

Zarafa 5 Features & Changes



Zarafa 5.00 is a leap forward for users wanting to enjoy both a feature-rich web client and the full functionality of Outlook. Zarafa 5.00 also brings various smaller features including performance increases and additional functionality in Outlook. Here is an overview of what's new in zarafa 5.00:

Major features:

Ajax-based webaccess

Zarafa 5.00 brings the totally new ajax-based WebAccess allowing for a richer WebAccess experience. With features like right-click context menu's and drag-and-drop support for messages, the user can work even more effectively through Zarafa's WebAccess. The 'classic' (non-ajax) webaccess is still supported and delivered though, and can be installed seperately.

Native Free/Busy support

Both Zarafa's new Ajax-based WebAccess and Outlook can use the native free/busy support in Outlook from Zarafa 5.00. This means that no extra settings have to be made in Outlook to support free/busy viewing and publishing.

Mobile webaccess

A low-bandwidth webaccess is bundled with Zarafa 5.00 allowing users of PDA's and other low-power or low-bandwidth appliances to read, create and send e-mail. The mobile webaccess also allows users to view and modify their calendar and other items. Based on standard HTML and only basic javascript, the only requirement for this webaccess is a HTML-based browser and an internet connection. Due to the low bandwidth requirement, the mobile webaccess is usable over GSM, GPRS, UMTS or WiFi based networks.

Store-Id SQL backend

This performance update improves performance on server with more than 50 users. This is accomplished by organising the database data in a more efficient way, effectively grouping data on the disk so that data that is often retrieved simultaneously can be retrieved more quickly and with less disk accesses. The effect is seen most in highly concurrent setups with databases from 30 Gb and up). The change in database setup does require a database reorganisation on upgrade, which can take up to several hours to complete.

64 bit server support and several new Linux distributions

Zarafa 5.00 is now built for several new 64 and 32-bit Linux distributions, including RedHat Enterprise 4 64-bits, SuSE10.1 / SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 (32- and 64-bits), Fedora Core 5 (32- and 64-bits).

Minor features:

Mail delivery

- DAgent: Folder (name) delivery - deliver mail to a specific folder instead of Inbox
- DAgent: Public delivery - deliver mail to a public folder

User and Server management

- PAM user backend support - uses /etc/passwd and /etc/group for the users
- New zarafa-passwd commandline utility - allows users to modify their own password
- Added configurable session timeout - allows higher timeouts for e.g. laptops which hibernate
- Daemonize support for all server
- More logging in zarafa-spooler

PHP

- PHP-EXT now has more support functions
- Updated documentation

Outlook

- Read Receipts support in OL - both sending and receiving read receipt notifications
- Zarafa LiveSync is bundled
- Added support for sending actual RTF e-mails through winmail.dat (MS-TNEF)
- New out-of-office module for within Outlook - same as in the Webaccess
- The 'File' menu's 'Open shared folders' function now functions
- The 'Open a shared calendar' feature of Outlook 2003 now works correctly
- Private items are not shown to other users in Outlook - in the calendar only the time used is show
- When replying a message of a different user, the 'From' is automatically filled in with that user's e-mail address
- The free/busy system shows the actual item subject and location when you can access that specific user's calendar
- Sending meeting requests for another user's calendar is now possible

Networking

- GZIP/SSL protocol support for zarafa-server
- Dagent / Spooler on remote server support

Please note that you are recommended to upgrade both your server and your clients to Zarafa 5.00, although it is also possible only to upgrade the server. However, many of the new functions mentioned above will only be available when the user is running both the 5.00 server and the 5.00 client.