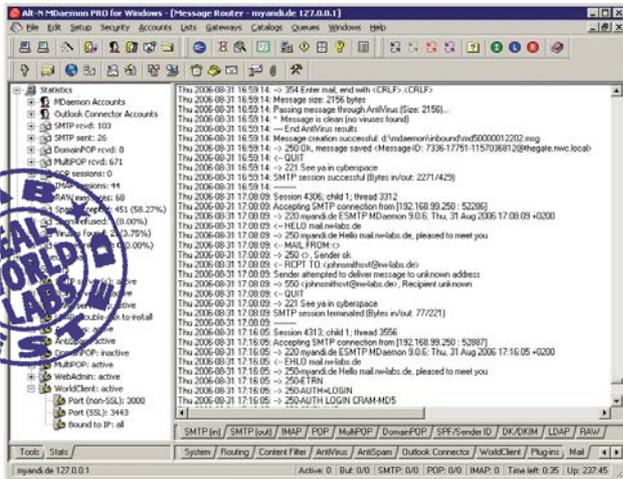


Mailman with a diploma

Long-term test MDAemon Mail Server – Many new protocol expansions and safety features are designed to protect email recipients from trash and attacks. MDAemon knows them all.



The Windows Mail server from Alt-N Technologies is often praised as an economical variation of Exchange or Lotus Domino.

But that comparison doesn't quite work because, for one thing, MDAemon handles SMTP functions that Exchange administrators can only dream of. Instead, it has weaknesses in mail storage.

In version 9.0.6, Alt-N has implemented all conventional security features existing for Internet mail dispatching. All standard protocols such as POP3, IMAP and SMTP can be used with SSL encryption. On top of that, MDAemon recognizes all current authentication functions. The SMTP module masters diverse techniques to block spam and mail attacks, such as »dynamic IP-Screening«, »Greylisting«, »Senderbase« and »Tarpitting«. Thanks to powerful SMTP features, MDAemon is suitable as an active mail filter between the firewall and an existing mail server with Notes or Exchange. Highly detailed logging functions help administrators detect problems in the mail flow. The software writes the complete log handshake in the logbook for every mail transmitted. Moreover, MDAemon implements the free spam filter, Spam-Assassin, and has an optional virus scanner.

The application administers local users either in an independent user file, via ODBC in a database, or via an LDAP directory. Since version 9, MDAemon can also monitor an active directory. If the administrator adds new users to the list, MDAemon automatically creates a suitable mail account. A webmail front-end supplies various HTML themes, which also ensure a high degree of clarity in the browser. Special themes are

suitable for Smartphones and PDA's. MDAemon can align data with PIM's via Sync-ML. Users can employ mutual directories through IMAP. A separately available Outlook plug-in compares the calendar and address books with the mail server. That means workgroups, mutual calendars, address books and to-do lists can be administered.

The CMP-Weka-Verlag has been using MDAemon for quite a long time at four points simultaneously.

The productive publishing network uses two machines as SMTP gateways between the firewall and the Lotus-Domino and Exchange mail servers. A third mail server sends newsletters and mailings. Real-Worl Labs uses an MDAemon server for diverse laboratory accounts and almost all the tests that have anything to do with email. The extensive log files are a great help here. Over a

course of time, Network Computing has been operating the mail system problem free on Windows NT4, 2000, XP and 2003 servers.

MDAemon secures each mail in its own msg file inside the file system. This mail gate does not require any special backup package. In the Real-World Labs Poing, a time controlled batch file with a single Xcopy command suffices for the backup. The msg format contains the Mime-coded raw form of the message exactly as it was transmitted over the Internet. Mail programs like Outlook or Thunderbird can create msg files.

That makes backing up easier and helps in quickly finding lost or mistakenly deleted mails. On the other hand, that creates a large security risk. Every user

who gains access to the file system in the Windows mail server or a backup server can read all users' mails in plaintext. Alt-N should consider integrating an optional cryptography module here.

The bottom line: MDAemon is very well suited as a standalone mail server for small and medium size companies. To do that, the mail administrator should be quite well versed with the current email features because otherwise he won't understand the vast amount of dialogues in the MDAemon administrator. But Alt-N is really trying hard to solidly document the options. For large companies, MDAemon can act as the SMTP gateway to keep out undesired mails and to block SMTP attacks.

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PROFILE

MDAemon 9

Manufacturer: Alt-N Technologies
Exclusive sales agent D/A/CH:
Exelsis

Characteristics: Windows Mailserver

Price (each including 2 year update service):
Standard version, 12 users: 320 Euros
Pro version, 50 users, 1000 Euros
Antivirus module, 50 users, 500 Euros
Outlook connector, 50 users, 600 Euros

Web: www.mdaemon.de and
http://exelsis.com/mdaemon/index.cfm

Plus/Minus::

- + Masters all mail protocols, even with SS
- + Very good SMTP security features and defense mechanisms
- + Easy administration, well documented dialogues
- Mail gate in plain text