Top Ten Things You Lose Moving from GroupWise to Exchange

If you're considering a migration fromMicro Focus® GroupWise® to Microsoft Exchange/Outlook, you may not realize what you stand to lose. Real-world experience tells a harsh (if hidden) truth: Your costs are going to skyrocket—and what you end up with won't be worth the price you've paid. It always takes more money than you think it will. And it leaves IT and users alike in free-fall as they struggle to do without the many ways GroupWise supported their productivity—support Microsoft simply can't deliver.

A 5,000-user GroupWise organization can easily spend up to US$5 million moving to Exchange. As staggering as a multi-million dollar price tag is, it doesn't touch the ongoing expense as management costs rise year after year. Or the shock of realizing, after this massive outlay of budget and resources, that the switch didn't deliver benefits equivalent to the cost.

A move from GroupWise to Exchange isn't just expensive. It hurts in the worst-possible ways: choice and productivity. Here are the top ten things you'll miss if you switch:

1. **Future-proofing with infrastructure options.** With Microsoft, you don't just buy a collaboration product—you have to buy the entire stack, and once you do, you're stuck: You cannot use anything else. The liberties you enjoy with GroupWise—such as paying only for what you need, or supporting older clients as long as you want to, or running it on the OS or directory of your choice—are lost entirely with Exchange.

2. **Easy upgrades.** When you upgrade from one version of Exchange to another, it's often a "forklift" operation. You have to upgrade multiple components and infrastructure pieces, and you may even need to upgrade everything to an interim release before landing at the latest version. But GroupWise makes upgrading—even from a dated version to the latest release—a simple, in-place proposition.

3. **A world without boundaries.** GroupWise co-exists with Exchange. So don't be misled into believing you have to chain yourself to a Microsoft stack to get what you need. Use both in parallel and save the exorbitant cost of a complete migration. GroupWise makes the cross-product collaboration seamless—including address book synchronization and free/busy searching between the two systems.

4. **Skinny storage.** Microsoft partners with storage providers to get you killer deals on storage devices. They don't do it to be nice. They do it because they know you'll need it: The most recent versions of Exchange store a copy of messages and attachments for every recipient—a design flaw that can easily explode your disk-space requirements. GroupWise only stores every message and attachment once—so you never need that storage discount.

> "We increased our operational, support and licensing costs as a result of the migration. Additionally, we sacrificed features that had boosted productivity…. At the end of the process, we still had the same service we started with: email."

FORMER GROUPWISE ADMINISTRATOR
on the costs of moving to Exchange

Why spend so much more to get so much less? GroupWise is the "cockpit" that drives full-throttle productivity. Outlook just can't make collaboration do what GroupWise can. And it's too late to change your mind when users and admins alike start realizing what they've lost.

5.
A Home View that powers productivity. In GroupWise, the Home View isn't just a digital mailbox—it's a personal-productivity cockpit. Users design it around the way they work, pulling in web pages, data feeds, teaming folders, calendars, contacts and more. And they can create one Home View or dozens. With Exchange, they get zero.

6.
Knowing what happens after SEND. What if you scheduled a meeting and nobody came, but you had no idea until you faced the empty room? With a single click, GroupWise shows you who's opened, replied to, forwarded or deleted an email—or who's accepted or declined an appointment, task or note. Outlook relies on "receipt requests" that can be turned off—leaving senders in the dark.

7.
Taking SEND back. There are a lot of reasons you might want to retract something you've sent. Message, appointment, task or note: GroupWise protects it all against SEND regret, because you can delete before it gets opened—and it vanishes completely. While Outlook retracts messages, the recipient will know you sent something, including that "something's" subject. And sometimes, you can't retract at all, leaving you exposed to those embarrassing moments you wish you could take back.

8.
Duplicate an item. Everyone has them: Those emails that have to go out to a lot of people but are too sensitive to send to a mass list. In Outlook, you cut and paste to send the same message to multiple individuals. But in GroupWise, you just click "duplicate" to reproduce that message exactly. Type in the next name and send. It's that easy, it's that fast, and you only get it in GroupWise.

9.
Relevance that revolves around YOU. Don't you love it when your browser remembers the URLs you visit most often and auto-populates them as you type? GroupWise does that for you too. Folders, contacts, categories—your most-used items float to the top, so they're always at your fingertips. All Outlook can do is flag, which doesn't do a thing for floating up the stuff you use most.

10.
A contextual time/task continuum. Both Outlook and GroupWise give you a calendar and a task list. It's a no-brainer that these two things should always go together, but Outlook only shows the tasks that are due on the *current* day. If you want to prepare for tomorrow, you have to switch to the task list. Only GroupWise makes those connections for you, displaying current and future tasks in the context of your calendar.

Micro Focus
UK Headquarters
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 1635 565200

U.S. Headquarters
Seattle, Washington
206 217 7100
800 872 2829

Additional contact information and office locations:
www.novell.com

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