Exchange 2007 – Outlook Web Access

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Abstract

In this article I will show you how to enable Outlook Web Access with forms based authentication in Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2.

Let's begin

Exchange Server 2007 is currently in Beta 2 status but the Outlook Web Access functionality is nearly featured complete I think. There are so many improved and new features in Exchange Server 2007 and Outlook Web Access.

New features in Outlook Web Access 2007 enable users to:

- Schedule Out of Office messages and send to internal and/or external recipients
- Use the Scheduling Assistant to efficiently book meetings
- Access SharePoint documents without a VPN or tunnel using LinkAccess
- Use WebReady Document Viewing to read attachments in HTML even if the application that created the document is not installed locally
- Access RSS subscriptions
- View content in Managed E-mail Folders
- Retrieve voice mail or fax messages through Unified Messaging integration
- Search the Global Address List

Outlook Web Access 2007 security is improved. Two-factor authentication is supported, and administrators can enforce HTML-only document viewing to avoid information being left behind on public kiosks.

Outlook Web Access Light

Outlook Web Access Light provides a rich Outlook Web Access experience over slow connections and enables many of the new features in Outlook Web Access 2007, including schedulable Out of Office messages (internal and external), Really Simple Syndication (RSS) subscriptions, and Managed E-Mail Folder access. You must use Outlook Web Access Light if you are not using Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.x or higher.

On Exchange Server site

We must start our configuration on Exchange Server site. Start the Exchange Management Console (EMC) navigate to the Server configuration container, select the Client Access role and select the new OWA directory. The OWA directory is new to Exchange Server 2007 and will be used by OWA clients when they access Exchange Server 2007. If you would like to enable OWA forms based authentication you must select OWA forms based authentication instead of the classic OWA logon page.



Figure 1: Enable OWA Forms Based Authentication

It is now possible to use different predefined Logon Formats. If you want to use only usernames for logon, select the Option *User name only*.

Segmentation

OWA 2007 has a new feature to do some Outlook Web Access segmentation. With OWA segmentation it is possible to disable or enable some Outlook Web Access features global for all users. This is nearly the same feature set that the wonderful Outlook Web Access Administration tool from the Exchange tools websites provided.

change (Default We	b Site) Properties			3
Public Computer File A General	ccess Private Com Authenticati	puter File Acci	ess Remo Segme	te File Servers entation
Select the features th users on this virtual o	nat you want to enable lirectory.	e or disable for	Outlook We	b Access
💽 Enable 🕓 Disa	ible			
Feature			Status	<u> </u>
Exchange Activ	eSync Integration		Enabled	
All Address List:	3		Enabled	
Calendar			Enabled	
Contacts			Enabled	
Journal			Disabled	
Junk E-mail Filte	ering		Enabled	
Reminders and	Notifications		Enabled	
Notes			Enabled	
Premium Client			Enabled	
Description If Journal is set to En Access.	abled, the Journal fold	ler will be visib	le in Outlook	Web
	OK Ca	ancel	Apply	Help

Figure 2: OWA Segmentation

Public / private File access

OWA in Exchange Server 2007 has a new feature called Direct File Access. With Direct File Access it is possible to open files on Windows shares or files on Windows Sharepoint services through Outlook Web Access. It is possible to configure file access and viewing options for the private and public computer section when OWA users log on.

Exchange (Default Web Site) Properties
General Authentication Segmentation Public Computer File Access Private Computer File Access Remote File Servers
Configure file access and viewing options if the user selects the private computer option when they log on
Direct file access
Enable direct file access
Customize direct file access:
WebReady Document Viewing
 Enable WebReady Document Viewing Force WebReady Document Viewing first
Specify supported document types: <u>Supported</u>
Access files from the following locations on remote file servers:
✓ Windows SharePoint Services
OK Cancel <u>A</u> pply Help

Figure 3: Private Computer access settings

For additional security administrators can specify host names that are allowed or denied for access. You must also configure the allowed DNS suffixes that should be treated as internal.

Exchange (Default We	b Site) Prop	erties		2
General Public Computer File Ad	Auth cess Priva	entication te Computer File	Access F	egmentation Remote File Servers
Block List Specify the host nam access. The block lis	es of servers fr t takes preced	rom which clients lence over the al	are denied low list.	<u>B</u> lock
Allow List Specify the host nam to access files.	es of servers fr	rom which clients	are allowed	Allow
Unknown Servers — <u>S</u> pecify how to acces in the Block list and A	s files from ren llow list:	note file servers t	hat are not	Allow
Enter the domain suff Only internal WS Access feature. In their fully qualified internal suffixes.	ixes that shoul 6 and UNC sei nternal servers 1 domain name	d be treated as in rvers may be acc must be specifie s (FQDNs) matcl	nternal: :essed via th :d by host na h one of the	<u>C</u> onfigure le Remote File ame, or have specified
	ОК	Cancel	Apply	Help

Figure 4: Specify Remote File Servers

On IIS site

Next we must issue a certificate from an internal CA or a commercial CA for the Default Web Site. After issuing the certificate, navigate to the OWA directory – go to the Directory Security tab and enable SSL and 128-bit encryption as you can see in the following figure.



Figure 5: Require SSL and 128 Bit encryption

Test the Client Connection

After successfully configuring Exchange Server 2007 you can test the connection from one of your clients. For this article the client is a Windows XP Service Pack 2 machine. Enter the URL https://servername/owa in your browser and you will see the following Logon mask.

Security (<mark>s</mark> h	now explanation)	
۲	This is a public or shared computer	
0	This is a private computer	
	Use Outlook Web Access Light	
User name:	administrator	
Password:	••••••	
		Log Op

Figure 6: Log on to Outlook Web Access

If it is your first time you open OWA on that PC, you will have the chance to change the OWA language and the Time Zone settings. This is different from OWA in Exchange Server 2003 where the Browser language determines the language of OWA.

C O	ffice Outlook Web Access
If you have can select th subsequent on the Optic	low vision and use a screen reader or high contrast settings, you he check box below to optimize Outlook Web Access for this and all sessions. After you log on, you can modify this choice at any time Ins page.
	Use the blind and low vision experience
Language: Current time	English (United States)
Language: Current time (GMT+01:0	English (United States)
Language: Current time (GMT+01:0	English (United States) e zone: 10) Amsterdam, Berlin, Bern, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna OK cted to Microsoft Exchange

Figure 7: Select Language and Time zone settings

Now you are ready to work with OWA. As you can see in the following figure, the OWA look and feel has dramatically changed and there are now dozens of more settings for OWA customization.



Figure 8: OWA 2007

Conclusion

Exchange Server 2007 is a great product with several new functions. The changes in Outlook Web Access (OWA) are significantly. From the option to specify the language of Outlook Web Access during OWA logon to the option to specify different Out of Office messages for internal and external users to the option to block some file type from access through OWA.

Related Links

Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2 Technical Library http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/exchange/2007/library/default.mspx Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2 Product Overview http://www.microsoft.com/exchange/preview/evaluation/overview.mspx