

Kerio Connect: The Viable Exchange Server Alternative for the SMB

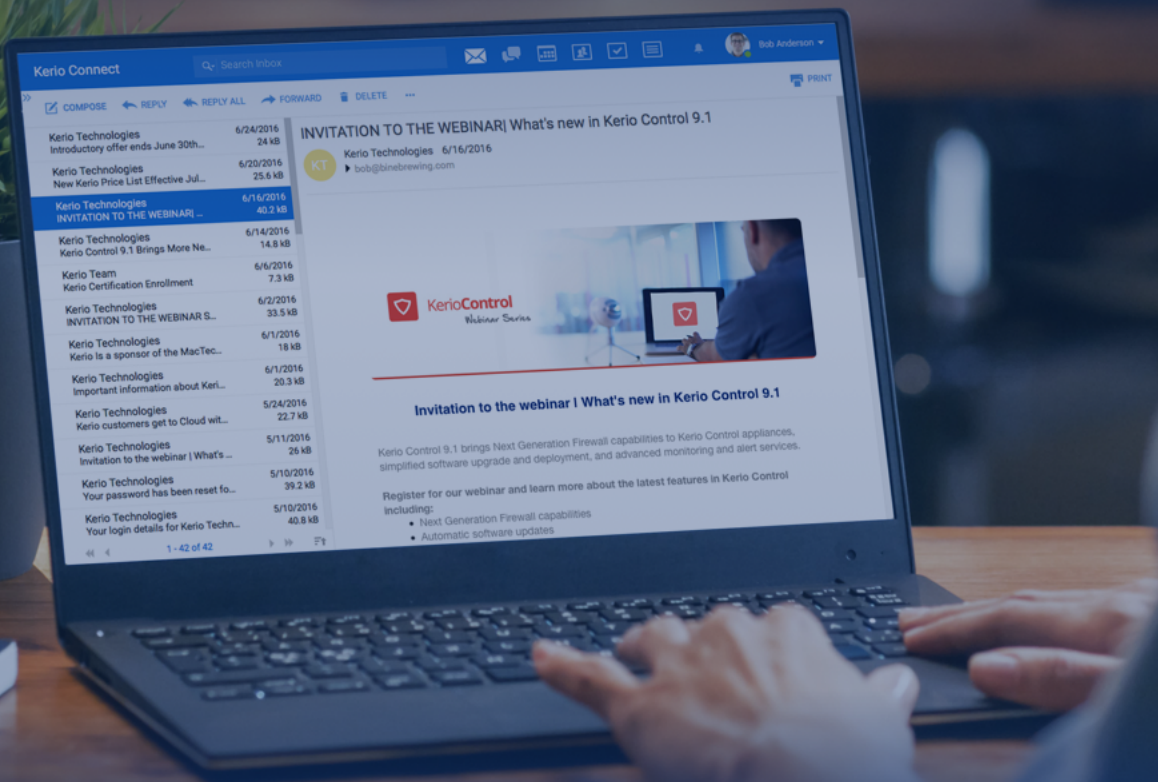










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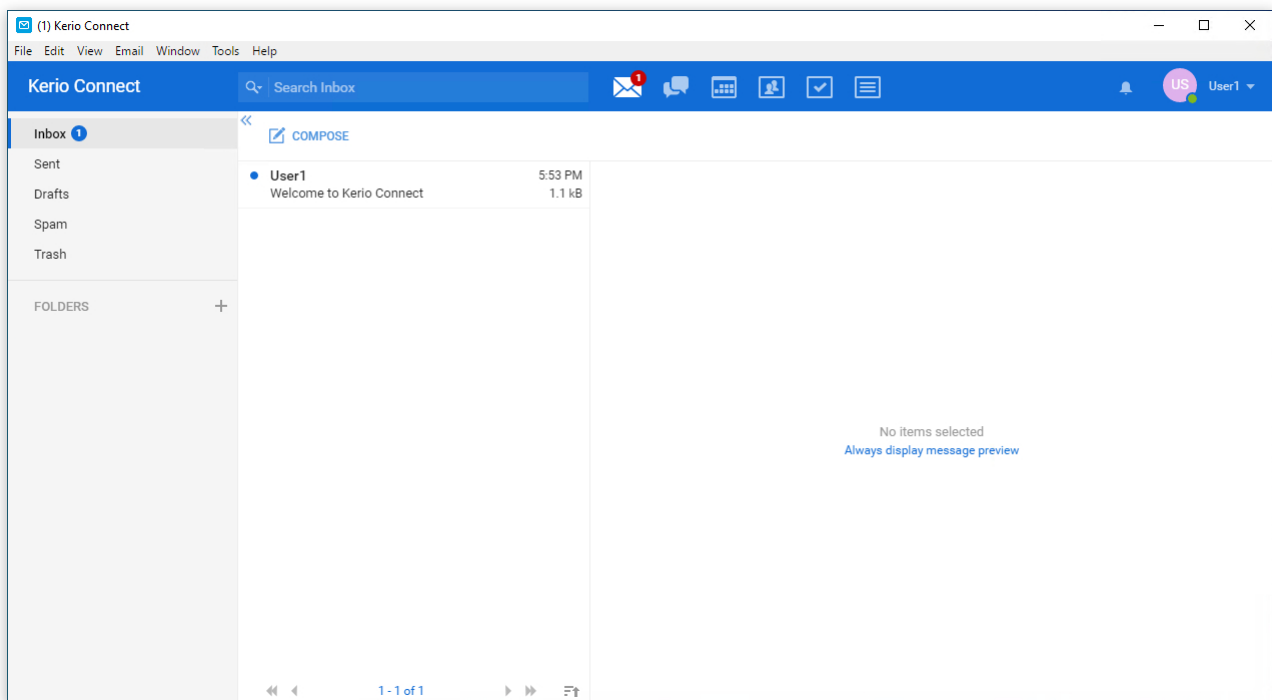
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Introduction

Although Microsoft's Exchange Server is often regarded as the gold standard for corporate mail systems, it isn't necessarily the best choice for every organization. This is especially true for smaller organizations who may find Exchange Server to be cost prohibitive or overly complex. Fortunately, there is an alternative. GFI's Kerio Connect provides an Exchange-like experience, but with far less complexity, and at a cost that small businesses can afford.

Kerio Connect Client

The Kerio Connect Client provides functionality that is similar to Microsoft Outlook, but with a cleaner look and feel. The client, which you can see in the figure below, provides email access, as well as access to the user's calendar, contact list, and task list. It also supports instant messaging.



