

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AUTOMATED MAIL
SERVER MIGRATION TOOL**

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ABSTRACT

Mail servers are computers that provide messaging services. Due to their functionality, companies have availed these services so that they could send and receive e-mails since it provides them with fast means of communication. Companies are constantly changing from one mail server to another because different mail servers offer a variety of services that would suit the needs of a particular company. Thus, mail server migration is not a rare occurrence in the corporate world nowadays. However, mail server migration involves re-creating dozens of mail accounts, as well as the transfer of e-mail messages, calendar notes, and addresses in the address book, to be done by hand. This can be a problem because this process is very time consuming and tiring. This study aims to create an automated mail server migration that would effectively do the process of migration from Lotus Domino Server to Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server.

Keywords:

Mail Server, Migration Tool, Lotus Domino Server, Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	i
ABSTRACT	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
I. INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	3
1.4 Significance of the Study	3
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study	4
II. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	5
III. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
3.1 Existing Migration Tool	7
3.1.1 Merak Mail Server Migration Tool	7
3.1.2 VisNetic Mail Server Migration Wizard	8
3.1.3 QuickMail Migration Tool	9
3.2 Problems and Deficiencies of Migration Tools	11
IV. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	
4.1 Mail Servers	14
4.1.1 Microsoft Exchange Server 2000	14
4.1.2 Lotus Domino Server	16
4.2 Comparison of Lotus Notes and Exchange Server	18
4.2.1 Platform Architecture	19
4.3 Migration	21
V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	
5.1 The Lotus Notes Database Structure	23
5.2 Framework for the New Migration Tool	24
5.3 Program Features	25
5.4 Migration Process	27
5.5 Testing and Evaluation	
5.5.1 Testing of the Migration Tool	33
5.5.2 Evaluation of the Migration Tool	34
VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	35

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Mail servers are computers that provide messaging services. It is an important tool for communication and collaboration. It has long been a corporate practice to have a mail server of their own. Even institutions such as schools and universities are equipped with their own mail servers. Businesses such as power and manufacturing companies, as well as banks who have millions of transactions daily, are constantly changing from one mail server to another because different mail servers offer a variety of services that would suit their particular needs. Thus, mail server migration is not a rare occurrence in the corporate world nowadays.

Mail server migration is a tedious process but a necessity. The manual process of migration is time consuming and tiring. The recreation of the new accounts happens in the new mail server. Folder recreation in each of those accounts follow. The next step would be to forward all the messages in the inbox and other folders of an account in the old mail server into the corresponding inbox and other folders of another account in the new mail server. If there are any calendar notes and addresses in the address book of an account in the old mail server, they are also re-created on the new account in the new mail server. As others who have experienced this process of migration, they would testify that this process is tedious and consumes a company's valuable time.

In the local setting, some companies are still using primitive mail server technology. With the ongoing advancement of computer technology, the need for

upgrading their systems came into importance. Migration tool for mail servers will be useful in this matter. Migration tools enable a fast and accurate migration.

This study will help make the process of mail server migration easier and faster which would eliminate the need to use the conventional method. Since Lotus Domino Server and Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server are popular mail servers, the proponents have decided to develop a migration tool specifically for the above-mentioned mail servers.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The study seeks to answer how an automated migration tool for mail servers is developed.

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

- ∂ What are mail servers?
- ∂ What is mail server migration?
- ∂ What is a migration tool and what are its components?
- ∂ What are the existing migration tools for mail servers?
- ∂ How are mail folders and non-mail folders migrated from one mail server to another?
- ∂ How can a migration tool for mail servers tested and evaluated for its efficiency?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to implement an automated migration tool for mail servers.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- ∂ To define mail servers
- ∂ To define and discuss mail server migration
- ∂ To define migration tool and its components
- ∂ To review and compare at least three existing mail server migration tools
- ∂ To determine the process of migrating mail-folders and non-mail folders from one mail server to another
- ∂ To design and develop a mail server migration tool
- ∂ To adopt a comparison criteria that will evaluate the server migration tool
- ∂ To test and evaluate the mail server migration tool

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is significant because it will help companies in their migration from one mail server to another. Instead of doing the migration manually as what others normally would have done, the study intends to provide an efficient way of email accounts migration. This would reduce the consumption of a company's time and effort in transferring all mail accounts, e-mail messages, calendar notes, and addresses in the address book from one mail server to another. This study is not only relevant in the academics field, but on the real world as well.

This study will not only benefit the corporate world but as well as for other future researchers concerning mail server migration. This study will also serve as a basis for researchers who will study on the migration process of mail servers. Specifically, this will be of advantage to those who will study on how to develop migration tools for mail servers that would not be limited to particular mail servers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focused on implementing a new automated migration tool for mail servers that would transfer all mail accounts, along with their respective e-mail messages, calendar notes, and e-mail addresses from one mail server to another.

The scope of the study is on the development of an automated migration tool for mail servers that, migrates a Lotus Domino Server account to a Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server. This study aimed not to compete with other existing migration tools for mail servers but only developed one particularly for the mail servers identified.