by moving users to Oracle Beehive for enterprise messaging, it opens the door to leveraging Beehive's more manageable, modern platform to provide other services including instant messaging and presence, team collaboration, conferencing, and voicemail.

Contact Us

For more information about Oracle Beehive, please visit oracle.com/beehive or call +1.800.633.0973 to speak to an Oracle representative.



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