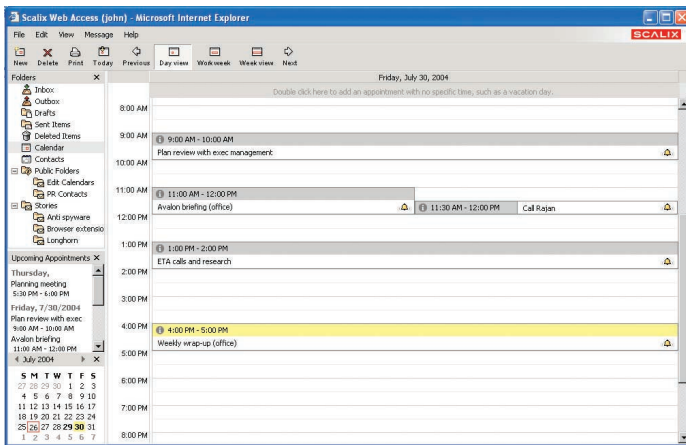


Scalix Email and Calendaring Platform 9.0



By John Clyman
July 1, 2004

If platform licensing costs, concerns about implementing Active Directory, or philosophical preferences for open-source software have led you to consider migrating your e-mail and groupware infrastructure from Windows to Linux, Scalix Email and Calendaring Platform 9.0 is an appealing option.

Designed to replace or coexist with Microsoft Exchange Server, Scalix provides many comparable features and offers easy client-side deployment. We found that Scalix's native MAPI support enabled effective integration with Microsoft Outlook, and we liked the rich, responsive interface of its Web-mail client, which now includes calendaring support.

Configuring prerequisites and then installing the Scalix server requires a number of steps, but they're well within the grasp of anyone with moderate Linux system-admin-

istration skills. Scalix provides a simple Web-based interface for managing users and groups, though more advanced administrative features are available only through command-line tools, which also enable batch processing and scripting.

As with most products positioned as replacements for Exchange, Scalix provides

two ways to access its groupware capabilities beyond basic POP and IMAP mail. One way is to install a client plug-in that works with Microsoft Outlook; the other is to use a Web-mail interface. We've grown wary of the way many companies' Outlook plug-ins need significant configuration (like that of Gordano), but Scalix deserves kudos for making the plug-in installation nearly painless. There's no need, for example, to configure free/busy publishing, as Scalix tracks this information natively on the server.

If a thin client is more your style, Scalix's Web-mail interface provides a reasonable facsimile of a GUI-based application. The Web client includes such conveniences as drag-and-drop rescheduling and on-the-spot address expansion and verification. We particularly like its incremental search, which lets you locate particular messages or contacts easily. The Web client supports mail, calendars, contacts, and public folders, but not tasks or rules.

Scalix, which is a descendant of HP OpenMail, can support multiple servers and work with LDAP and Active Directory, though it requires neither. Scalix also comes with hooks to attach third-party antispam and antivirus solutions.

If you're looking for a gentle way to migrate to a Linux-based mail and groupware solution, Scalix 9.0 is well worth your attention.

Editor Rating: ● ● ● ● ○

Company:

Scalix Corp., www.scalix.com

Price:

\$60 per client access license

Spec Data:

Server requires 512MB RAM; x86-compatible 32-bit CPU; Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3.0 (AS or ES); SUSE Linux Standard Server or Enterprise Server 8, or various other Linux versions for evaluation purposes only; Apache Tomcat 4.1.29 or 5.0.24. Client plug-in requires Microsoft Outlook.

Pros:

Rich client functionality with minimal deployment hassle, using either a sophisticated Web-based interface or an easy-to-install Outlook plug-in.

Cons:

Web-based interface doesn't support tasks, rules.

Bottom Line:

An appealing alternative to Microsoft Exchange Server for companies that prefer a Linux-based mail and groupware platform.



Copyright © 2004 by Ziff Davis Publishing Holdings Inc. Reprinted from PC Magazine by RSiCopyright with permission from Ziff Davis Publishing Holdings Inc. All rights reserved. For reorders, contact RSiCopyright at 651-582-3800. For subscription information, contact PC Magazine at 800-289-0429.

405279



Scalix Corporation
1400 Fashion Island Blvd. Suite 180
San Mateo, CA 94404
650.212.8300 tel • 650.212.8301 fax
www.scalix.com • info@scalix.com