

Foreword

I think it's a fairly obvious statement to say that Exchange 2000 is vastly different to any previous version. The sheer amount of new features and capabilities provided by Exchange 2000 will undoubtedly lead to the quest for the knowledge required to successfully deploy and support the product.

As someone who has been involved in designing, implementing, and supporting Microsoft Exchange server systems since the product was first released, I can safely say that having the right information available is of paramount importance. And that's where *Configuring Exchange 2000 Server* comes in. This is not a book for beginners; it's a book for experienced Windows NT administrators who are either upgrading from an existing Exchange 5.5 environment, or who are deploying Exchange 2000 as their first messaging system. It's a book written by authors who are not theorists—each and every author is actively working with Exchange, giving you practical information gained from experience in the field. Simply, it's a book for those of us responsible for designing, deploying, and supporting a reliable and scalable Exchange 2000 messaging system.

Exchange has come a long way since version 4.0 first made its appearance in 1996, when the main focus of the product was migrating from Microsoft Mail. In early 1997, Exchange Server 5.0 embraced the Internet protocols, such as Post Office Protocol v3 (POP3) and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the latter forming the basis for the introduction of Outlook Web Access (OWA). Then, in late 1997, Exchange Server 5.5 was released, giving significantly increased performance and scalability.