

Novell Continues to Improve GroupWise

The latest version of GroupWise, Novell's collaboration software, features better productivity, security and openness. However, large extended enterprises may need additional Novell e-workplace products to meet their needs.

Event: On 13 November 2002, Novell announced GroupWise 6.5, the next version of its collaboration software. Novell plans to make GroupWise 6.5 available in 1Q03 although a beta is available now (<http://beta.novell.com>).

First Take: This announcement demonstrates Novell's commitment to the GroupWise product as a key component of its Nterprise product line. In addition to adding features to GroupWise, Novell has agreements with 25 partners for still more functions and has made the product more open to non-Novell platforms.

GroupWise 6.5 focuses on productivity and protection. Productivity enhancements to the GroupWise client makes it feature-rich. In addition, GroupWise provides full support for the Outlook client and a more efficient Web interface. GroupWise 6.5 also includes integrated instant messaging (IM), GroupWise Messenger, which will use eDirectory for identity management to secure IM within the walls of the enterprise. This first release of the IM client will not interoperate natively or through an IM gateway with consumer IM applications such as AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Messenger and MSN Messenger. GroupWise's new security features include some antispam tools at the enterprise boundary and individual user's level. Administrators can create a block list for specific e-mail addresses or entire domains at the GroupWise Internet Agent. Individual users can create their own junk mail filter, which provides some desktop tools to make their preferences. Partners such as Beginfinite (with its Gwava product) and Messaging Architects also provide more complete spam protection solutions for GroupWise.

With this release, Novell has made great strides in increasing the number and quality of its partnerships. Third-party products add connection to Blackberry and most other handheld devices. These partnerships extend the reach of the product, provide new sales channels and continue to expand GroupWise beyond the confines of Novell's NetWare environment. GroupWise fully supports both Windows and NetWare.

In addition to GroupWise, large extended enterprises may also wish to evaluate Novell's NetMail, a standards-based e-mail offering for those needing only basic e-mail features but greater scalability across Linux, Solaris, Windows and NetWare environments. Additional Novell components for managing software on the desktop and handheld devices — that is, Zenworks — can create large environments with low management costs.

Analytical Sources: Joyce Graff and Maurene Grey, Gartner Research

Recommended Reading and Related Research

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- “Novell’s GroupWise and Its Future: Cautiously Optimistic” — For new implementations or for extending service deeper into the enterprise, potential buyers should look first at Novell’s next-generation products to create the solutions they require. **By Joyce Graff and Maurene Grey**
- “Novell: The Pain of Rebirth” — Novell needs to convince the rest of the market that it can create, market and support products that more easily integrate with non-Novell technology than they do today, and without the need for mandatory consulting services. **By John Enck and others**

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