Comparing Common Email Platforms

At-A-Glance Evaluation Guide

The State of Email Collaboration

A mission-critical component of any collaboration solution, email has become the standard for transmitting and archiving business information for organizations worldwide.

In the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) workplace, new expectations for collaboration are taking hold among what has become a global, distributed workforce. In order to support the BYOD movement, CIOs must consider how collaboration platforms stack up:

- **Functionality**—Users expect a consistent, near-effortless email experience and have strong preferences related to user interface design and usability.
- **Platforms**—From its established base on business servers, email is leading the move to virtualization, mobile devices and the cloud.
- **Devices**— BYOD is a reality; every new 'must-have' smartphone, tablet and computer supports email, creating an unending series of support challenges.

Product Comparisons at a Glance

Zimbra Collaboration is an open source messaging and collaboration solution, trusted by more than 5,000 companies and public sector customers, and over 100 million end users, in over 135 countries. Zimbra includes complete email, address book, calendar, file-sharing and tasks, and can be accessed from the Zimbra Web client, MS Outlook, Mozilla Thunderbird and other standards-based email clients and mobile devices. You can deploy Zimbra as a traditional binary install on Linux or through one of our many Zimbra hosting providers.

At a glance, this overview shows how commonly used email platforms from Microsoft, Google, IBM and Novell compare to Zimbra Collaboration. When choosing a platform, organizations need to evaluate security, cost, user experience, functionality and additional features described below.

> *"By implementing Zimbra, we deliver world-class communication services to our employees, while achieving cost savings that we can reinvest in patient care and medical equipment."*
>
> Kevin Soukup, Senior System Administrator, Monroe Clinic

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Overall User Experience

	Zimbra	Google Apps	Office 365	Outlook Web App	Outlook	IBM iNotes	Group Wise
RSS Feeds	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Windows Only
Group Calendars	Yes	Limited	Limited	No	Yes	Yes	Windows Only
Email Sorting	Yes	No	No	Limited	Yes	No	No
Tasks	Yes	Limited	Limited	Premium Only	Yes	Limited	No
Windows	Yes	Limited	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mac	Yes	Limited	No	No	Limited	Yes	No
Desktop-Like Experience	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Limited	No
Offline	Yes	No	Limited	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cross-Platform Sync	Yes	Limited	No	No	No	Limited	With Contract
Advanced Search	Yes	No	No	No	Limited	Limited	Limited
Full Web Service API	Yes	Limited	Limited	No	Limited	Limited	No
Plugins (e.g., Salesforce.com)	Yes	Limited	Limited	No	Limited	Yes	No

Deployment and Scalability

	Zimbra	Google Apps	Office 365	Outlook Web App	Outlook	IBM iNotes	Group Wise
File Management Suite Required	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Full H/A	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
User Policy Management	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Limited
Open Non-Proprietary Architecture	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
On Premise Option	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cloud Ready	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Modern Platform	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Security Confidence	Yes	No	No	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes

About Zimbra

Zimbra is trusted by more than 5,000 companies, service providers and government agencies, including global brands such as NTT Communications, Comcast, Dell, Investec, Rackspace, Red Hat, Mozilla, VMware, H&R Block and Vodafone. With its vibrant open source community and worldwide partner network, Zimbra is the third largest collaboration provider in the world. Zimbra is privately held with corporate headquarters in Frisco, Texas and offices in San Mateo, California; London; Tokyo; Singapore and Pune, India. For more information, visit Zimbra.com or connect with us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.