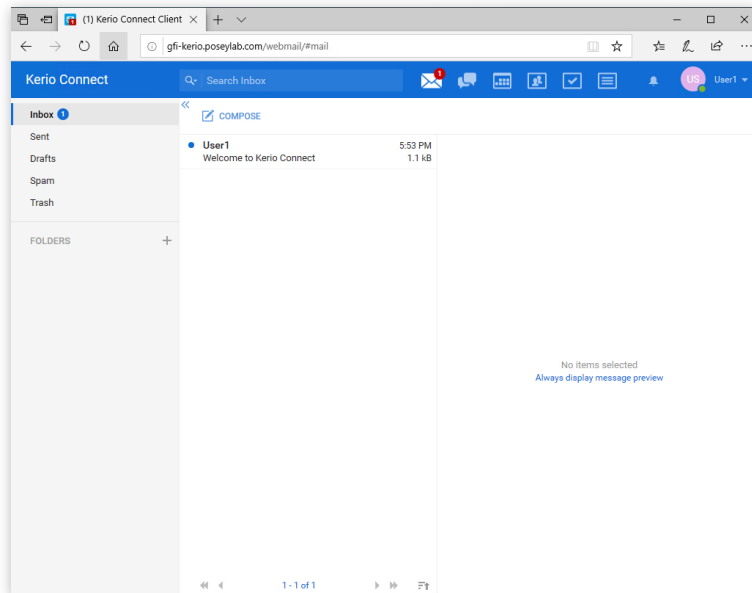
This is the Kerio Connect Client.

It is also worth noting that the Kerio Connect Client can be used in multi-platform environments. GFI provides versions for both Windows and Mac.

Other Supported Clients

Although the Kerio Connect Client delivers a rich end-user experience, it is not the only option for interacting with Kerio Connect. One option is to use Microsoft Outlook. Outlook is fully supported for use with Kerio Connect thanks to the product's built-in Outlook Connector Extension.

Another way in which users can attach to Kerio Connect is through a Web browser. Users can use any supported Web browser to access their mailbox, contacts, calendar, and more. As you can see in the figure below, Kerio Connect's Web client delivers an experience that is identical to the desktop client.

