

Kerio Connect: The Viable Exchange Server Alternative





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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.

(1) Kerio Connect	🕼 (1) Kerio Connect – 🗆 X ile Edit View Email Window Tools Help							
Kerio Connect		Q• Search Inbox		🔀 💭	1			US User1 -
Inbox 1	<							
Sent		• User1	5:53 PM					
Drafts		Welcome to Kerio Connect	1.1 kB					
Spam								
Trash								
FOLDERS	+							
							No items selected	
							Always display message preview	
		📢 📢 1-1 of 1	→ → Ft					

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.



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.

General	Security	Quota	Messages	Aliases	Forwarding	Footer	Directory Service	Advanced	Custom Logo	
Domai	n									
Map	o user accou	nts and gro	oups from a d	irectory serv	rice to this dom	ain		Learn m	ore	
Directo	ry service typ	oe:	1	Vicrosoft⊗	Active Directory	0				~
Directo	ory server (o	domain co	ntroller)							
Hostnar	me:									
Usernar	me:									
Passwo	rd:									
		2	Secure connec	tion (LDAPS)				Test Co	nnection
	lary (backu	p) director	ry server							
Hostnar	me:									
Micros	oft® Active	Director	∕® Domain N	ame						
				anne						
Diffe	erent from th	nis mail do	main name:							

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.

-									
	in Services	😒 Spam Filter							
	@ Domains	Span Rating Kerio Anti-span Blacklists Custom Rules Caller ID SPF Greylisting Span Repellent							
	🛃 SMTP Server	☑ Enable spam rating							
2	🐑 Instant Messaging	- Spam filter configuration							
	🛃 Archiving and Backup	Trable rating of messages sent from trustwortby relay agents defined in SMTP relay options							
all	😹 Delivery	Spam rating limits							
	😆 SSL Certificates	Not Spann Spann							
	Advanced Options	Tag score: 5							
	🕐 Security								
	🚈 Administration Settings	A higher score indicates a higher probability of spam. Set the value to 10 to disable blocking.							
	📀 MyKerio	Reached Tag score limit action							
	Content Filter								
	🔂 Spam Filter	Prefix the message's Subject with the text: **SPAM** Reached Block score limit action							
	🔁 Antivirus								
	🚧 Attachment Filter	Send bounce message to sender							
	🛅 Message Filters	Forward the message to the quarantine address:							
	Definitions								
	🗳 Time Ranges								
	IP Address Groups								
act	🍇 User Access Policies								
	嶜 User Templates								
	Company Locations								
KerioConnect		Apply Reset							

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.

	iii Services	Spam Filter
	@ Domains	Spam Rating Kerio Anti-spam Blacklists Custom Rules Caller ID SPF Greylisting Spam Repetient
	😹 SMTP Server	In order to send large volumes of spam, the automated spam-sending tools cannot afford to spend too much time communicating with the receiving mail server. By Introducing delays and flow checks at the beginning of an SMTP communication, many
8	🐑 Instant Messaging	automated tools will give up, while legitimate mail is not affected. Coptions
	ᡖ Archiving and Backup	Optimize Optimize
all	😹 Delivery	Con not apply delay for connections from Local clients Y Eait
183	😒 SSL Certificates	Report the span attack to the Security log
-	Advanced Options	
	🕑 Security	
	🚈 Administration Settings	
	S MyKerio	
	Content Filter	
	5 Spam Filter	
	🔁 Antivirus	
	🚧 Attachment Filter	
	🛅 Message Filters	
	Definitions	
	🔛 Time Ranges	
	IP Address Groups	
	🍇 User Access Policies	
	蹖 User Templates	
Ţ	Company Locations	
KerioConnect		Appy Rest

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.

