MDaemon Versions
Comparing Standard and Pro

Contents

Abstract

While email users seldom know or care about server software, they are concerned about what email can do for them. At one time, providing feature-rich email to users on a Windows platform meant deploying expensive applications from one of the large software companies, or so it was thought. Now, both amateur and professional email administrators are finding MDaemon to be a powerful, versatile and cost-aware email server. MDaemon comes in both Standard and Professional versions. MDaemon Standard provides security, performance and easy administration for POP3 and SMTP functions, plus a web application for email. Professional adds IMAP mailboxes, address book synchronization with Outlook, automatic web-enabled provisioning of users accounts, instant messaging and these additions to the web application: calendaring, group scheduling, message spell checking. This document highlights these and additional features of both MDaemon versions.

Why Go Pro?

A growing variety of small, medium and large enterprises use MDaemon to provide email services to their employees and customers. Businesses, charities, hospital and service provides can all deploy MDaemon to provide POP and IMAP services, plus its new calendaring and group scheduling functions. MDaemon is flexible, working well for six users or several thousand. It operates on dialup systems or on dedicated local and wide area networks. Some installations provide complete email service while others act as gateways to multiple corporate email servers. Supporting hardware could be a personal desktop computer running other business applications or a standalone server used exclusively for email.

Two Versions

MDaemon comes in two versions — Standard and Pro. MDaemon Standard offers basic email service build around an SMTP server for transmitting mail and a POP3 server for distributing messages to users. The professional version adds high-end features for the administrator and email subscriber.

Standard Version Summary

From the ground up, MDaemon Standard provides solid technical and economic performance in the essentials of email. For example, part of its target market — the small business — typically does not staff Information Technology personnel. Because of this, MDaemon is designed to run without fulltime professional support. In fact, in small applications, MDaemon can be installed, configured and almost forgotten. Usually, any person with an interest in computing can meet its minimal operation and maintenance needs. On the economic side, the scaling of the annual license fee makes financial sense, even for a business with six employees or less.

Despite its accommodating design, MDaemon Standard comes with a practical and serviceable set of features. These provide the user and the administrator with functions indispensable to secure and convenient emailing. These features fit into six primary categories:

Security

System Administration

User Amenities

Extensibility

Interoperability

Performance

Security

Security protects the Standard server and its users against multiple types of attacks. MDaemon provides security through tools to combat theft, abuse and unauthorized access to the server and its accounts. Security features include server-side content filtering, spam blocking, virus checking, account access restricting, relay controlling and email blocking by IP address, domain name or user name.

System Administration

Numerous Standard features ease the configuration, operations and maintenance of an MDaemon installation. Administration tools help with functions such as setting up accounts, purging inactive accounts, configuring dial up access to remote SMTP servers, managing mailing lists and checking for software updates. Remote administration of the server is available through a traditional program or via a web application.

User Amenities

Improving user communications through innovative tools is the primary purpose of any email server. Built in to Standard MDaemon are facilities for setting up alias accounts, automatically responding to emails, accessing documents via email requests, managing participation in mailing lists and checking email through a web application. A web administration tool can allow users to set up and manage personal email accounts.

Extensibility

Extensibility for software consists of tools and access points for expanding and customizing an application. One practical application might be a billing system interface for enterprise or ISP accounting purposes. MDaemon Standard comes with a fully documented Application Programming Interface (API). Customer's with programming ability and interest can use the API to add features and functions to MDaemon. The API includes functions for access MDaemon's database, messages, accounts, domains, IMAP folders and gateways.

Interoperability

Interoperability is the capability of software to communicate with other commercial and open source software packages. The Standard version of MDaemon has the ability to periodically connect to an ISP's server to collect and send email. It can do this through the DomainPOP, On-Demand Mail Relay and Remote Queue Processing Declaration. Of course, customized interoperability can be programmed with the MDaemon API.

Performance

MDaemon Standard performs well as a full email server running the SMTP and POP3 protocols. It can also function as a high performance gateway for a corporate email system running additional email servers. MDaemon effectively handles up to several thousand accounts. One customer supports more than 11,000 low-volume users. Standard performance features include configuration caching and enhanced multi-POP settings.

