

GFI KerioConnect vs MS Exchange



Secure business email, calendar, collaboration, and anti-virus protection, without the risk, complexity, or expenses of bigger platforms

Microsoft's Exchange Server, often regarded as the gold standard for corporate mail systems, isn't necessarily the best choice for every organization. Smaller organizations find Exchange cost prohibitive and overly complex. Fortunately, there is an alternative. **GFI KerioConnect** provides an Exchange-like experience with far less complexity, and at a price that small businesses can afford.

GFI KerioConnect is a mail server and an all-in-one collaboration tool deployed by 30,000 companies worldwide. It's easy to use and easy to manage, representing an ideal alternative to Exchange, and costing half as much.

GFI KerioConnect provides secure business email, calendar, and collaboration without the complexity or expense of bigger platforms such as MS Exchange.

How does GFI KerioConnect help?

- Purpose-built for smaller businesses with SMB-friendly pricing. Scales as users and storage needs grow.
- Allows full control over business communication data by enabling organizations to keep data onsite.
- Access, encryption, & identity security provided in addition to built-in Antivirus, Anti-Spam, & filtering.
- Provides SMBs with an easy-to-install and easy-to-manage messaging platform with email & collaboration tools.
- Gives SMBs a simple and secure email solution that requires fewer resources and no training.
- Allows for server management by in-house staff with a fully managed hosted option.

When comparing **GFI KerioConnect** and other available solutions like Microsoft Exchange, we have to be cognizant of the different capabilities that different solutions may have. The following comparison charts address the features of both products:




High level comparison

FEATURE		
Ease of deployment /management	Simpler	More complex
Suitable for	SMBs & Enterprises	Enterprises*
Supported OS	Windows, Linux and macOS	Windows only
Email security features	✓	✓
Directory services integration	Microsoft Active Directory, Apple Open Directory, OpenLDAP and local user database	Microsoft Active Directory only
Large scale deployments	✓	✓
Mutli-language support for server and client	✓ 16 languages for both	✓ Client: 61 Server:11

* Exchange can be a lot more costly and complex to manage for SMBs.





Access methods

FEATURE		
Desktop Client	✓ - free of cost	Outlook - additional costs
Webmail	✓	✓
Outlook Integration	Through plugin	Native support
Mailbox access through mobile devices	✓	✓
Exchange ActiveSync	✓	✓
SMTP, POP3 and IMAP	✓	✓
EWS protocol support	✓	✓
ActiveSync policies for mobile devices	✓	✓
Instant Messaging	✓	✓
Deleted mailbox and item recovery	✓	✓



Data management

FEATURE	 KerioConnect	 Exchange
Ease of deployment /management	Configurable through message filters	Templates available - only through Enterprise CA license
Suitable for	✓	✓ - only available through Enterprise CA license
Supported OS	✓ -full backups and differential backups for additional safety	✓
Email security features	Supported via GFI AppManager and MyKerio*	✗
Directory services integration	Wider 3rd party support through the IMAP protocol	Through PST files only

* GFI App Manager is currently in beta stage.



User account settings

FEATURE	 KerioConnect	 Exchange
Aliases	✓	✓
Contact Information	✓	✓
Organization Details	✓	✓
Additional Email Addresses	✓	✓
Strong Password Generator utility	✓	✗
Set password expiry	✓	Can be configured through Active Directory
Import and Export users	Import From: CSV File, Active Directory, NT domain, Novell eDirectory. Export to: CSV File.	Import From: Active Directory only. Export to: CSV File
Disable User	✓	✓
Manager and subordinates	✗	✓
User account setup assistant	✓	✗





Antispam, antivirus & security

FEATURE	 KerioConnect	 Exchange
Customizable anti-malware policies	✓	✓
Customizable actions for potentially virus infested emails	✓	✓
Antivirus Statistics	✓*	✗
Custom Notification text	✗	✓
Actions for emails that cannot be completely scanned	✓	✗
Apply to specific users/domains	Applies server-wide	Supports adding exceptions
Whitelisting functionality	Applies server-wide	Supports adding exceptions
Anti-spoofing protection	✓	✓
Caller ID spoofing check	✓	✓
SPF Check support	✓	✓
Greylisting functionality	✓	✗**
Configurable spam repellent engine	✓	✗
Sender Reputation check	✗	✓
Attachment filtering	✓	✓
Antispam statistics	✓	✗
2FA	✓	✗***
App passwords	✓	✗
Directory harvesting protection	✓	✓
Password guessing protection	✓	✓ - through active directory
Message encryption	✓	✓
Digital signatures	✓	✓
Enforce encrypted connections	✓	✓



Antispam, antivirus & security

FEATURE	 KerioConnect	 Exchange
Enforce minimum TLS version	✓ - through GUI	✓ - through active directory
Customizable anti-malware policies	✓	✓
Customizable actions for potentially virus infested emails	✓	✓
Antivirus Statistics	✓*	✗
Lets Encrypt Integration	✓ - handles renewal as well	✗
Remote wipe account	✓	✓



* Also includes mail flow stats and anomaly detection through GFI App Manager

** List of "known offenders" is available

*** Can be done through third-party vendors at extra cost



Reporting and audits

FEATURE	 KerioConnect	 Exchange
Mailbox Usage Reporting	✓	✓
in-place eDiscovery & Hold	✓	✓ - with Enterprise CA License only
Retention policies	✓	✓ - more options
Whole Server Statistics	✓	✗
Audit Logs	✓	✓
Mail Logs	✓	✓
Security Logs	✓	✓
Activity Logs	✓	✓

Domain settings

1. In Microsoft Exchange, domain policies/settings are taken directly from the Active Directory.
2. In **GFI KerioConnect**, you can set up domain-level policies within the UI. A lot of support is available on that front like max number of users in the domain, signing outgoing messages with DKIM, security settings, quota settings, message settings like outgoing message limits, setting up domain aliases, adding footers, setting up a custom logo, etc.
3. Key point here is that with GFI Kerio Connect, you can apply domain-level configurations and policies with ease, and as needed you can override them on the user-level.
4. Active Directory domain properties do not offer all of the different domain-level policies that **GFI KerioConnect** allows to configure directly from the Web UI.
5. In Microsoft Exchange, while different policies can still be set at a domain level, the process is tedious. Admins have to configure each different policy separately, following the method required to configure that policy. **GFI KerioConnect** puts it all under a single tab, simplifying its administration and management.

Note: Both can support a geographically distributed organization. **GFI KerioConnect** can do it by distributed domains, Exchange server can do it via the cross-forest/resource-forest topology implementations.



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