It is Time to Move on from Exchange 2003

By Karen Strickland

► If you are hosting your own email using Exchange Server 2003 (whether as a stand alone server or as part of Small Business Server 2003), it is time to move on. This is for a number of reasons, with the most pressing one being that the new Microsoft Outlook 2013 email client (part of the Office suite) is not compatible with Exchange 2003.

New computers are coming preloaded with Office 2013, so the Outlook you purchase with a new computer will not connect to your Exchange 2003 server.

Another reason is that Exchange Server 2003 is coming to the end of its support lifecycle. Microsoft has two main support levels: Mainstream Support and Extended Support. Mainstream Support ended in 2009 for this product and the Extended Support ends April, 8, 2014.

So what are your options? There are a number of options both at the client level and at the (email) server level.

Client options:
- Use an alternative email client
- You could use Outlook Web Access if you have been given access by your administrator
- (Neither of these are the best option if you are used to Outlook, as neither will give you the capabilities you already know.)
- There is Open Licensing as an option for the Microsoft Office Suite that could allow you to use a downgrade to Office 2010, but there is a minimum quantity.

Email Server options:
- You can update to a newer server that utilizes a more recent compatible version of Exchange Server. This involves new hardware and a new version of Windows Server and Exchange Server (We recommend the latest versions when you purchase new hardware). If your current server is 5 or more years old, you should at least look at this as an option.
- You could move to a hosted Exchange solution. We recommend Appriver for this and use their hosted services ourselves. This can often be a good solution for smaller businesses that do not have the technical expertise to manage Exchange. You still have the same capability because it is still Exchange behind the scenes, but you don't have to do the maintenance. They do that for you and much more (see this month's newsletter ad). You still have the ability to share calendars, contacts, get your email to your phone.

For those of you who are current customers and are running Exchange 2003, we will be contacting you about your options. For any readers that are not current customers, please contact *CCS Technologies* so we can help you determine the best option for you.

"Relax...we're on IT"

Fake "Microsoft Security Essentials" Virus

The fake Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) program has been around for a few years but recently *CCS Technologies* has noticed systems coming in after being infected. This virus will try to mimic the look of the legitimate MSE program and will try to trick you into thinking it is actually MSE, a popular antivirus program that we often recommend.

The real Microsoft Security Essentials antivirus program displays an icon in the Notification Area of the Taskbar (which is near the clock). To see the icon you may need to click the small up arrow next to the Notification Area. The MSE icon looks like a house or a castle with a flag on the top ( ). The icon changes color to indicate different system statues. When the icon is green your system is protected, when the icon is orange ( ) your system is potentially unprotected, and when the icon is red ( ) your system is at risk.

The fake Microsoft Security Essentials can be very convincing. If you ever get a notification that says it is from MSE and you are even a little bit unsure if it is legitimate or not we recommend you stop using the computer and call a tech at *CCS* about a possible virus infection. We can help you determine if the notification is legitimate or not.

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