Professional Version Summary

Professional MDaemon encompasses all of the Standard features plus:

> some more administrative functions
>
> several interoperability extensions
>
> one performance factor
>
> umpteen additional user amenities

In practice, all of the Professional additions either provide functions for the email user or ease the job of the system administrator. There is, of course, some overlap as some features benefit everyone involved with the email product. Also, because of its reasonable pricing structure, MDaemon Professional is within the reach of any small, medium or large enterprise wanting high-end features, modest costs or both.

Umpteen User Amenities

The individual user is the most important person to consider when adding features. Remove the individual from the server and there is little if any need for the service. Because of this, the majority of Professional features support additional amenities for the email user, whether an employee, guest or customer.

One of the top Professional features is the Internet Message Access Protocol or IMAP. IMAP, an internet standard, was designed to store email on the server. The user stays connected to one or more email servers while reading, creating and organizing messages. Because email is on the server, the user can access it from any computer with an IMAP-enabled client, which includes all of the popular email applications. IMAP also enables the creation of public folders with either group or individual status flags for each message.

In addition to IMAP, Professional features supporting the individual user include:

> calendaring and group scheduling
>
> address book synchronization with Outlook or Outlook Express.
>
> automatic creation of new email for the user.
>
> integration of InsightConnector™, an Outlook feature plug in from Bynari.
>
> instant messaging
>
> multiple languages and themes, plus spell checking for the WorldClient web application.
>
> server-side mail filtering

More Administrative Functions

Administrative speaking, MDaemon provides a multitude of configuration capabilities. The server can be totally under the control of the administrator or provisioning tasks can be shared with selected or all users.

Professional features include:

> server-side filtering of mail in IMAP mailboxes
>
> automatic gateway creation
>
> custom mail queue support
>
> multiple domain support

Interoperability Extensions

Two of MDaemon Pro's user amenities are also interoperability features. These are Automatic Address Book Synchronization and the InsightConnector™

In addition to these, MDaemon Pro supports the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) for use as an address book. LDaemon, Alt-N's implementation of LDAP, must be installed for Address Book Synchronization to operate.

Performance Factor

LDaemon's LDAP implementation can also improve system performance, especially on large installation where multiple servers can share one LDAP address book. LDAP is optimized for applications such as email address books.

Conclusion

Both MDaemon Standard and MDaemon Pro offer a secure email system with the ability to easily manage accounts. MDaemon's features and performance have been favorably compared with the email servers available from the world's largest software companies.

In its standard version, MDaemon provides solid and secure POP3 and SMTPservices. It also provides a web-based email.

LDAP Pro, adds IMAP support, address book synchronization, calendaring, and group scheduling, plus many more user amenities and administrative enhancements.

Features & Functions Lists

About the Lists

These lists show features by category. For example, *Account User Features* is a category. A feature of that category is *Auto Responder*. In some cases a feature is cross-listed in two or more categories. If taken to the extreme, cross-referencing could place each feature into three or four categories. To avoid this confusion, cross-listing is used only for clarity and emphasis. Features in **bold** are new to MDaemon Version 6.0

Extensibility[1] Features

Extensibility Features	STD	PRO
API	X	X

Interoperability[2] Features

Interoperability Features	STD	PRO
Automatic Address Book Synchronization		X
On-Demand Mail Relay (ODMR)	X	X
DomainPOP	X	X
InsightConnector		X
LDAP Support		X

Performance Features

Performance Features	STD	PRO
Configuration Caching	X	X
Enhanced MultiPOP settings	X	X
LDAP Support		X

Security Features

Security Features	STD	PRO
Account Restrictions	X	X
Authentication Support (APOP, CRAM-MD , LOGIN)	X	X
Content Filter	X	X

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[1] The ability to be enlarged by customized programming by a vendor or customer.

[2] The ability to work with other software from other vendors and open source.

