

Migrating legacy email archives into the cloud



E-mail Space - The Final Frontier

Frontier Economics is a leading economics consulting firm that delivers tailor-made advice to businesses, regulators and policy-makers.

Headquartered in London and with over 100 economists based in offices around the world, Frontier is involved in some of the most interesting, topical and high profile issues in the world of business and economics*.

Frontier's highly distributed and mobile workforce relies heavily on its Microsoft Exchange email system to conduct business. High volumes of email are exchanged - both between staff members and with clients - and often include large documents and reports as attachments.

"For our size of organisation we generate a lot of email traffic and use up a lot of storage", commented Andrew Soper, IT Manager at Frontier Economics.

Over the last 2 years Frontier had been using an onsite email archiving system from Autonomy (known as ZANTAZ EAS™) to offload its Exchange servers. "Keeping our email stores as small as possible improves their efficiency. It also means they will be quicker to restore in the event of a disaster", explained Soper.

Having to recover from a disaster was a close call in 2009, when a fire broke out close to the company's offices. "The incident brought into sharp focus the vulnerability of our email and other key services upon which the business relies. We immediately started looking at ways of building more resilience into our email service", recalls Soper

mimecast

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Key Service Benefits

- Unlocks legacy archived e-mail records, enabling fast, secure & audited transfer to alternative platforms & locations.
- Avoids the risks & costs associated with manual migration.
- Eliminates the costs associated with managing legacy archives.
- Legacy shortcut management ensures total transparency for users.
- Automatic re-tries on failed items & full progress reporting minimises intervention.
- Selective migration helps optimise your new archive to reflect growth patterns, company restructuring etc.

Supported Platforms

- Hosted archive vendors including Mimecast, Microsoft Exchange Online & Hosted Exchange (Office 365), Proofpoint, MessageLabs, Symantec.cloud & Google Postini.
- Microsoft Exchange, including Exchange personal archives
- Symantec Enterprise Vault for Exchange or Notes
- EMC EmailXtender for Exchange or Notes
- EMC SourceOne for Exchange or Notes
- Autonomy ZANTAZ EAS for Exchange or Notes
- Autonomy Message Manager (formerly CA, now HP)
- Autonomy NearPoint (formerly IronMountain/Mimosa)
- HP RISS/IAP
- Quest Archive Manager
- OpenText IXOS e-CONserver
- iLumin Assentor
- SMTP MIME-standard .EML
- .PST, .NSF, .EML & .MSG files

New connectors are being added all the time or can be commissioned. Please contact Essential for details.

Facts & Figures

- 1 TB data & 150 mailboxes migrated to Mimecast.
- Released hardware and software maintenance costs associated with onsite archive.
- Full service migration to Mimecast.

What the Customer Said...

“Essential helped us understand the different considerations of our migration. They devised the optimal strategy for data extraction and for limiting the impact on our staff and processes that rely on access to email records.”

“We have now decommissioned our legacy archive and have been able to release the associated hardware and software maintenance costs.”

Andrew Soper

IT Manager, Frontier Economics



Moving Archiving to the Cloud

Following extensive research into the best fit for their company, Frontier elected to work with Mimecast, a software as a service (SAAS) company specialising in providing hosted email continuity, email hygiene (including anti-spam and anti-virus) and archive services for Microsoft Exchange sites.

On learning Mimecast offered unlimited hosted email storage, Frontier's IT team started to investigate the potential for shifting its legacy archived emails into the cloud.

“Our incumbent email archive supplier had recently undergone a buyout which had a detrimental effect on support and updates. We also calculated that we could save considerable costs in terms of servers, storage and ongoing maintenance if we were able to decommission our existing archive service”, explained Soper.

Devising the Optimum, Least Impact Migration Strategy

Moving their existing archives into Mimecast was not going to be a case of flicking a switch. “First, our existing archives were in a proprietary format and we needed a way of extracting emails in line with Mimecast's needs. And, because our staff were used to the concept of clicking on shortcuts in their inbox to retrieve archived items, we needed a way of tackling these too. We called in email archive experts, Essential, for advice.

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An Assured, End-to-End Migration

Powered by industry-leading archive migration engine, TransVault™ Migrator, the extraction phase was completed within just 2 weeks and what could have been an extremely tricky and time-consuming job for Frontier's IT team was handled, end-to-end, by Essential.

Andrew Knight, the Essential consultant managing the migration project explained, “After the initial requirements discussion and health check of Frontier's existing archive, we were able to oversee the restores and extractions remotely. At the end of the service we delivered a report that documented all the emails and mailboxes that were handed to Mimecast. This gave Frontier management peace of mind that no data was missed.”

Conclusion

“Our onsite archive was kept running until Mimecast confirmed that ingestion was complete. We have now decommissioned our legacy archive and have been able to release the associated hardware and software maintenance costs. We still rely on our core Exchange servers to deliver access to Public Folders and shared calendaring, but for us, moving email service resilience, hygiene and email storage services into the cloud has given our organisation an essential layer of protection and continuity”, concluded Soper.

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