

MDAEMON 6.7 PRO

Mdaemon takes on Exchange Server

All e-mail systems work well for large companies, but there aren't many that work well for small companies. Mdaemon is one of the few products that can make both small and large IT departments happy.

Mdaemon is by no means a new product on the market. Over the years, it has been continuously improved, and offered at an attractive price. The current version, 6.X Pro, costs SEK 3900, which includes sales tax and six concurrent mailboxes. What's even better is that it can be run on everything from Windows NT Workstation to today's Windows XP Professional, and, of course, also on Microsoft's various server systems. So, it's not necessary to buy a server operating system with functions you won't ever use.

We like Mdaemon a lot, and now we'll tell you why.

Lots of smart features

First let's take a look at installation. It's a cinch. Type in the name of the domain that the server should belong to, and, if you want, the DNS servers that Mdaemon should use, and you're done. Server configuration is another matter, but with the help of built-in documentation, most tasks can be accomplished without a hitch – help is also available on the Internet.

The list of things that make Mdaemon an especially interesting product for small companies is long, but we'll keep it short here.

To start with, Mdaemon 6 includes a built-in Web interface – no add-ons required. The only thing that can be a little tricky is that, instead of logging in as a user with an account name such as "amanuens" you have to log in with "amanuens@bearnaise.org" if you have several domains and bearnaise.org isn't the server's primary domain.

Mdaemon has built-in features for stopping spam with the help of databases such as MAPS, RDBL or ORDB. Nice touch! Another interesting feature is bandwidth throttling. If you have more than one domain, you can assign different amounts of bandwidth to

them. It is also possible to control how much bandwidth SMTP, POP3 and IMAP4 should have access to. It's doubtful that any other product in this price range can do the same.

"Exchange slayer"

The Mdaemon Groupware add-on is really interesting. When using Outlook as the e-mail client, it acts very much as if it is working through an Exchange Server. Users can share folders, calendars and other things that, until now, you could only do with Exchange Server.

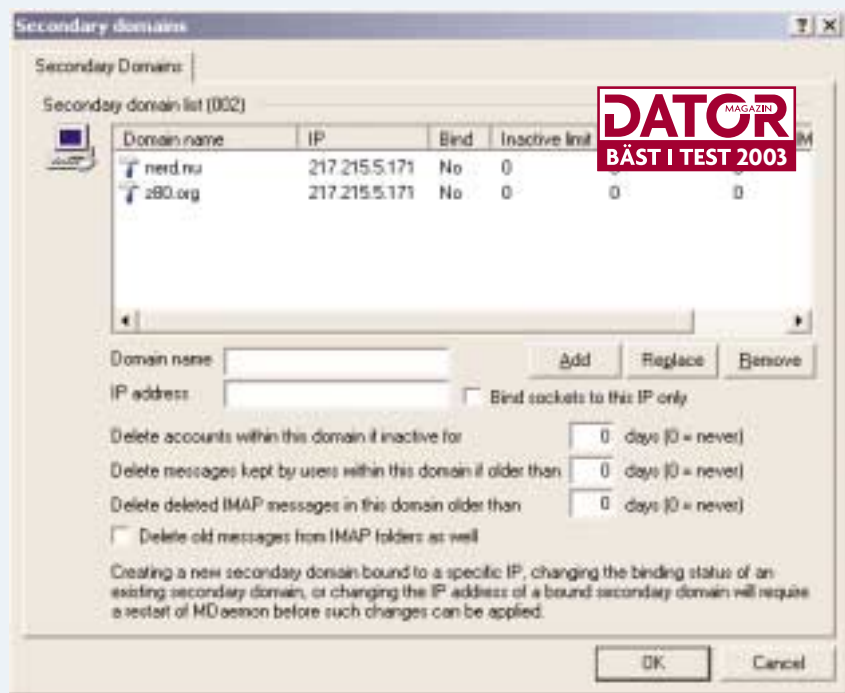
Everything is stored locally on the user's computer and is synchronized with the Mdaemon server's folders via IMAP. This is how it has been described to us, in any case. We chose not to test this feature since it is in beta testing at this time. But it will certainly be exciting to see how Microsoft reacts to this. According to the Swedish vendor Upstream, future versions of Outlook will also be compatible with the Groupware features in Mdaemon, including the coming Office 11 version. Clearly, this will be a blow to Exchange Server and pricing structures, particu-

larly when it is rumored that the next version of Exchange Server will require Windows Server 2003. Time will tell.

Mdaemon is definitely the best choice for small and mid-sized companies that want to run their e-mail server on a Windows machine. Mdaemon's many features make it a good value, especially if you include in the calculation the fact that an older PC can be used as the platform, that is, if you don't handle hundreds of users.

There is no doubt whatsoever that this product is a test winner.

Joacim Melin



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PROS Super easy installation. The server doesn't allow open relay as a standard component. Built-in spam blocker. Built-in Web interface.

CONS No support for platforms other than Win32.

RECOMMENDED FOR Small and mid-sized businesses that want a system they can grow with.

PRICE From SEK 3120 excluding sales tax (SEK 3900 including sales tax) for six mailboxes. **PRODUCER** Alt-N Technologies, www.altn.com **CONTACT INFORMATION** Upstream Software, www.upstream.se **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS** Pentium III 500 megahertz, 256 megabytes internal memory, Microsoft Windows 9x/ME/XP/NT/2000, Internet Explorer 4.0 or later.