Security Features	STD	PRO
DKAV	X	X
Enhanced Spam Blocking	X	X
IP Screening	X	X
IP Shielding	X	X
POP Before SMTP	X	X
RelayControl	X	X
Reverse Lookup Verification	X	X
Spam Blocker	X	X
Suppression Lists	X	X

System Administration Features

System Administration Features	STD	PRO
Account Editor	X	X
Account Restrictions	X	X
Account Templates	X	X
Automatic Gateway Creation		X
Content Filter	X	X
Custom Mail Queue Support		X
Dialup Control	X	X
Domain Gateways	X	X
DomainPOP	X	X
Header Translation	X	X
Improved List Subscribe/Unsubscribe	X	X
Inactive Account and Old Mail Purging	X	X
Increased Download Control with DomainPOP	X	X
List Pruning	X	X
Mailing Lists	X	X
MD Stats	X	X
MDaemon Plus Pack	X	X
MDConfig	X	X
Multiple Domain Support		X
NT Account Integration	X	X
On-Demand Mail Relay (ODMR)	X	X
Quota System Enhancements	X	X
Server-Side Mail Filtering		X
Smart Mail Spooling	X	X
Smarter Smart Spooling	X	X
SMS Gateway Support	X	X
System Tray Icons	X	X

System Administration Features	STD	PRO
Update Checker	X	X
WebAdmin	X	X
WorldClient Runs Under IIS	X	X

User Amenities

User Amenity Features	STD	PRO
Aliasing System	X	X
Auto Responder	X	X
Automatic Account Creation via WorldClient		X
Calendar / Scheduling		X
Catalogs	X	X
ComAgent	X	X
Content Filter	X	X
IMAP		X
Improved List Subscribe/Unsubscribe	X	X
Improved Public IMAP Folders		X
InsightConnector™		X
Instant Messaging		X
Mailing Lists	X	X
Multiple Language Support for WorldClient		X
Multiple WorldClient Themes		X
MultiPOP	X	X
Priority Mail	X	X
Public Folder per User Flags		X
Public Folders		X
Server-Side Mail Filtering		X
SMS Gateway Support	X	X
WebAdmin	X	X
WorldClient Spell Checker		X
WorldClient	X	X

Features & Functions Descriptions

About the Descriptions

The descriptions are brief. They are in alphabetical order to make them easy to cross reference with the *Features and Functions Lists*.

Account Editor

The Account Editor is used to create and edit accounts. It shows all accounts or accounts by domain. It includes an account search function.

Account Restrictions

Account Restrictions enable and prevent the ability to send and receive messages. There are controls for internal, external, domain specific and address specific restrictions. For example, an account may be limited to internal mail only, plus one external address. There is no limit to the configurations.

Account Templates

Account Templates contain default values for all user accounts. The templates can be set up using variables (macros) such as $FIRSTINITIAL$ and $USERLASTNAME$. These examples, when put together -- $FIRSTINITIAL$$USERLASTNAME$ -- for account creation cause the first initial and the last name to become the email account name. This automation greatly simplifies new account management.

Aliasing System

Aliasing System provides the ability to route to a valid mailbox all email addressed to fictitious addresses. This makes it possible for individual accounts and lists to have multiple email addresses at one or more domains.

API

API, application programmable interface, allows the creation of custom programs to interact with MDaemon. All of the programs that can be used to access MDaemon's account management system do so via the mduser.dll file that can be found in the MDaemon\app directory.

Authentication Support (APOP, CRAM-MD5, LOGIN)

With Authentication Support, MDaemon can be configured to require incoming connections to use a secure form of authentication.

Auto Responder

Auto Responders automatically send a file or message back to an email address. This can be used to notify people that a user is out of the office, on vacation or whatever.

Automatic Account Creation via WorldClient — Pro

Automatic Account Creation via WorldClient allows new users to create their own account via a WorldClient web page.

Automatic Address Book Synchronization — Pro — New

ComAgent works with LDaemon, Alt-N's LDAP Server, to synchronize addresses with Outlook and Outlook Express address books.