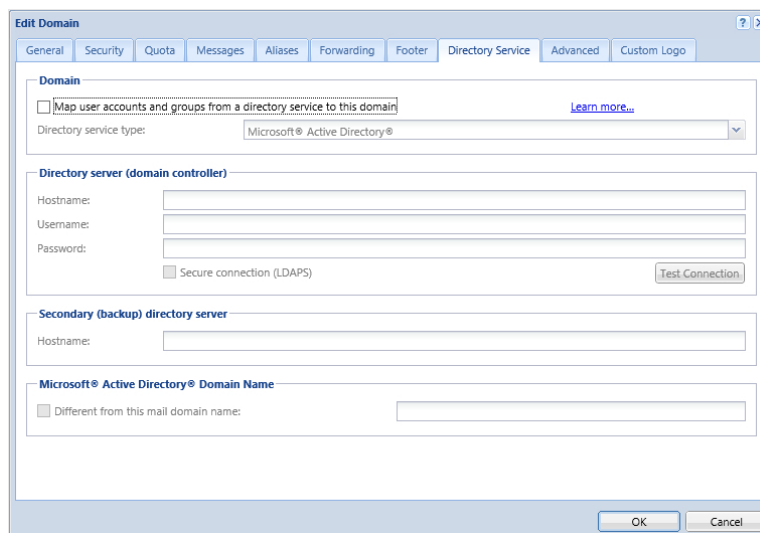


Users can access the Kerio Connect Web client from any supported Web browser.

Of course, Kerio Connect also fully supports access from mobile devices. Users can attach their devices to Kerio Connect using either IMAP or ActiveSync.

Directory Support

Kerio Connect is a great fit for small organizations that want an on-premises mail server, but that have limited IT resources in place. It doesn't even require an Active Directory environment. Users and mailboxes can be created locally, within the Kerio Connect software. However, if an organization does have a directory infrastructure in place, Kerio Connect can use it. Kerio Connect supports Microsoft Active Directory and Apple Open Directory. The figure below shows how easy it is to map user accounts and groups from a supported directory to Kerio Connect.

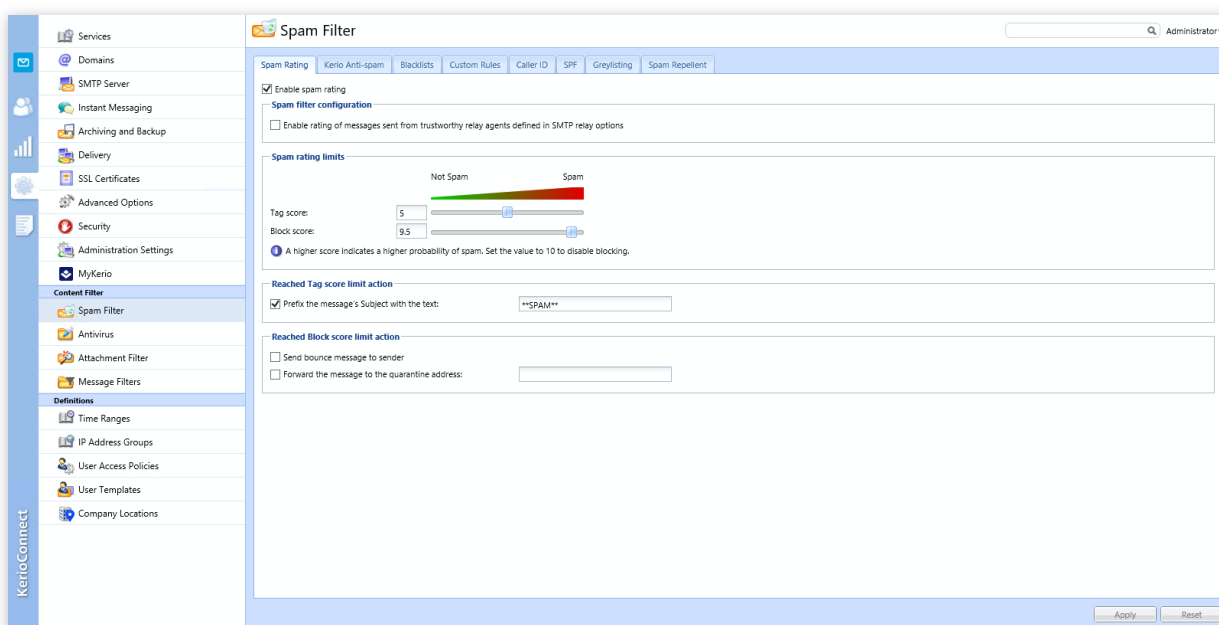


Kerio Connect supports Microsoft Active Directory and Apple Open Directory.

