



What Is Microsoft Exchange?

Microsoft Exchange is a program that must run on a Windows server and allows Outlook users to warehouse their data (email, contacts, calendars, tasks, etc.) on the server as a backup. Here are the benefits:

1. **Share Data:** Exchange also allows users to share information in Outlook. For example, I could allow someone else in my office to access my calendar electronically and add appointments.
2. **Anywhere Email Access:** Exchange also allows users to gain access to office email while out of the office in many different devices. For example, I can see my inbox, calendar & contacts on my iPad (or any tablet), on any Windows or Mac computer connected to the Internet, or on my smartphone. I can use Outlook Web Access (which comes with hosted Exchange) via a browser; or I can run Outlook natively on my laptop (for example) and as long as I'm connected to the Internet, I'm also connected to Exchange.
3. **Full Backup:** Everything in Outlook is backed up in Exchange (email, contacts, calendar & tasks).
4. **Smartphone Sync:** Exchange will wirelessly sync with any smartphone running Android, iOS, Blackberry OS or Windows Phone.

Exchange Options:

1. **Get Your Own Server:** Of course, you would also need to have Exchange running on that server.
2. **Hosted Exchange:** This is essentially renting Exchange on a server you access through the Internet. It is exactly the same as having it in-house except for the fact that you avoid the expense of buying and maintaining a file server, Windows and Exchange. In other words, rather than paying \$8,000 + ongoing maintenance, you're paying \$10/month/user. Depending on the size of your office and physical setup of remote offices or telecommuters, hosted Exchange Server is often much less expensive than having Exchange Server on-site. Other benefits of

hosted Exchange Server: multiple internet connections, multiple power sources, guaranteed uptime, no cost for backup or maintenance.

Options for Hosted Exchange: There are hundreds but here are a few:

- a. Microsoft - <http://tinyurl.com/bleasx7>
- b. www.godaddy.com
- c. www.1and1.com
- d. www.mailstreet.com
- e. www.apptix.com
- f. www.exchangemymail.com
- g. www.appriver.com