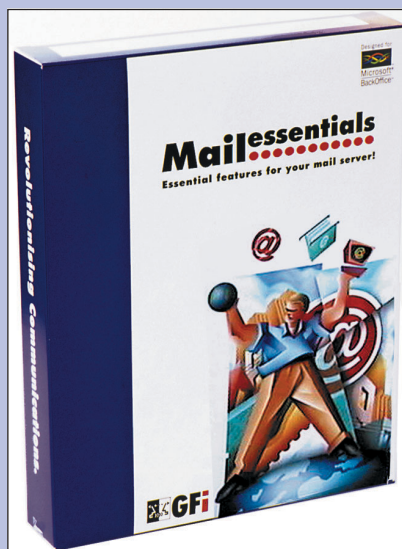




Mail essentials for Exchange 2000



by Berni Dwan

Version: 2000
Supplier: GFI
Price: from £249 (10 users)

FOR Has a native Windows 2000 and Exchange 2000 version, and you get a licence for both. This facilitates a quick upgrade from NT to 2000.

AGAINST Nothing.

VERDICT *Mail essentials* integrates seamlessly with Microsoft Exchange Server 2000. Intercepting all inbound and outbound email, as well as scanning internal mail, it is totally transparent to users.

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
Overall Rating	★★★★★

Acting as an email firewall, *Mail essentials* protects you from viruses and email attacks. In addition, it adds important key features to your mail server, such as anti-spam, email encryption, email archiving, disclaimers, personalised auto responders and POP3 downloading, all with their own well-established benefits. Installed as an add-on to your mail server, *Mail essentials* is totally transparent to users, requiring no additional user training or administration. All inbound and outbound mail is checked, and mail attachments with a high likelihood of carrying a virus, worm or email attack (.EXE, .VBS) can be quarantined.

This is an ideal operation to run in tandem with your regular anti-virus scanning, especially in the case of a new virus, or a worm/attack with the sole purpose of infiltrating your network. *Mail essentials* itself includes the industrial strength Norman anti-virus engine.

It is really up to you to decide what files you want to quarantine, and you may choose, for example, to quarantine MP3 files because of their potential negative impact on bandwidth. *Mail essentials* can automatically compress mail attachments at server level, with the dual effect of saving the user's time and using less bandwidth.

Mail essentials can also check for script code in the message body itself, as well as scanning for offensive content and information leaks. Furthermore, it will detect a *Word* or *Excel* attachment that contains a macro, remove the macro automatically

and send the document and mail to the recipient. HTML scripts are also caught in the net.

An increasingly popular conduit for hackers and virus writers to trigger commands is by embedding them in HTML mail; *Mail essentials* can detect these commands and automatically remove them. Again, the HTML mail is still sent to the recipient, with the HTML commands disabled.

In the case of macro and HTML viruses, you can see that the *Mail essentials* system of detection and removal pretty well circumvents this aspect of anti-virus products. This approach doesn't care whether a macro-borne virus is past, present or future, as detection and removal will occur regardless of this knowledge.

In addition to the above, *Mail essentials for Exchange 2000* is able to check internal mail and inter-company mail as well, allowing you to block out viruses and spam at email server level. Spam is addressed in a wonderful way, and is nabbed by intercepting an incorrect Reply To address, or a header containing an incorrect domain.

Using the native Exchange 2000 API to content check all mail before it is sent or received, there is no longer any need for the processor intensive and error-prone method of scanning public or personal folders. *Mail essentials* includes server-based PGP encryption and decryption of email, and is thus transparent to users. Because no PKI server is required, there is no end-user training, as an encryption package does not need to be installed on every workstation.

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GFI Software, Inc. (USA)
 105 Towerview Ct.
 Cary, NC
 27513, USA
 tel: +1 (888) 2 GFIFAX
 fax: +1 (919) 388-5621
 Email: sales@gfi.com
 Web: www.gfi.com

Contact Information:



GFI Software Ltd
 5, Princeton Mews
 167-169 London Road,
 Kingston-upon-Thames,
 Surrey KT2 6PT, UK
 tel: +44 (0) 20 8546 0640
 fax: +44 (0) 20 8546 0741
 Email: sales@gfi.com
 Web: www.gfi.com