Automatic Gateway Creation — Pro

Automatic Gateway Creation enables automatic Domain Gateway creation. The spawning happens when an outside source attempts to deliver a previously unknown domain's messages to MDaemon and when a DNS query lists MDaemon's location as a valid MX record. This feature makes MDaemon a backup server for another domain by simply configuring the DNS system to use your IP as an alternate MX host.

Calendar / Scheduling — Pro — New

WorldClient has been enhanced with a complete system for scheduling public and private appointments, meetings and memos. It includes an import and export function and uses the iCalendar standard.

Catalogs

Catalogs give users the ability to request files via email and have them mailed back to them. To setup a catalog, the administrator assigns "magic names" to files. Magic names work like aliases which point to a specific file located somewhere accessible to MDaemon.

ComAgent — New

ComAgent, a task bar application for the user's desktop, is included free with MDaemon. It provides Instant Messaging, address book synchronization, and easy access to email. Users can download the ComAgent installer preconfigured for their account. They download from their MDaemon server via a WorldClient options page.

Configuration Caching — New

MDaemon now uses a caching system for the settings found in many of the configuration files. This system improves MDaemon's performance.

Content Filter

The Content Filter can be used for blocking spam, intercepting virus-infected messages, redistributing emails to additional users, appending a note or disclaimer to the bottom of messages and lots of other things. The user interface is very easy, but the user must understand programming logic.

Custom Mail Queue Support — Pro

Custom Mail Queue Support allows the creation of custom local and remote mail queues. Using these, MDaemon can monitor several locations from which to send mail. A queue can be temporary, which means it will be used once, at the next scheduled mail processing interval, then removed.

Dialup Control

Dialup Control allows MDaemon to be configured to dialup to the internet at scheduled times. Dialup Control can tell MDaemon which domain's mail should be delivered without a connection to the internet.

DKAV

DKAV is an antivirus plug-in designed specifically to work with MDaemon. DKAV scans all inbound and outbound email messages and attachments for malicious viruses and worms. DKAV is powered by Kaspersky Labs. When DKAV is installed you will see two additional configuration tabs on the Content Filter dialog.

Domain Gateways

Domain Gateways allow MDaemon to provide limited but useful secondary hosting of multiple domains. When a message arrives for a gateway domain, it is separated from the main mail stream and delivered to a specified directory. MDaemon can then be configured to forward the mail via SMTP, setup the gateway as a POP account, or accept ETRN or ATRN connections.

DomainPOP

DomainPOP allows you to configure MDaemon to download mail from a remote POP mailbox for redistribution to your users. This allows a server with limited traffic to periodically connect to an ISP's server to collect and send mail.

Enhanced MultiPOP Settings — New

MDaemon can now collect MultiPOP mail 'dynamically'. MultiPOP mail for a particular user is collected the next time the user checks his local MDaemon mailbox either via POP, IMAP or WorldClient. In this way, mail is only collected for users who are checking for it.

Enhanced Spam Blocking — New

MDaemon can now optionally check the IP addresses found in all the 'Received' headers within SMTP and DomainPOP mail. Sometimes spammers relay a spam through your ISP. When this occurs Spam Blocker can be fooled because your ISP is usually not a spam originator. With this new option, all IPs in the message route are checked. If one is found to be from a known spam source, the message can handled as spam.

Header Translation

Header Translation can selectively find and replace any text found within any header or all headers. This is used with a message going to an external destination.

Improved List Subscribe/Unsubscribe — New

Improved List Subscribe/Unsubscribe allows users to subscribe and unsubscribe to mailing lists by simply sending an email to a specific address.

Improved Public IMAP Folders — Pro — New

The IMAP Public Folder system gives more access control options. User can now be given no access, read access, read/write access, read/write/expunge access, or read/write/expunge/create access.

Inactive Account and Old Mail Purging

Inactive Account and Old Mail Purging disables unused accounts and old mail after a specified time. These features are account specific and domain specific.

