

## MIMOSA SYSTEMS NEARPOINT FOR MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 3.1

Email archiving is essential for managing storage, but it must also be carried out to ensure compliance with regulatory guidelines. Mimosa's NearPoint for Microsoft Exchange Server aims to provide a complete solution for secure email and file archiving, along with recovery, content monitoring and auditing facilities in one, easily deployed, product.

NearPoint stands out from the crowd of first-generation Exchange archiving solutions, as it doesn't use MAPI or agent-based connections. Furthermore, it doesn't require the equally resource-hungry Exchange journaling to be enabled to ensure guaranteed capture of emails for compliance.

Mimosa's next-generation archiving avoids excessive processing overheads by using log shipping, where it copies the Exchange transaction log files to its own dedicated archival storage.

Log shipping offers other benefits, as NearPoint captures users' notes, calendars and tasks, as well as emails. This allows it to store the complete lifecycle of an email, where it also maintains records of mail being deleted, moved to another folder and other requirements - functions critical for compliant audit trails. Log shipping also allows NearPoint to shadow the Exchange database in its entirety, thus providing a full local recovery solution.

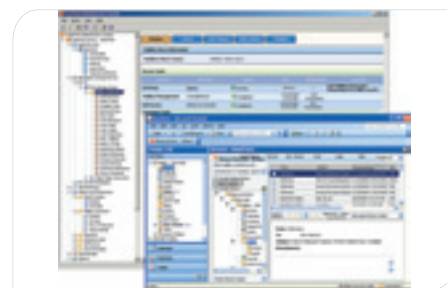
NearPoint's application server manages all shadowing and archiving operations. Supporting Windows Server 2003 and requiring SQL Server 2000 or 2005, it is typically installed on a separate server - and for archiving can use any form of storage that

can be accessed by the host. Functioning as an MMC snap-in, the NearPoint console offers a very intuitive interface that lists all Exchange servers it has discovered on the network. All you do is add them to the managed Exchange server group and enable shadowing to create a database copy in the archive.

Dynamic log shipping is enabled next and then you can apply policies to each Exchange server to determine archiving activities. Policies determine what should be archived, what you want to exclude, data retention periods and user access permissions to the archived data. Note that the policies actually run against the Exchange shadow copy, and not the live database, so reducing overheads even further.

Mailbox extension policies determine how attachments are handled. This is the only time NearPoint interacts directly with Exchange, as it extends attachments into its archive, but leaves the email on the server. NearPoint constantly monitors Exchange servers and, if it spots any problems such as database corruption or low disk space, it can automatically initiate its call home feature to notify support staff. In the event of a critical failure, it can also be set to recover the Exchange database automatically.

We liked the fact that NearPoint doesn't require any extra configuration for email clients and can be set up to run transparently, if required. With the appropriate permissions, clients can access the email archive, where a new folder is automatically added for them. We carried out our tests using Outlook and found the archive folder is laid out to the same format as standard folders, making it simple to navigate. If permitted, you can view other user's mailboxes, run searches and view them



at specific points in time - something first-generation products can't do, as they don't record their history.

Restoration functions are just as accessible, with NearPoint offering inherent data protection and disaster recovery capabilities. Users simply select a managed Exchange server, a mail store or individual mailbox and pick a recovery option from the drop-down menu. Reporting is another strong feature, supported by NearPoint's eDiscovery function - which is so powerful that it allows extensive audits to be carried out and the placing of litigation holds on selected items. NearPoint also comes with a PST file archiving option, which centrally manages all PST data in an indexed email archive.

NearPoint is an elegant content archiving and recovery solution for Files and Exchange that's simple to deploy and manage. Its architecture allows it to scale easily across a wide range of scenarios and, unlike older solutions, has a negligible impact on performance.

**Product:** NearPoint for Microsoft Exchange Server 3.1

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**VERDICT:** NearPoint is an elegant content archiving and recovery solution for Files and Exchange that's simple to deploy and manage. Its architecture allows it to scale easily across a wide range of scenarios and, unlike old solutions, has a negligible impact on performance