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Top Ten Things You Lose Moving from GroupWise to Gmail

If you're considering a move from an enterprise-class system to "free and simple" Google Mail, you may not realize that Gmail won't give you what an enterprise needs. You get what you pay for—and when you start paying in productivity losses for all the enterprise-level collaboration features you're not getting, you begin to realize just how expensive "free" can get.

Yes, there are organizations that have moved from on-premise, enterprise-class email systems to Gmail. And they're making headlines—but for all the wrong reasons. Security risks, capacity limits, data-governance issues, lost productivity, and (of all things) storage costs headline the list of problems associated with using such an undeveloped tool for enterprise collaboration.

So if you're thinking Gmail is a cost saver, think again: You get what you pay for. And you pay for what's "free" in ways you may not realize—until it's too late.

Here are the top ten things you'll miss if you move from Micro Focus® GroupWise® to Gmail:

1. **Control over your own data.** Cloud services naturally involve moving your data. So if your business has security policies or regulatory compliance standards you have to uphold, beware. You have no control over how your data is protected or even where it's stored. More than 70 percent of your company's most sensitive data and IP flow through the email system. Do you really want it going where you have no control over it?

2. **Flexibility.** How much integration do you see between Google and everyone else out there? There are a few third-party apps their systems will work with—and a lot it won't (like unified communications and databases, for starters.) To integrate these apps with email, you have to buy the pieces from Google—and only Google. And directory flexibility? Forget about it. You even have to pay extra for identity management.

3. **An integrated Home View.** When it comes to Gmail, what you see is what you get— and it's all you get. No calendaring, scheduling, contact management, customization or any ability whatsoever to pull in all the other productivity tools people use every day. How do you run a business on that? For anyone used to the rich GroupWise Home View, Gmail is a massive step down, and users will struggle to be productive on such a rudimentary system. Gmail has its place—but that place is not running an enterprise collaboration platform.

"We discovered that, over five years, it would've cost us US$35,000 to switch to a 'free' solution. That doesn't include the costs for the business processes we'd have to rewrite, end-user training costs, and consulting fees for the migration… It pays to do the math. 'Free' isn't necessarily free when you take into account all of the costs involved."

PAT PETTIT
Director of Information Technology
Millikin University

In this modern era of data protection controls and regulatory oversight, GroupWise offers something Gmail can't: a secure, reliable and cost-effective solution that keeps your data on-premises and firmly within IT's control.

4. **Easy productivity.** In GroupWise, everything is connected. In Gmail, everything is a separate tool, leaving users to puzzle over how the pieces fit together. What falls through the cracks is productivity—and the differential widens without key features like relevance sorting that floats their most-used items to the top, the ability to duplicate items (without duplicating effort) and so much more.

5. **Maximum headroom.** How many limits can your users tolerate and still get their jobs done? Gmail imposes limitations on message size, attachment size, number of emails you can send, number of recipients you can have, and much, much more. If your users need more wiggle room than that, you may want to look at how much their productivity is going to collide with those roadblocks.

6. **Taking SEND back.** GroupWise protects against SEND regret, allowing you to delete anything you send before it gets opened—and make it vanish as if you never sent it in the first place. With Gmail, you send it, they get it—giving you zero protection against embarrassing moments you wish you could take back.

7. **Offline mode/caching.** With GroupWise, you can read, send and manage messages offline. But Gmail relies completely on the web. If you're not connected, you can't even log in. And if you're stuck somewhere without solid network connections or if the server goes down, you're left hanging. Because Gmail has a lot of outages, when they're down, you are too.

8. **Real folders.** In Gmail, folders are just filters. You click on a "folder" and all you get is whatever you've tagged as belonging to that virtual container. But you can't actually store anything or manage what's in it. Gmail does nothing more than categorize things under a heading. You'll wonder why they bothered to call it a "folder" at all.

9. **Task management.** Gmail does not have task management. What it does have is a simple pop-up list. You can't send tasks, order them, categorize them or mark them complete. You can't search or store them, and you can't correlate a task with its deadline. What you end up with is nothing more than a digital sticky note or personal to-do list.

10. **Personal email archive.** GroupWise gives each user a dedicated archive database, so you can keep your messages as long as you want to. And you can take that database anywhere. Carry it on a CD or port it to another computer. You can't do that with Google, because you can't store anything outside of Gmail. So it's not really an archive—it's just another filter.

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