Increased Download Control with DomainPOP

Increased Download Control instructs MDaemon to download the smallest messages first during a DomainPOP session. Otherwise messages would be downloaded in the order they were received in the mailbox.

InsightConnector — Pro — New

InsightConnector allows Outlook to function on more robust and reasonably priced servers. It can turn an IMAP server into a full platform that lets Outlook share data through both individual mailbox folders and public folders. It enhances IMAP mail accounts by allowing them to handle all types of Outlook items, not just messages and posts. Insight is a third-party plug in from Bynari. Information is available from http://www.bynari.net/

Instant Messaging — Pro — New

A simple instant messaging system has been added as part of ComAgent. With this system, MDaemon users can communicate instantly with each other.

Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) — Pro

Internet Message Access Protocol, Version 4, (IMAP4) is a client/server protocol in which e-mail is received, stored, viewed and processed while it stays on the server. The user can create and manipulate folders or mailboxes on the server. MDaemon has a white paper comparing POP and IMAP.

IP Screening

IP Screening enables blocking of specific IP addresses. No connections to the email server are permitted from the banned addresses.

IP Shielding

IP Shielding is a collection of domain names and corresponding IP addresses used to verify that the domain is from a specific IP address. If the domain and IP address don't match, MDaemon rejects the mail. This prevents spammers and others from masquerading aslocal accounts.

LDAP Support — Pro

MDaemon can be configured to use an LDAP server (LDaemon) for its address book. Multiple servers can use a single LDAP address book. LDAP can be used as a mirror for MDaemon's built-in address. In this case it contains only email account information. It can also be used as a complete contact book with addresses, phone numbers and so on. LDAP is required for address synchronization with Outlook and Outlook Express. Alt-N has a white paper on address synchronization and LDAP.

List Pruning

List Pruning can automatically remove email addresses from mailing list memberships. This works best if a mailing list automatically saves bounce notifications. These contain the addresses of members who cannot be reached.

Mailing Lists

Mailing Lists, sometimes called Email Groups or Distribution Lists, allow groups of users to be addressed as if they shared a common mailbox. Copies of email messages sent to a list are distributed to each member. Lists can contain members with local or remote destination addresses. They can also be public or private and moderated or open. Members can receive individual mails or digests.

MDaemon Queue and Statistics Manager

The Queue and Statistics Manager is a utility that allows administrators to monitor MDaemon's message queues and user accounts plus view log files and generate reports.

MDaemon Plus Pack

MDaemon Plus Pack is a collection of administrative tools. It includes detailed scheduling for dialup, NT account synchronization and more.

MDConfig

MDConfig enables remote configuration for MDaemon. To do this, MDConfig connects a remote server and mimics its configuration. After an admin changes the configuration, MDConfig reestablishes contact with the remote server and uploads all the new alterations, which take effect immediately.

Multiple Domain Support — Pro

Multiple Domain Support allows you to host email for multiple domains on a single MDaemon server. With Multiple Domain Support you can host mail for all of the domains that you, or your company, own or manage, without having to setup, configure, and maintain multiple mail servers.

Multiple Language Support for WorldClient — Pro

Multiple Language Support for WorldClient allows each individual user to choose their language preference. This allows you to setup a single domain for email and support users who prefer different languages.

Multiple WorldClient Themes — Pro

The version of WorldClient shipped with MDaemon Pro, comes with several default designs. WorldClient also allows system administrators to create custom interfaces. This requires some HTML experience.

MultiPOP

MultiPOP makes it possible to collect email messages from any number of POP accounts on multiple servers and deposit them directly into the MDaemon user's mailbox.

NT Account Integration

NT Account Integration allows MDaemon to import account usernames and dynamically authenticate NT passwords directly from a Windows NT user database. This means the administrator will only have to maintain the NT account userlist and can have MDaemon synch with it.

On-Demand Mail Relay (ODMR)

ODMR support allows messages to be transferred between MDaemon and an ISP host securely and on demand. It is a replacement for the DomainPOP system. ODMR is superior because it does not require elaborate configuration or message parsing. It is 100 percent reliable because it preserves the SMTP envelope. ODMR is sometimes referred to as ATRN — authenticated TURN — which is one of its components. ODMR is not yet widely deployed by ISP's. It's somewhat less secure cousin, ETRN, is also supported by MDaemon.

