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Product review

Communigate Pro 5.0

Summary: An alternative to Outlook and Notes, this email server is quite powerful and receives our Editor's Choice Award for ease of use, functionality and cross-platform compatibility.
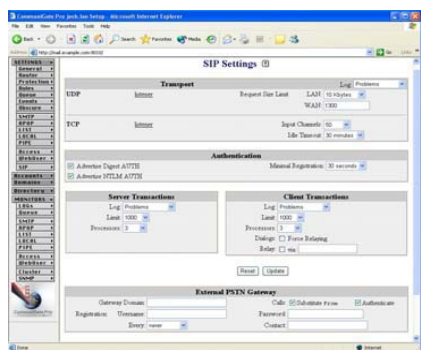
Price: $699 - 25 user license

www.communigate.com

★★★★★

The server is capable of serving small to enterprise businesses with a range of 25 to 5-million clients.

Two of the most popular email servers are Outlook Express and Lotus Notes. While these are powerful mail server systems they don't have the ability to cross different operating system platforms. CommuniGate Systems', CommuniGate Pro 5.0 has that ability and wins our Editor's Choice Award for ease of use, functionality and cross-platform compatibility.
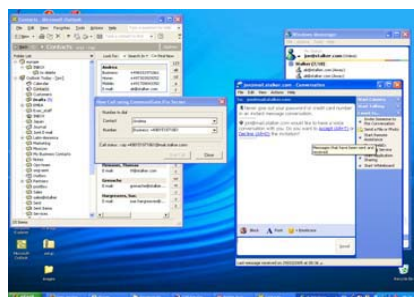
CommuniGate 5.0 works with AS/400, Linux, Windows, Netware, OpenVMS, Mac OSX and multiple versions of the UNIX operating system. The server is capable of serving small to enterprise businesses with a range of 25 to 5-million clients. Providing powerful email services, there are slight variations in the server depending on the operating system.

Able to work as a standalone product, the server can also work seamlessly with
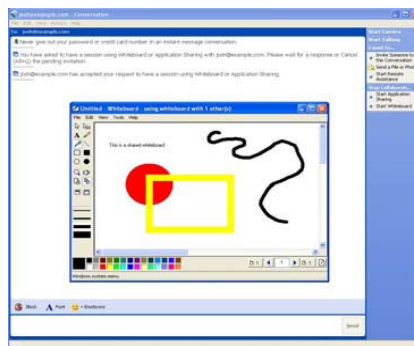

Microsoft's Outlook Exchange Server as

well. CommuniGate has its own security, anti-virus and anti-spam features while you can also use plug-ins from Sophos, RAE Internet, Kaspersky Labs, McAfee and Mailshell's SpamCatcher engine.

Although we didn't have the ability to test CommuniGate 5.0 on all the operating systems, we were able to test it on both the Windows and Linux platforms. Configuration is performed through a web browser-based application and the time to setup the product will depend on the operating system as well as the options available with the product. We were able to retrieve email with popular email programs like Outlook, Outlook Express, Netscape, Eudora and Incredimail. In addition to SMTP, IMAP and POP email configurations the server offers groupware functionality through task management, scheduling and invitation applications.

There is new functionality available with this new version that includes a PBX and

auto-attendant application that supports PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) and VoIP (Voice over IP) communications as well as a conference server with an unlimited number of participants in the conference.

The price of CommuniGate Pro 5.0 will depend on the number of users that access the system. The minimum price is $699 for the 25-user license, $1199 for the 50-user license and you'll need to call the company for licenses above the 499 client level. Upgrades are free during the first year of operation and then cost 1.5-percent of the purchase price for each additional year. Unlimited email support is available at no charge as well as an online knowledge base to answer most technical support questions. There are premium phone support programs with the pricing dependent of the different support levels.

You can download a trial version of CommuniGate Pro 5.0 and retrieve specific product information from the company's web site at **www.communigate.com**.

Editor's Choice Award 2006 IP WORLD THE INDEPENDENT VOICE