

Microsoft Exchange Server in Outlook 2010

I noticed that I was receiving email on my mobile that I wasn't receiving on my desktop through Microsoft Office Outlook 2010 Pro. The last mail I had received was on the 9th of July. I searched high and low (for 2-3 days) and couldn't find the reason why. There just wasn't any useful explanation on why outlook.com emails weren't received in Outlook 2010.

I remembered some Microsoft emails way back in Feb. / Mar that was talking about not receiving emails after their server upgrade. This email stated that I delete the existing IMAP account and create a new Microsoft exchange account. That sounded easy enough. What I didn't do was to back up the old system and that's where all my problems started.

I had a beautiful automated system that worked with three POP3/SMTP accounts all embedded into one primary, plus five separate IMAP (one hotmail.com, one live.co.uk, two outlook.com and one gmail.com) accounts. The whole email system was controlled by approximately 360 rules that would move my emails into relevant folders depending on contents and where they came from.

I also had a fantastic task setup that would automatically create a new task when completing the old one.

This is what happened when I changed the first of the four Microsoft accounts to "Microsoft exchange server" my system was destroyed! The reconfiguring of that account merged itself into my primary account with the other POP3/SMTP accounts.

I could NOT uninstall it without uninstalling the perfectly good POP3 accounts. Not only did it not want to be uninstalled it also became the master of the group, and because it didn't have any rules and tasks, guess what; I lost the work I had created over the years, no rule, and no tasks. What a mess!

Thank you Microsoft another brilliant software manipulation! I also lost the use of my shared linked Hotmail calendar (again).

As you can see I have had a brilliant week trying to solve problems introduced by Microsoft converting (forcing) everybody to use Office365.

NO, NO, NO I am not going there! There is harvesting, and there is harvesting of user data; but sorry not with me!

So what was the solution with Outlook 2010? I have recreated everything (I hope) in Mozilla Thunderbird. The only outstanding topic is my tasks. I must admit that the task handling in Outlook 2010 was quite brilliant.

Again the calendar was a little tricky to get working as Microsoft doesn't permit Thunderbird to sync both ways with their calendar; but they do let Google sync both ways (I think but it doesn't seem to work anymore), so I loaded Google calendar with my Microsoft online calendar; then I loaded Thunderbird with "Provider for Google Calendar add-on" and imported the Google calendar – without any problems and now I can update my Microsoft calendar from my desktop, my mobile and my tablet. **Brilliant!**