

Doc Hawk



DocHawk Server Exchange Connector



DocHawk Server, in combination with the DocHawk Server Exchange Connector, performs its processing of submissions through the use of an Exchange mailbox. WebDAV is an Exchange-provided application programming interface (API) which DocHawk Server uses in order to access an assigned mailbox on an Exchange Server. WebDAV has no association with Collaboration Data Objects (CDO), which assures that the installation of DocHawk Server will not interfere with any CDO-dependent services, such as Outlook, Exchange Server or the BlackBerry Enterprise Server. The two leading advantages of WebDAV are:

- WebDAV can be used to access a mailbox on a different computer securely.
- WebDAV requires only HTTP port connectivity between client and server. SSL support for WebDAV is also provided via the HTTPS interface, thus ensuring that all communications are secure.

WebDAV is quite different from CDO as that latter of which requires the use of ports which are generally considered unsafe. WebDAV requires only HTTP/HTTPS connectivity because the protocol itself is an extension of the HTTP protocol. When DocHawk Server accesses an Exchange mailbox via WebDAV, DocHawk Server sends a GET request to the mailbox's URL, which is available via HTTP or HTTPS. Since the Exchange 2000/2003 store was designed to provide access via WebDAV, each folder and message object has a unique URL that DocHawk Server can use for access.

DocHawk Server accepts settings which define how the Exchange mailbox should be accessed:

- the URL of the mailbox, generally in the form of `https://EXCHANGESERVER/exchange/MAILBOXNAME`
- any extraordinary port to use, if neither 80 nor 443 is to be used
- the mailbox's user name, which is usually the prefix before the e-mail address's @ sign
- the mailbox's password
- the name of the mailbox's affiliated domain, which is frequently blank, even in a typical Active Directory deployment environment

WebDAV, by default, is enabled on Exchange 2000/2003 as disabling it would seriously interfere with its core functionality; therefore, disabling WebDAV is rare. DocHawk Server utilizes this interface as it provides the smallest footprint and generally complies with typical firewall rules.

In conclusion, WebDAV is an excellent method for DocHawk Server to use to connect to an Exchange mailbox programmatically. Support for this protocol already comes with a typical Exchange Server deployment scenario, it is enabled by default, it commands minimal usage of system resources, its traffic can be encrypted, and it works. WebDAV suits DocHawk well since the intent of our technology is that no changes should be required in the infrastructure in order to deploy DocHawk.