Big doesn't always work for small

There are many companies that have standardized their systems with Microsoft Exchange Server, Novell's Groupwise or Lotus Notes/Domino, but the era of the big budget IT-department is over. And why should you spend tens of thousands of kronor on something that really doesn't need to be so expensive? These three systems are not at all bad – they are just not that good with regard to what we are looking at here: shuffling e-mail around and, at best, also linking small work groups or an entire company together using shared calendars and similar features.

We had planned to test seven systems, but Advox suddenly chose not to participate with no further explanation when we asked them to quickly provide a key code for our test. Consequently, six participants remained, and they were evaluated according to features and price.

Microsoft Exchange Server landed in sixth place. This is quite simply not the solution for small companies, even if they already use Windows 2000 Advanced Server. Microsoft likes to be well paid, and tends to forget about the small customers, and for that they are penalized here. Otherwise, it's a good product that, despite a somewhat bad reputation, measures up as long as you take care when it comes to security and server performance issues.

Novell's Netmail XE ends up in fifth place. Novell was right in buying this product, which has a few bright spots, but it doesn't feel at all complete, even if it seems stable with its comparatively few features. But, more than two thousand kronor for ten user licenses is scandalous.

In fourth place we have Lotus Domino. There is no question that

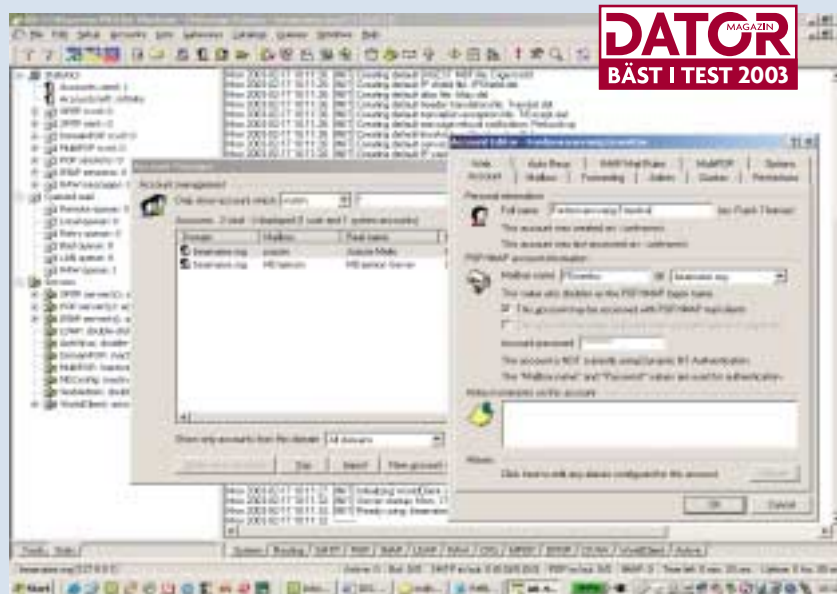
Domino is a very good system with many merits, but it is also a major investment, not only in price, but also in time. It's not exactly a system you can install in 15 minutes. Thorough planning and substantial resources make Lotus Domino a system for large companies that blows the competition out of the water.

In third place is Red Hat Linux 7.3 with Sendmail. We could just as well have called it Linux with Sendmail, or just Sendmail, since it looks more or less the same regardless of which Unix platform you use. In my opinion, Sun has a pretty crazy view of how a configuration file for Sendmail should look in Solaris 8. But that's another story. In Red Hat Linux 7.3, POP3 and IMAP4 servers come specially packaged, and together with Sendmail they do a really good job. You can also install a Web interface for e-

mail, but it can be a little tricky for those who have never done it before. A big plus for low costs and minimal hardware requirements, but minus for the time and specialist knowledge required.

In second place is Quickmail Pro Server, a particularly nice e-mail system for Mac OS X based servers with clients, in addition to the more generic ones that communicate through POP3 and IMAP4 both for Windows and Mac. Good administration and lots of features are positive, but we would really have liked built-in calendar management and a Web interface. The latter can be done with a third party product, however.

Not surprisingly, first place goes to Mdaemon. A program that has most of what you could want, for a price that is hard to beat. The cliché that this is a system that you can grow with is actually true in this case.



Plenty of functionality. Mdaemon contains most of the functionality required.

	IMAP4	POP3	Web interface	Built-in calendar feature	Built-in public/internal e-mail list handling	E-mail forwarding disabled at installation	Built-in support for ORDB, etc.
Microsoft Exchange Server 2000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No***
Red Hat Linux 7.3 with Sendmail	Yes	Yes	*	No	No	Yes	Yes
Quickmail Pro Server	Yes	Yes	*	No	Yes	Yes	No
Novell Netmail XE 3.1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lotus Notes/Domino 6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, internal	Yes	No**
Mdaemon 6.7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Only with third party add-on

** Free third party support available, but unclear if it supports Domino version 6.

*** Support available via third party products.

POSITION	1 Mdaemon	3 Red Hat Linux 7.3 med Sendmail	5 Novell Netmail XE
	2 Quickmail Pro	4 Lotus Domino	6 Microsoft Exchange