

Virtualizing an Exchange 2003...



[vmworld.nico](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007

Has somebody experience in running an large Exchange/W2K3 2003 environment with 20.000 or more mailboxes on ESX 3? At this moment we have 5 physical servers with 4.000 mailboxes each .

Gr.

Nico



[Ken Cohen](#) 2 posts since

Sep 18, 2007 1. **Re: Virtualizing an Exchange 2003 environment with 40.000 mailboxes** Sep 19, 2007 5:35 AM

Have you seen this article? <http://www.vmware.com/resources/techresources/978>

From the artcle 4000 users/server may be a bit aggressive, it looks like a dual proc VM can handle 2200 users.



[Andrew Cohen](#) 1 posts since

Oct 22, 2007 **2. Re: Virtualizing an Exchange 2003 environment with 40.000 mailboxes** Oct 23, 2007 2:00 PM

in response to: [Ken Cohen](#)

For that large of an environment, I don't see the benefit of virtualizing the Exchange server.



[Ken Cohen](#) 2 posts since

Sep 18, 2007 **3. Re: Virtualizing an Exchange 2003 environment with 40.000 mailboxes** Oct 23, 2007 4:47 PM

in response to: [Andrew Cohen](#)

I think you have to look at the whole picture. If you can manage more exchange servers, virtualization brings a lot to the table, especially as new features are rolled out. DRS and HA are great features that are available now, Continuous Availability (coming soon) will make the system nearly bulletproof without having to try to configure Microsoft Clustering Services.



[dansolo](#) 3 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 **4. Re: Virtualizing an Exchange 2003 environment with 40.000 mailboxes** Nov 13, 2007 4:50 PM

With an implementation that large, there would be several factors to consider. Are you planning a 1:1 move to take advantage of DRS/HA or putting multiple boxes on a single host to also consolidate? Obviously IOPS would be an issue, but how are you storing the data now - fiber channel SAN? There should be no issue with procs or RAM as ESX3 should be able to address more than your current servers. Are you considering a move to 2007? That would drive down the IOPS requirement and also give you 64-bit memory allocation.



[ocbwilg](#) 3 posts since

Feb 26, 2009 **5. Re: Virtualizing an Exchange 2003 environment with 40.000 mailboxes** Feb 26, 2009 9:51 AM

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Just keep in mind that Microsoft does not support Exchange 2003 being virtualized on any platform other than Microsoft Virtual Server 2005 R2. They do not even support it on Hyper-V. Exchange 2007, however, is supported on both Hyper-V and ESX.

Microsoft's recommendations and support policy for virtualized Exchange servers can be found here:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc794548.aspx> (you have to scroll down quite a bit to find the info on Exchange 2003)