Content Filtering

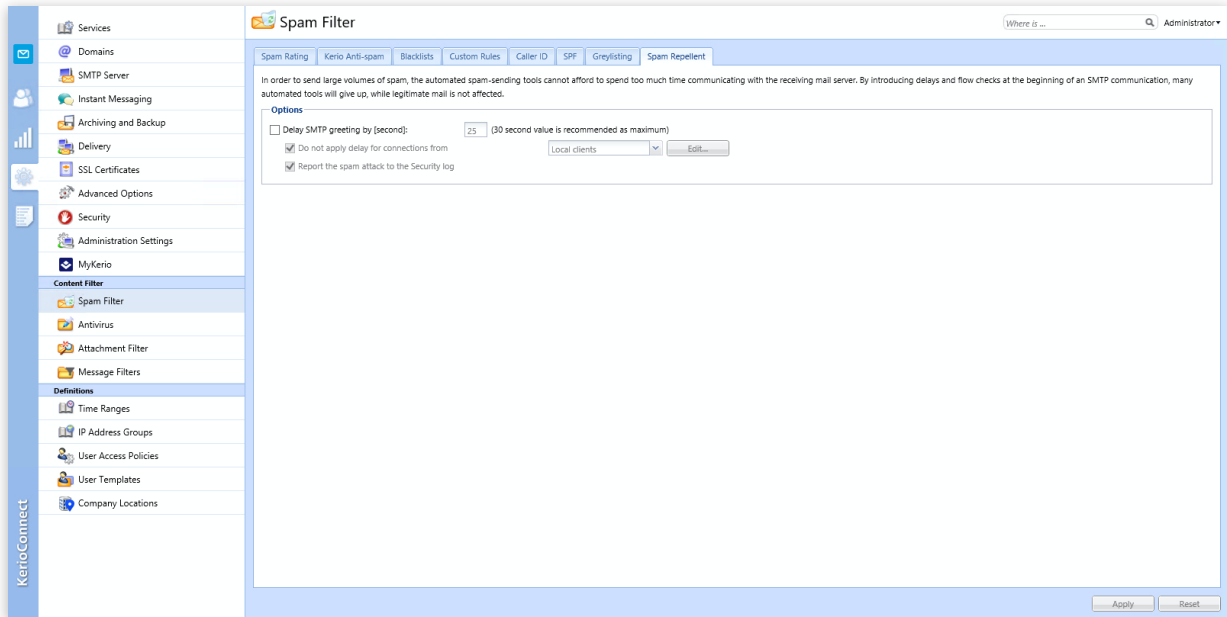
One of the most important capabilities for any mail platform is the ability to filter out undesirable content such as spam and malware. GFI's Kerio Connect offers a variety of content filtering tools that are both useful and effective.

As you can see in the figure below, Kerio Connect has a number of tools for dealing with spam. Spam filtering can be based on a message's SPF rating, its spam rating, spam blacklists, grey lists, or even the caller ID information for incoming messages.



