

Competitor Profile: Lotus Domino

Overview

Lotus Domino is second in market share among enterprise messaging vendors, with ~25% share of corporate mailboxes (Radicati). Although Notes/Domino remains a functionally rich, stable, secure and scalable commercial e-mail system, clouds are appearing on the horizon. The large Domino base is restless, and many organizations are contemplating a move. Rather than focus on the needs of the installed base, IBM has introduced an alternative e-mail product called Workplace Messaging, which is not ready for large-scale deployment. This split strategy for collaboration solution is resulting in confusion both internally and among the customer base as the roadmap of the Lotus Domino solution at this point is unclear.

Domino also has little credibility in many of the markets Zimbra serves well. For example, for small and medium enterprises, and educational and government organizations, Domino is a poor solution due to its complexity and high cost structure (see pricing info below). In addition, Domino lacks features required by HSP customers like domain management and multi-tenancy.

Pricing

IBM provides customers three options to license Lotus Domino collaboration solution. Enterprises and other organizations with less than 1,000 users can avail of the “Express Edition” which includes license to use the server and one of the possible client accesses (Lotus Notes, Web Access, Outlook or POP3/IMAP4). For organizations larger than 1,000 users, IBM offers the “Enterprise Server Edition” - a separate server license based on total processor value units and client license based on number of users. IBM licenses the “Utility Server” based on the Processor Value Unit (PVU).

Enterprise List Pricing

	Collaboration Express Edition (< 1,000 users)	Enterprise Server Edition (> 1,000 users)
Server	\$137/user + \$25.75/user*	\$38.25/PVU + \$206/PVU*
Client	(Includes any one client software/access - Notes, Web, Outlook, POP/IMAP)	\$144/user (Notes) or \$112/user (Web Access)
Hardware	Not included	Not included
Support	Included	Included

* Utility Server (Express) license for integrating 3rd party applications

- Above pricing does not include optional components like AS/AV

Key Zimbra Positioning vs Lotus Domino

- **Openness.** Zimbra is open source, has open bi-directional web interfaces, and broadly supports open web and collaboration protocols. This provides full customer investment protection and enables efficient product extension, customization, and integration. Conversely, Lotus Domino is closed source, has proprietary interfaces, and lacks support for open protocols like iCal, SOAP, REST, etc. This allows IBM to retain significant control over the customer experience, creates substantial reliance on IBM for maintenance and support, and greatly reduces opportunities for Domino customers to connect external applications and content via standards based interfaces.
- **Flexibility.** Zimbra enables comprehensive collaboration across diverse IT environments, seamlessly interoperating with customers’ platforms, clients, and infrastructure of choice. In contrast, for broader collaboration, Lotus Domino is closely bound to the IBM family of products -- including Lotus Notes, Lotus Workflow, and Lotus Mobile Connect -- and customers are often forced to use these or other IBM products in order to have a desirable or compatible experience.

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- **Modern collaboration architecture.** Zimbra was designed from scratch to address modern collaboration demands, including consolidated and scalable server-side components for handling large systems and mailboxes (integrated AS/AV, multitenancy, archiving, indexing/search, etc.), comprehensive web services interfaces for bi-directional application integration, and broad open protocol support for platform-agnostic user productivity. Conversely, the core Lotus Domino “kernel” was architected in the early 1990’s, and hence not designed for today’s scaling requirements (as indicated by IBM’s choice of introducing Workplace), server-side feature demands, or the need for seamless integration and compatibility.

Zimbra Responses to Lotus Domino Positioning

- *“Lotus Domino has been around for long and hence a safe product choice.”*

Zimbra response: Because it is a closed/proprietary solution, Domino creates inherent customer risks relative to the investment protection that Zimbra provides (much like Linux and Apache have done in their respective markets) as a leading open source solution. Zimbra offers a modern feature set and architecture, in line with the most recent collaboration demands, and has consequently experienced rapid adoption from organizations and service providers (across verticals and geographies) seeking an innovative and cost-effective solution.

- *“Lotus Domino is the best way to leverage the IBM product family, which provides everything customers need.”*

Zimbra response: Domino naturally integrates well with other IBM products, and IBM has an understandable incentive to encourage other IBM products in addition to Domino. However, Domino often presents usability/compatibility issues in environments with non-IBM components, greatly reducing customer flexibility. In addition, not only are there proven alternatives to IBM products today (in many cases offering preferred functionality in a lower cost, non-proprietary fashion), increasing diversity in IT environments often means that organizations cannot dictate that IBM products are in all places at all times, even if that is their preference. Zimbra provides an open solution across diverse, platform-agnostic environments, including seamless interoperability in environments where IBM products are used.

- *“Domino has the most comprehensive feature set available today.”*

Zimbra response: Domino has been developed over the last 10+ years, contributing to its available feature set. However, Domino’s older core architecture, proprietary software model, and tight dependency on other Domino products prevents IBM from delivering new features at a rapid pace today. Zimbra was designed from scratch with a modern architecture, feature set, and software development approach (open source), enabling much faster ongoing cycles of innovation and feature delivery. The needs of the modern collaboration environments surrounding sharing with both private and public users and groups, integrated indexing/search, server-side aggregation of multiple personal and corporate accounts.

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Product Comparison Matrix

Category	Feature	Zimbra	Lotus Domino 6.5
Web-based Collaboration and Productivity	Rich, cross-browser web interface	Yes	Yes
	Web mash-ups + on-demand interaction w/external content	Yes	No
	Conversations	Yes	No
	Tags/Categories	Yes	No
	Group/resource scheduling	Yes	Yes
	Contacts/calendar sharing	Yes	No
	Subscribe to RSS/ATOM feeds	Yes	No
	Native VOIP integration	Yes	No
	HTML views of attachments	Yes	No
	Rich web document authoring	Yes	Yes
	File/document sharing	Yes	No
	Keyboard navigation/shortcuts	Yes	No
	Publish/subscribe content outside domain	Yes	No
	Comprehensive server-side indexing/search	Yes	Yes
	Attachment contents indexing/search	Yes	No
Custom content object indexing/search	Yes	No	
Mobility and Client Compatibility	Native over-the-air sync for mail, contacts, calendar	Yes	Yes (requires Lotus Mobile Connect)
	Over-the-air sync to BlackBerry devices	Yes	Yes
	Outlook/MAPI over HTTP/S	Yes	Unknown
	Outlook cached mode	Yes	Unknown
	Outlook delegated access	Yes	Unknown
	Mac desktop client support	Yes	Not in 6.5. Lotus Notes 7.0.2 is certified on Mac
Administration & Total Cost of Ownership	Web-based administration	Yes	Limited
	Comprehensive command line administration tools	Yes	Yes
	Multiple domains + domain-level administration/delegation	Yes	Yes
	Integrated Anti-Spam/Anti-Virus	Yes	No
	Clustering/High-Availability	Yes	Yes
	Online mailbox-level backup/restore/move	Yes	Yes
	Hierarchical storage management	Yes	Yes
	Instant attachment conversion to HTML	Yes	No
	Open source code	Yes	No
	Comprehensive web service interfaces	Yes	Limited
	Domain-specific branding and themes	Yes	Yes
	Linux/Mac server support	Yes	Yes
Active Directory integration	Yes	Yes	