	in Services	🚧 Attachment	Filter			Where is	Q Administr					
2	@ Domains											
	🔜 SMTP Server	Enable attachment filte Filter options	ſ									
	Instant Messaging		arning informing that the attachm	ent was not delivered								
1	Archiving and Backup	Forward the original	message to:									
-	<u> </u>	Forward the filtered	message to:									
J	📑 Delivery	Discard zip archive o	ontaining files with dangerous ex	ensions (e.g. executai	le files).							
	😒 SSL Certificates	The blocked attach	Discard zip archive containing files with dangerous extensions (e.g. executable files). The blocked attachment will be removed and the message will be delivered to the recipient.									
	Advanced Options											
Ŀ		Filter rules										
	🕐 Security	🛛 Type	Content	Action	Description							
	🖄 Administration Settings	📃 🗭 File name	*.exe	Block	Executable File							
	MyKerio	💟 🗭 File name	*.com	Block	DOS Executable							
-	Content Filter	💟 🚧 File name	*.scr	Block	Microsoft Windows Screen Saver							
F		💟 🚧 File name	*.bat	Block	Batch Processing							
	🗾 Spam Filter	🔽 🞾 File name	".vbs	Block	Visual Basic scripts							
L	🔁 Antivirus	💟 🗭 File name	*.{*}*	Block	CLSID extension vulnerability							
	Attachment Filter	V 🎾 File name	*.doc.*	Block	Double extensions							
P		📝 🗭 File name	*.xls.*	Block	Double extensions							
	🛅 Message Filters	🔲 🚧 MIME type	audio / x - wav	Block	MSIE vulnerability							
	Definitions	📃 🚧 MIME type	audio / x - midi	Block	MSIE vulnerability		4					
	🔛 Time Ranges	💟 🚧 File name	*.ade	Block	Microsoft Access Project Extension							
Ŀ	IP Address Groups	V Pile name	*.adp	Block	Microsoft Access Project							
Ŀ		V Pile name	*.app	Block Block	OS X Executable Application Microsoft Advanced Streaming Format Description							
	🍇 User Access Policies	V Pile name	*.asd *.asf	Block	Microsoft Advanced Streaming Format Description Microsoft Advanced Streaming Format							
	🍇 User Templates	V Pile name	*.asx	Block	Microsoft Advanced Streaming Format Microsoft Advanced Stream Redirector File							
Ŀ		V Pile name	*.bas	Block	Basic Source Code							
	Company Locations	V Prie name	*.chm	Block	Microsoft HTML Help Compiled Help File							
		🔽 🚰 File name	*.cmd	Block	Microsoft Command File for Windows		~					
		- M	* *		to and a construction of							
Netiocolliect		Add	Edit									

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 <u>Mail Essentials</u> 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.

Services	The state of the s	Where is Q. Administration
Obmains	C Incoming rules	
🛃 SMTP Server	Filters are applied to all messages received by the server from local and remote senders. Learn more	
🐑 Instant Messaging	B Description	Stop any other rules
🛃 Archiving and Backup	Add Filter Rule ? X	
늻 Delivery	Add Filter Kule	
SSL Certificates	Description:	2
Advanced Options		a 8
O Security	Any v of the following conditions must be met: From v Equals v +	
Administration Settings	From From	
MyKerio	CC	
Content Filter	To From V +	
🗾 Spam Filter	Add Edit Recipient	
Antivirus	Outgoing rules Sender Has an attachment iceholders, e.g., "Re: \$(Subject)".	
🖄 Attachment Filter	Filters are applied to all Message size	
🛅 Message Filters	B Description Is marked as spam	Stop any other rules
Definitions		
🟥 Time Ranges		
IP Address Groups		(a)
Ser Access Policies		(d) (d)
Juser Templates	OK Cancel	
Company Locations	UK Cancer	
	Add Edit Remove	
		Apply Reset

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.

	🟥 Services	Archiving and Backup
	Ø Domains	Arthlyng Badup
	discrimination and the server and th	Target archive directory: [CsProgram Files/Jero/MallSevers/store/archive [Select.Folder]
8	🐑 Instant Messaging	To make the archive directory change take effect, restart of Kerlo Connect is required.
	ы Archiving and Backup	- Email archiving
all	븛 Delivery	Enable email archiving Archive to the remote email address
383	SSL Certificates	Archive to the local subfolder
-	Advanced Options	Internal used for creating of new archive folders: month 💌
	🕑 Security	Compress old archive folders at: 02:00 (Phrmm)
	🚈 Administration Settings	Rechive local messages (local sender, local recipient)
	S MyKerio	Archive incoming messages (remote sender, local recipient)
	Content Filter	Archive relayed messages (remote sender, remote recipient)
	🗾 Spam Filter	Archive messages before applying the content filter check (viruses and spans will be stored intact in the archive folders)
	🔁 Antivirus	- concentrating or one upper provide contract time of one (model on a particular model on a concentration on one concentration on on
	🚧 Attachment Filter	Enable additional archiving to a remote email address for domains
	🛅 Message Filters	XMPP archiving
	Definitions	Enable XMPP archiving
	🗳 Time Ranges	The archive contains communication over Kerlo Connect XMPP server.
	IP Address Groups	Download archive_
	Super Access Policies	Chatarchiving
	螽 User Templates	The archive contains communication over Kerio Connect chat server.
t	Company Locations	From: 2020-04-27 3 To: 2020-04-27 3 Download archive
KerioConnect		Appy Rest

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 <u>free trial</u>.





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