

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:

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.

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.

FULL BACKUP

Everything in Outlook is backed up in Exchange (email, contacts, calendar & tasks).

SMARTPHONE SYNC

Exchange will wirelessly sync with any smartphone running Android or iOS.

EXCHANGE OPTIONS

GET YOUR OWN SERVER

Of course, you would also need to have Exchange running on that server.

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:

- Microsoft - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/exchange/email/>
- www.godaddy.com
- www.ionos.com/
- www.fusionconnect.com
- cloudscale365.com
- www.appriver.com