



## Migrating your Domino Apps:

Part I: Mailing

This document lists potential impacts of "moving away from a Domino Mail System"



13.04.2008

### Initial situation

Lotus Domino is a platform that supports both: Messaging and Application (development).

Due to the fact that messaging is an integrated part of this platform, most applications developed with Lotus Domino have multiple interfaces with mails, calendaring or tasks.

These interfaces can be classified in the following XXX categories:

- a) Sending Mails
- b) Creating ToDos or Calendar entries
- c) Importing documents from mail databases
- d) Exporting documents (mails)
- e) Handling mails (like new entries in a Mail-In-Database)

Regarding a migration away from Lotus Domino some of these categories will be more difficult and some less.

*Lotus Domino is Messaging AND Applications*

*Classification of Interfaces to your Mail-System*

### Sending Mails

In Lotus Domino a mail within an application is a document that will be send to a given « mail-address ». In workflow-applications this address often also rules the read & write access to the document in the new status. When the mail platform is no more Lotus Domino – the code has to be modified to handle 2 different information : The mail-address of the recipient and also the persons / groups Notes name to control the access to the document.

Also pretty often document links are part of the mails send by an application. If these links are http-links there is no direct impact because web-links can be opened by almost every mail-platform. If the http-task is not running on the domino-server, the document-links have to be transformed to regular « Notes-links » which can also be opened from the competitive (new) mail-platform.

Third-party tools like « CoexLinks » from genii software can be used to handle this task

*Read / write access vs. mail-address*

*Document links within mails*

*CoexLinks 2.8a*

### Creating ToDos or Calendar entries

Both kinds of information in general will be created as mails with the formname « Appointment » or « Task » and send to the designated person via email.

When exchanging the mail-platform the code generating these kind of documents has to be adapted to create well-formated documents for the new platform.

If there is additionally also some interaction between applications and open todos / meetings, the code for collecting information form the users mail-database has to be modified

*Change the code generating calendar entries and todos regarding the look & feel of the new platform*

*Getting the status of a todo in a users mail-file*



## Migrating your Domino Apps:

Part I: Mailing

This document lists potential impacts of "moving away from a Domino Mail System"



13.04.2008

### Importing documents from a mail database

Lots of application also allow the import of received documents from a users mail-file into another application.

Most of the time code like « CopyDocumentToDatabase » or « ReplaceItemValue » is used to import the complete document or parts of the data contained within the document.

When the mails reach the user in another platform like Lotus Domino, all the code for importing / updating documents will fail. This code has to be changed according to the newly selected platform.

### Exporting documents (mails)

Also some systems (especially document management systems) will enable a user to export mails to another Notes database or some external systems.

For changes like this please have a look at the chapter « Modifications to your mail-template ».

### Handling mails (MailIn databases)

Pretty often MailIn databases are used to start a business process belonging to some new arrived information. When switching the mail-platform normally you are also exchanging these kind of databases (e.g. a functional account like « salesATcompany.com »).

Here we have the high risk of :

- a) Loosing functionality (because the new platform does not support what Lotus Domino was doing)
- b) Loosing information (because these accounts have not been moved to the new platform in time)

There are 2 ways of solving these problems :

- a) leave your « system »-accounts on the Domino Server
- b) migrate all the code / functionality to a technical pendant for a MailIn database on the new system

**Importing documents from the mail is pretty often used**

**This code has to be changed because we are now not able to open a users mail-file with „standard“ procedures.**

**All kind of modifications to your mail-template have to be migrated or will get lost completely**

**MailIn Databases provide access to data and automated starting of business processes**

**Risk of loose functionality**

**Risk of loosing information**

**Split your mail-system and serve both platforms or migrate the code**



## Migrating your Domino Apps:

Part I: Mailing

This document lists potential impacts of "moving away from a Domino Mail System"



13.04.2008

## Modifications to your mail-templates

Most companies are customizing their mail-template. Pretty often these changes are based on additional requirements concerning the look and feel for the mail-templates (like adding custom graphics with the company logo).

But pretty often these modifications also provide a new set of functionality users might be used to.

Similar to scenarios like « exporting documents » all these modifications have to be documented in advance. Then you are able to decide if you want to provide them still on the new platform – or to loose them within the migration process

## Summary

The number of potential interfaces between existing Notes Apps and the users mail-file is pretty huge. The seamless integration of messaging and business applications will get lost.

As soon as you are using workflow systems sending « notifications », you have to make sure that your users will still be able to open AND modify documents within your Domino Database.

The following options will be available to solve this issue :

- a) Turn off your Domino Server (so no emails will be generated – but also all your systems are no more available)
- b) Migrate all your application to a new platform (and then the mail-integration will be handled from the new platform)
- c) Web-enable your databases to be able to work with the systems and contained data without having a « Notes client »
- d) Use WebServices to consume logic and / or data on your Domino server from systems outside Lotus Domino (like Visual Studio)

**Customizations are most often only Look & Feel**

**Document all modifications and migrate the code before starting the migration**

**You will loose your seamless integration therefore :**

**If you are running workflow systems...**

**You can migrate these application**

**Webenable the application**

**Use WebServices to integrate the information**