

Presenting Exchange Server 2016 & Exchange Online

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IT Pro Solutions

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Thank you for purchasing *Presenting Exchange*! I hope you find this book useful and helpful as you set out to work with Exchange Server 2016 and Exchange Online.

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1. Introducing Exchange 2016

Before getting to the specifics of working with Exchange 2016, take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the configuration options available. Microsoft Exchange is available in on-premises, online and hybrid implementations.

With an on-premises implementation, you deploy Exchange server hardware on your network and manage all aspects of the implementation. Here, you control the servers and determine which version of Exchange those servers will run. Exchange Server 2016 is the current version of Exchange, and was released in its original implementation in October 2015. Like other releases of Exchange, Exchange Server 2016 is updated periodically with software updates which may change or enhance the options available.

With an online implementation, you manage the service-level settings, organization configuration, and recipient configuration while relying on Microsoft for hardware and other services. Microsoft determines which version of Exchange those servers will run. Online implementations always use the most current release version of Exchange, which at present is Exchange Server 2016. As with any on-premises implementation, Microsoft's servers are updated periodically with software updates which may change or enhance the options available.

Although either an on-premises or online implementation can be your only solution for all your enterprise messaging needs, a hybrid implementation gives you an integrated online and on-premises solution. Here, your organization controls the on-premises servers and Microsoft controls the online servers. The on-premises servers and online servers can run the same, or different, versions of Exchange.

Understanding the various implementation scenarios will help you work through the rest of this book and will also help you navigate Exchange 2016 and its management options on your own. This chapter covers the basics. You'll learn about Exchange Admin Center and Exchange Management Shell, the essential tools for managing Exchange 2016.

As you get started with Exchange 2016, it's important to point out that with this version, Microsoft has completed the consolidation of server roles begun with Exchange 2013. Thus, Mailbox and Edge Transport are now the only server roles available. Mailbox servers now perform all messaging and client access tasks except for perimeter security, which can be handled by servers running the Edge Transport role.

2. Getting Started with Exchange Admin Center

Exchange Admin Center replaces Exchange Management Console and Exchange Control Panel (ECP) used in early releases of Exchange and there is no longer a separate graphical administration tool. Exchange Admin Center is a browser-based application designed for managing on-premises, online, and hybrid Exchange organizations.

For on-premises management, you access Exchange Admin Center through the Mailbox servers deployed in your Exchange organization. For online management, you access Exchange Admin Center through the Mailboxes servers hosted by Microsoft. Although the application can be configured with an internal access URL and a separate external access URL, only an internal access URL is configured by default in on-premises configurations. This means that by default you can access Exchange Admin Center only when you are on the corporate network.

Navigating Exchange Admin Center Options

After you log in to Exchange Admin Center, you'll see the list view with manageable features listed in the left pane, also called the Features pane (see Figure 1). When you select a feature in the Features pane, you'll then see the related topics or "tabs" for that feature. The manageable items for a selected topic or tab are displayed in the main area of the browser window. For example, when you select Recipients in the Features pane, the topics or tabs that you can work with are: Mailboxes, Groups, Resources, Contacts, Shared and Migration.

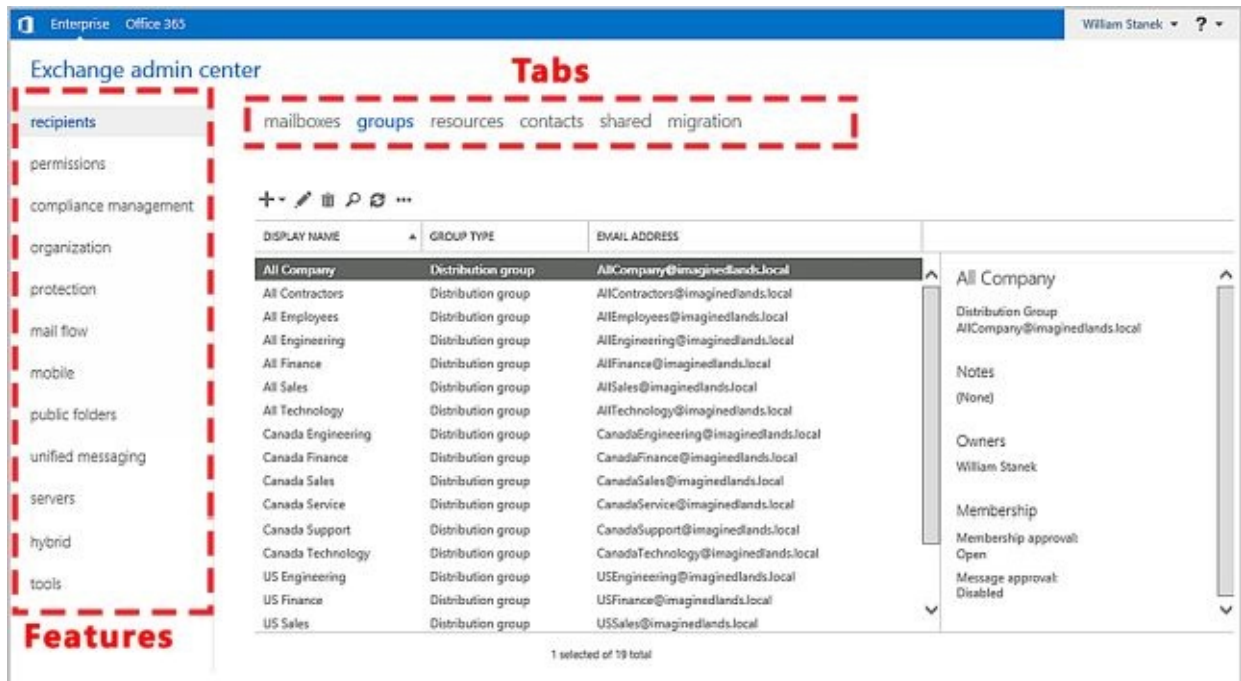


FIGURE 1 Exchange Admin Center features and tabs

As shown in Figure 2, the navigation bar at the top of the window has several important options. You use the Enterprise and Office 365 options for cross-premises navigation. If there are notifications, you'll see a Notification icon on the Navigation bar. Clicking this icon displays notifications, such as alerts regarding automated or batch processes. The User button shows the currently logged on user. Clicking the User button allows you to logout or sign in as another user.