



Some reasons to head off premises with MS Exchange Online Services:

If you already know the benefits of using Exchange Email System...and like it

Why would you use Microsoft Exchange Online Services?

Exchange is a server product for managing email systems for businesses. In the past only large companies could afford Exchange Server service due to expensive hardware and software costs. Around 1997 Microsoft launched a Small Business Server with Exchange email included which made it more affordable for small business.

Save on Capital Costs

With Microsoft current offering exchange online you do not need a server. You effectively rent the managed server space from Microsoft for currently €4.26 per user mailbox a month.

Save on Maintenance Costs

By hosting your companies email service externally you save money on in-house server maintenance costs. This can also free up your staff to focus on more strategic IT objectives, has a low migration/deployment cost and can save on power consumption etc

Your existing server needs to be upgraded

Your server is creaking with overload, its time or will be soon to upgrade your server. You are planning a migration to cloud or Premise/cloud.

You have thrown in the towel on Exchange 2003 software.

This could have reached the capacity 75 GB limit in Exchange 2003 and exchange keeps falling over.

You want the latest messaging and communication software without the wait. Companies average 3 years for changing their software, Microsoft online services is updated every 90 days (Source Partner meeting Microsoft Dublin, Feb2010)

Choice to move to new Exchange i.e. Exchange 2010 online platforms as they come out should or wait till they are tried and tested. Take advantage of new products as they emerge on Microsoft Online Services platform.



Some Stats – Why other companies are choosing this

IDC Report reasons why companies choose Microsoft Exchange Online (Source Microsoft Partner Seminar Dublin, Feb 2010)

77.9% You pay only what you use

77.7 Easily Add users

75.3 Monthly Payments

67% requires less in-house server maintenance costs

Conclusion

I have highlighted the reasons for hosted off premise. Like anything there are also cons to doing this including loss of control of your email system, ability integration with 3rd party applications etc. By assessing your environment and performing a needs assessment it is possible to draw up Risk & Cost Benefits of the various Cloud/Premise scenarios.

For new comers to Exchange it opens up a range of choices for companies to manage, or move onto a Microsoft's Email platform with exceptional low deployment and rental costs.

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Date: 01/04/2010
Revision: 001