



Webber Wentzel Bowens



Key benefits

- Ensures legacy data is seamlessly accessible in the new environment, both for end-users and business auditors.
- Protects your organisation's knowledge asset.
- Automatically re-writes addresses, ensuring e-mails are 'reply-able' in the new environment.
- Eliminates the operational overheads & storage costs of maintaining separate data repositories.
- Fast migration service with the option to migrate groups or individuals.
- Eases the e-mail migration process by avoiding the need to transfer legacy data to the new mail server.
- Migration takes place as a background service with zero impact on users & e-mail servers - even in a 24 x 7 environment.
- Ensures future capability to respond efficiently to discovery requests and meet evolving compliance and regulatory needs.
- Halves storage costs by removing duplicate items during migration.

Leading Law Firm uses 'Archive First' Strategy to Migrate from IBM Lotus Notes to Microsoft Exchange 2007 in just 48 Hours

Webber Wentzel Bowens* (WWB) is one of South Africa's leading corporate law firms with offices situated in Johannesburg, London and Cape Town. With a staff of over 430 people including 90 partners, WWB is well positioned to provide insightful legal advice and assistance to international corporations in a variety of legal disciplines. Its powerful client base includes many of the country's Top 100 companies in mining, banking, insurance, media, property and telecommunications.

According to WWB IT manager Eugene van Vuren, "We like to ensure our staff have the tools they need to deliver the high standard of legal advice our clients expect. This drove our decision to migrate to Microsoft Exchange 2007, as it offers the latest collaboration facilities and integrates with our document management system, Interwoven FileSite."

Although WWB could have taken a phased migration by running Notes and Exchange side by side and moving users a batch at a time this would have required supporting different front ends and integrations to our document management system. WWB's multi disciplinary teams would be at risk of providing a reduced level of service to their clients due to incompatibilities between the various systems. It was therefore decided that the firm's entire 400 user base (600+ mail accounts and archives) should be switched to Exchange over the course of a weekend.

*WWB was independently ranked by 'Who's Who Legal' as Africa Law Firm of the Year for both 2006 and 2007. For more information visit www.wwb.co.za

A Zero Impact Approach

“Once we had made the decision to migrate, we wanted to move quickly to reduce any possible negative impact on our business,” explained van Vuren. “This meant ensuring that all e-mails sent and received in the previous Notes environment were seamlessly accessible from Outlook. Our staff had to be able to pick up from where they left off and we simply could not afford to lose any valuable business data,” continued van Vuren.

WWB chose to work with messaging experts Soarsoft Africa, who proposed the firm used a combination of leading e-mail archive solution, ZANTAZ EAS for Autonomy, and TransVault, a Lotus Notes to Microsoft Exchange conversion tool from Essential Computing Ltd.

All in a Weekend’s Work

A series of Outlook training sessions were held with each of the departments throughout WWB and a migration ‘weekend’ date was set.

When staff at WWB went home on Friday night, Soarsoft and key IT staff at WWB had literally 2 days to complete a successful migration.

Their first step was to archive the contents of the now legacy environment using ZANTAZ EAS for Notes. The contents of this archive were then converted into an Exchange-compatible format using TransVault. After commissioning mailboxes in Exchange using Microsoft’s Transporter tools, shortcuts to archived/converted messages were populated into the relevant Outlook folders and the contents of Notes address books were uploaded into Outlook contacts.

“On Monday morning our users came in to find all their e-mails and address books intact and fully functional. We could just get on with business as usual,” said van Vuren. “In the future we expect users to start taking advantage of EAS’ powerful archive search facility. The company as a whole will also benefit from enhanced data security and e-discovery capabilities offered by the ZANTAZ solution, as well as complying with latest legislation,” continued van Vuren.

Fast, Accurate Data Migration

“This big bang approach is not one we would advocate for every company,” explained Warren Marks, the lead Soarsoft consultant for this project. “Ideally we would run the two environments in parallel for a while and do the migration over time, but the speed with which ZANTAZ and TransVault process data made a weekend transition a viable proposition.”

TransVault converted in excess of 3 million emails across over 600 mailboxes and 2 Notes servers.

“We were very impressed with the speed and accuracy of TransVault, and so was our customer,” said Marks.

Reduced Storage Costs

The archive-led approach offered a number of additional benefits to WWB including significantly reduced storage costs. “By using archiving technology we were able to literally halve the amount of storage space taken up by emails. We had nearly half a Terabyte of emails in our Notes databases. Thanks to the de-duplication and compression offered by EAS, this was reduced to just 200GB,” explained van Vuren. “We also avoided filling up our brand new servers with lots of legacy data.”

Big Ambition, Big Success

“This was an ambitious project, especially as we also had to ensure that the customer’s document management system was successfully migrated to work from within Outlook. This involved identifying, exporting and converting almost 100,000 email records and making sure they were available via the Outlook document management interface - there were a lot of moving parts! I must say I’ve had easier weekends, but users at WWB logged into a stable Exchange 2007 environment on the Monday as planned and the customer is very happy,” concluded Marks.

For more information:

Africa & Middle East:
Visit www.soarsoft.co.za
Email info@soarsoft.co.za

Rest of the world:
Visit www.TransVault.com

“
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TransVault addresses the key challenges associated with data migration:

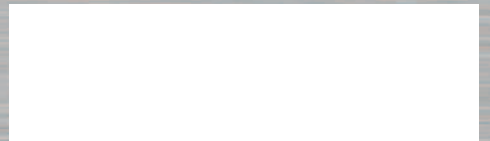
Challenge	The TransVault Solution
User impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ users keep working as their data is migrated ■ just a few confirmation clicks required for decryption & address migration ■ no user interaction needed to migrate local NSF files
IT staff overheads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ no desktop rollout for address book, decryption or local NSF migration ■ eliminates stress of migrating entire mailboxes ‘overnight’
Data fidelity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ proven superior e-mail conversion, including embedded items & complex HTML ■ preserves the contents of mailboxes, personal archives, shared mailboxes & journals
Migration Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ bulk data migrations can be carried out non-stop at any time ■ multi-threaded architecture supports extremely fast processing rates ■ conversion rates up to 10x faster than other solutions
Project Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ no need to consolidate Notes servers prior to migration ■ shrinks your bill for additional consultancy services & overtime ■ no need to purchase solutions from multiple different suppliers
Storage Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ avoids overloading new Exchange servers with GBs or TBs of legacy Notes data ■ reduces your e-mail storage overhead by up to 70-80%
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ high-quality conversion preserves the integrity of historic data ■ migrated items are held in secure, tamper-proof storage with full audit trail ■ decrypts items to ensure content is discoverable ■ ensures all items are quickly & reliably searchable in one location ■ creates a consolidated snapshot of Notes data as backup ■ solution provided by industry-leaders in information risk management.

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With over 17 years experience in providing quality infrastructure and messaging solutions, Essential is behind some of the largest and most successful e-mail archiving projects in the world.

TransVault products & services bring you the benefit of a wealth of experience & expertise from a partner you can trust.

For more details & supported platforms contact Essential or your nearest authorized reseller.



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