POP Before SMTP

POP Before SMTP requires that users must check their local email box before MDaemon will allow them to send email. This ensures that only authorized people are sending mail through your MDaemon server.

POP3 & SMTP

POP3 & SMTP are the basic email protocols for receiving (POP3) and sending (SMTP) email. POP3 is an email protocol used to download messages from a mail server. SMTP is an email protocol used in sending and receiving e-mail. SMTP is typically used for sending messages from one email server to another and also to send email messages from an email client to a server.

Priority Mail

Priority Mail allows MDaemon to be configured to deliver immediately messages marked as high priority. MDaemon does this by checking for high priority headers in the email messages.

Public Folder per User Flags — Pro — New

IMAP public folders can now store flags on a per-user basis. With this option, each user has a unique set of flags for the items in public folders. Flags mark the status of a message, such a read, replied and so on.

Public Folders — Pro

Public folders are available to multiple IMAP users, unlike personal IMAP folders, which are typically only accessible by a single user. Public Folders can be setup with an access list assigning permissions.

Quota System Enhancements

Quotas sets the maximum size or number of messages in mailboxes. These can be set by domain or account. A message notifies senders and account holders of excesses.

RelayControl

RelayControl prevents un-authorized users, also known as spammers, from sending email through your mail server.

Remote Queue Processing Declaration (ETRN)

ETRN allows two SMTP hosts, a client and a server, to exchange messages on request. This is usually done through a intermittent connection, such as a dialup. , a ca client email server to contact a host email server and request the sending of messages for email account on the client. ETRN

Reverse Lookup Verification

Reverse Lookup Verification verifies the existence of a sending email server. If a lookup fails, the mail can treated as spam or a security threat.

Server-Side Mail Filtering for IMPA— Pro

Server side mail rules filter mail into mailboxes on a server. These can be set up by an administrator or user, depending on permission being granted.

Smart Mail Spooling

Smart Mail Spooling can consolidate multiple messages into one message to be delivered to multiple recipients on the same host. This is none by checking IP addresses of the recipients' mail servers and condensing the messages. This saves on disk space and bandwidth.

Smarter Smart Spooling — New

When MDaemon spools a single message to multiple recipients it will now continue sending messages even if one fails. Once all of the messages are sent, a summary of the failed messages are sent back to the original sender.

SMS Gateway Support

SMS Gateway Support allows MDaemon to be configured to route messages to a phone or pager via wireless providers. This is done via the content filter so the user can control the criteria for delivering messages to their phone or pager.

Spam Blocker

Spam Blocker allows MDaemon to be configured to check inbound email to see if the email has been either sent by or through an IP address known to be relaying spam. Mail from any so called blacklisted mail servers can be blocked.

Suppression Lists

Suppression Lists allow MDaemon's administrator to specify banned domains. No mail is accepted from these domains. Exceptions can apply.

System Tray Icons

Icons in the system tray or task bar notify the system administrator of failed dialup attempts, low disk space, no disk space, network connection down, and software updates.

Update Checker

The Update Checker checks to see if a new version of the software is available. If so, an email is sent to the postmaster account, detailing information about the new version, including its download location.

WebAdmin — New

WebAdmin is a free add-on program that allows web based remote configuration of MDaemon.

WorldClient

WorldClient is a web based email client that comes with MDaemon. WorldClient allows users to access their mail via a web browser. It can be used for viewing POP3 or IMAP4 mailboxes. It also has a web-based calendar.

WorldClient Spell Checker — Pro

WorldClient Spell Checker can be configured to automatically check all outbound mail for spelling errors. The Spell Checker comes with a default dictionary but also allows the user to add words to a private dictionary.

WorldClient Runs Under IIS — New

WorldClient can run as an ISAPI Extension under IIS instead of using its own built-in web server.