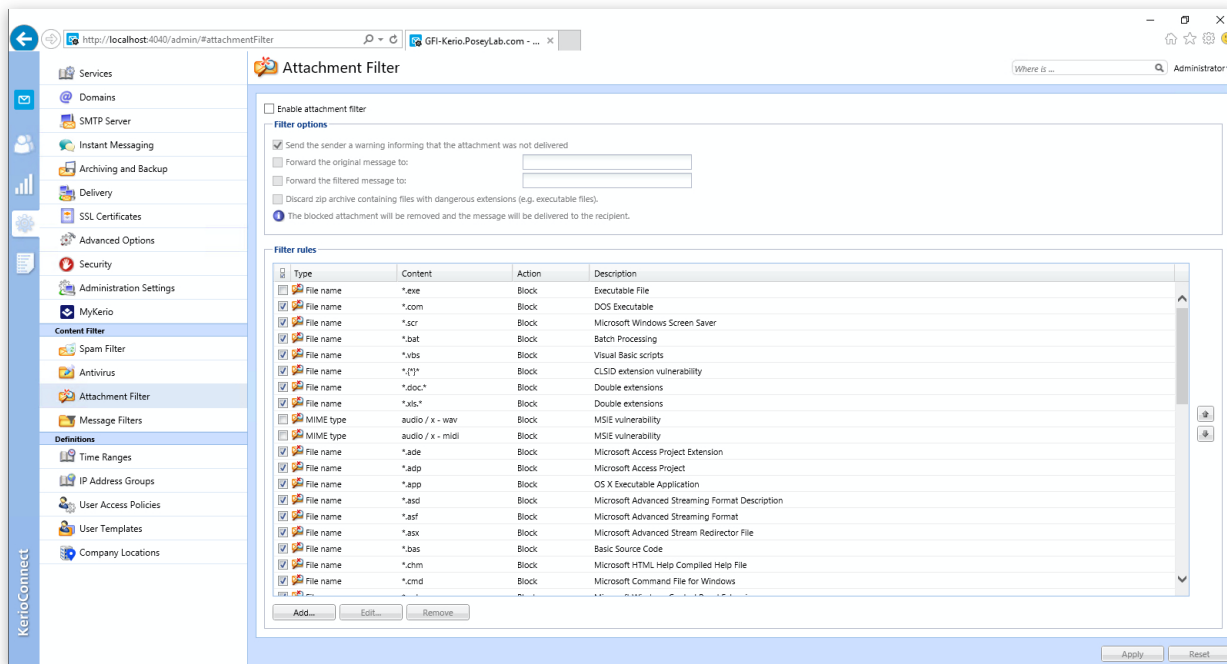
Kerio Connect includes a nice variety of anti-spam tools.

GFI even provides a spam repellent tool that works by inserting a delay into the SMTP negotiation process. The idea behind this technique is that because spammers send a large volume of messages, the automated tools that they use are sometimes designed to give up on trying to send messages to domains that are perceived as being excessively slow.



Spam repellent may force some spammers to give up on trying to send messages to your domain.

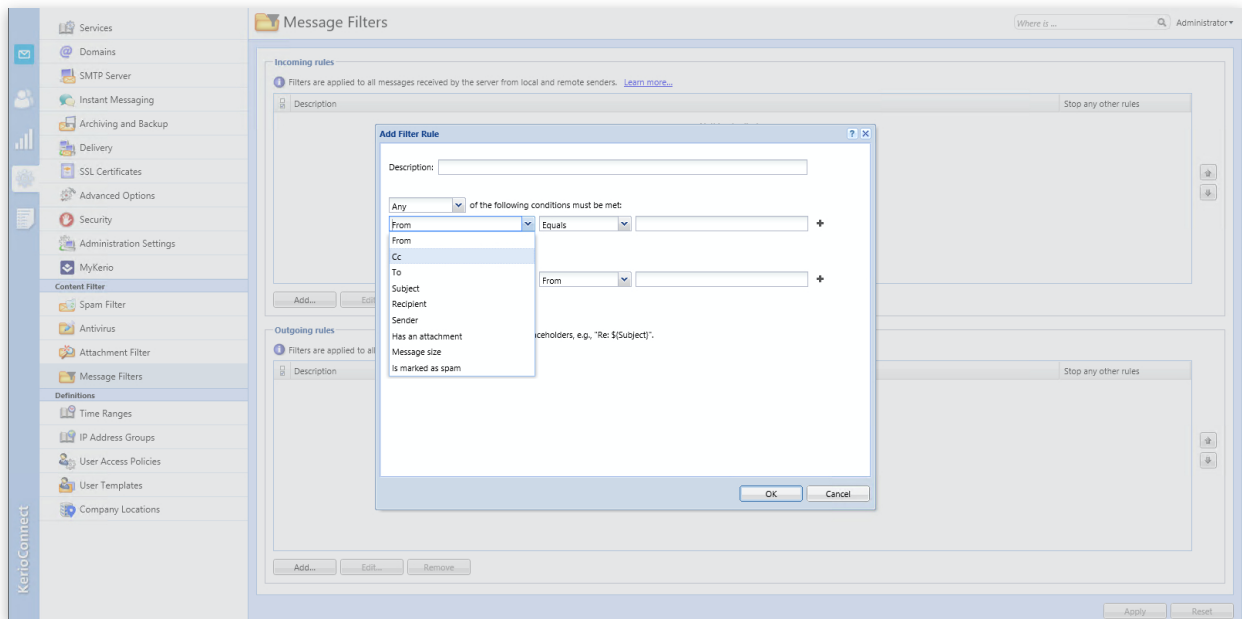
As important as it may be to keep spam out of your users' inboxes, it is even more important to keep malware at bay. Kerio Connect includes a built-in anti-virus engine that can automatically scan all inbound messages, and dispose of those that are found to contain malware. You can see Kerio Connect's antivirus options in the next figure.



