

AV-Comparatives review of ESET Mail Security for MS Exchange Server

In April 2010, ESET has released a new product ESET Mail Security for MS Exchange Server. At ESET, we have a long track record of engineering products for high performance and stability. To test this commitment to our corporate users, ESET has contacted AV-Comparatives, industry-recognized independent testing organization to conduct a benchmark assessment of this newly released server product. AV-Comparatives has tested the e-mail sending capacity and the overall stress and performance of ESET's Mail Security solution using the parameters of a real office testing environment. The main reason for this test was to demonstrate to our customers that ESET security solutions can be relied on for stability and are able to perform well and handle the demands placed on them. These were marked by huge volumes of hardware and software resource-intensive situations. To simulate a real office environment, the testing was conducted on commonly used Exchange 2003 and Exchange 2010 Server models.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Product	ESET Mail Security provides optimal protection for mail servers, and combines all necessary features including the Anti-Virus & Anti-Spam protection of the e-mail server.
Installation	The installation and configuration follow ESET's familiar simple pattern. User interface is well designed, and the clear structure enables users to find their way around quickly and easily, even if they are not already familiar with ESET products. There is thus no absolute need for server administrators to look in a manual.
Detection	The malware detection and performance reach ESET's normal high standard, and the suite can be wholeheartedly recommended. The solution has exhibited very low false positive rate, which is under 0.5 % for personal e-mails.
Performance	The solution works well even on older hardware eliminating the need for upgrades. Even if there is system impact of approximately 20%, this can be disregarded, because it is very unusual to receive 60000 e-mails in a single blow.
Stability	There was no system crash and also no temporary freeze-ups during the whole test duration. The solution runs absolutely stable.

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TEST

Two types of tests were performed to measure the performance of ESET Mail Security for Microsoft Exchange on typical configurations. In both test types, 40 workstations and one server were used. See "Workstations Configuration" and "Windows Server Configuration" for hardware specifications.

1st TEST: E-MAIL SENDING

In the first test, e-mails were sent simultaneously using 40 clients, networked via a 1GB LAN connection in order to eliminate the effects of Internet latency. A total of 60.308 mixed e-mails were sent (comprising 60% Spam, 30% Ham, 10% Malware) from 40 workstations, averaging approximately 1500 e-mails per workstation.

	Exchange Server 2003 Microsoft Server 2003	Exchange Server 2010 Microsoft Server 2008 R2
Message Delivery Delay	21 %	22%
CPU Workload	1% to 5%	1% to 5%
RAM Usage	Increased by 1.56 GB	Increased by 0.8 GB

2nd TEST: SERVER STRESS AND PERFORMANCE TEST

An automated test procedure provided by Microsoft was used to simulate a huge count of several "most common" tasks to analyze how many tasks the system was able to complete in a specified time period. The test was not performed on real clients, it was only a simulation.

Once again, both Exchange Server 2003 and 2010 were tested. The test results showed that with ESET Mail Security installed, the task completion rate has decreased by 30 percent compared to clean configuration.

CONCLUSION

In both tests simulating typical configurations, ESET Mail Security for Microsoft Exchange exhibited excellent, stable performance. The results have shown very little impact of the tested solution on message delivery and system workload, making ESET Mail Security a security solution of choice of businesses large and small.

WORKSTATIONS CONFIGURATION:

- HP 7600 SFF
- Intel Pentium IV 2.8 GHz
- 1 GB Ram
- 40 GB SATA HDD
- DVD-RW

WINDOWS SERVER CONFIGURATION:

- HP ProLiant DL360G4, 2x Xeon HT 3.40 GHz
- 8GB, 1x36GB 10k Hotplug, DVD/CD-RW
- SmartArray 6i, 1x PS, 1U Rack