Kerio Connect has a built-in malware scanner that can help your users to avoid messages with malicious payloads.

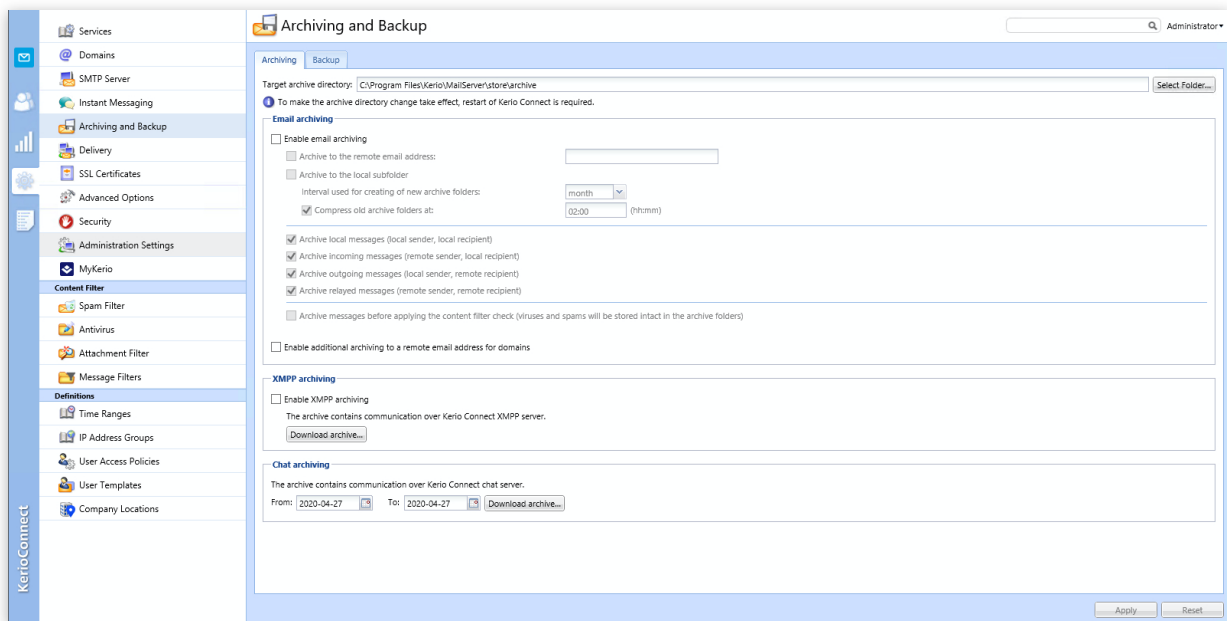
Even though Kerio Connect's native filtering engines do a good job of protecting users from spam and malware, it is possible to achieve an even greater level of protection. GFI offers a supplementary product called [Mail Essentials](#) that provides 14 spam and phishing filters, and five anti-virus scanning engines from vendors such as Bitdefender, Kaspersky, and Sophos.

Kerio Connect also allows you to filter message attachments by extension type. As you can see below, the attachment filter is primarily designed to filter messages containing executable attachments. However, the filter is also able to identify attachments that use a double file extension in an effort to trick the recipient into believing that the attachment is a Microsoft Office document.



Kerio Connect can filter message attachments by file type

Kerio Connect is also able to filter messages based on a custom collection of filter rules. You can base these rules on criteria such as the sender, recipient, message size, attachment, and much more.



You can create your own custom rules for filtering messages.

Email Archiving

Organizations often archive users' messages as a way of ensuring that a copy of each message is retained for a specific length of time. Depending on an organization's geographic location and the nature of its business, message archiving may be required by law. Even if message archiving isn't a legal requirement, it can still be a useful tool for maintaining a record of the organization's communications.

Kerio Connect provides native message archiving capabilities, which you can see below. Organizations that have more stringent message archiving requirements may wish to consider GFI Archiver, a supplementary product designed to augment Kerio Connect's native archiving capabilities.

Acquiring Kerio Connect

Kerio Connect can be a very compelling alternative to Microsoft Office, especially for smaller organizations. If you are interested in trying Kerio Connect, you can download a [free trial](#).

KerioConnect

Secure, enterprise-style email,
calendar & collaboration
without the high cost

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