

GFI Product Comparison

GFI MailArchiver™ 6.0

VS

Symantec Enterprise Vault™

	GFI MailArchiver 6.0	Symantec Enterprise Vault
General features		
Supports Microsoft® Exchange Server 2000, 2003 & 2007	✓	✓
Supports distributed installation (different roles on different machines for load balancing)	✓	✓
Direct support for Microsoft Volume Shadow Service (Backup using MS VSS)	✓	✗
Supports archiving from different sources	✓	✓
Archiving features		
Supports Microsoft Exchange Journaling	✓	✓
Can archive from Microsoft Exchange Public Folders	✓ Using export tool	✓
Archives inbound/outbound emails	✓	✓
Archives internal (Exchange) emails	✓	✓
Archives from multiple servers at the same time	✓	✓
Protocols supported for archiving emails	exOleDb IMAP	IMAP
Performs automatic discovery and archiving of the PST files	✓	✓
Can archive emails from local PST files	✓	✓
Can archive emails from remote PST files	✓	✗
Uses client side PST processing engine (Agent)	✓	Information not available
Automatically archive emails to a new database according to a pre-defined schedule	✓	Information not available
Archived emails can be exported/restored back to mailbox	✓	✓
Emails can be excluded from archiving	✓	✓
Backend storage support (archived emails)	Firebird (default) MS SQL 2000 MS SQL 2005 MS SQL 2008 MS SQL Express NTFS File System	MS SQL 2000 MS SQL 2005 MS SQL Express NTFS file system
Format of the archived emails	MIME.eml Format	HTML format
Email archive compression	✓	✓
Supports storage managers	✓	✓

	GFI MailArchiver 6.0	Symantec Enterprise Vault
Email retention and categorization		
Supports multiple email retention policies	✓	✓
Supports multiple email categorization policies	✓	✓
Supports user interaction auditing	✓	✓
Supports database activity auditing	✓	Information not available
Features auditing reports for regulatory compliance	✓	✓

Indexing and searching

Outlook integration or equivalent	✓	✓
Full text searching (implies full text indexing)	✓	✓
Real-time/scheduled/batch indexing	✓	✗
Supports multiple search criteria	✓	✓
Users can assign labels to emails	✓	✗ Only the admin
Keeps email conversations (threads) intact	✓	✓
Schedule searches	✗	✓
Search by email labels (or equivalent)	✓	✓
Users can save search results	✓	✓
Export search results to user mailbox or to removable media	✓	✗ To PST or local computer
Indexes attachments	✓	✓
Cross-mailbox searches (search across multiple archive stores)	✓	Information not available
Archive search interface supports localization	✓	✓

Product management and other features

Configuration interface type	Web-based	Software-based Web-based
Active Directory group-based full access	✓	✓
Active Directory users/groups-based access control	✓	✓
Email alert notifications	✓	✓

Email is an indispensable communication channel in the business environment. Managing the heavy influx of emails through PST is a major, time-consuming task. Thus, it has become mandatory to have an efficient email archiving solution to address storage, backup, and compliance issues. Potential customers require a solution, which is efficient, secure, and easy-to-use.

GFI MailArchiver is a simple, cost-effective, and time-efficient email archiving solution that eliminates the dependence on PST files and offers excellent support for archiving, searching and auditing requirements.

A simple high-level comparison between the key features of GFI MailArchiver and Symantec Enterprise Vault revealed the following differences:

GFI MailArchiver can be integrated with several servers and platforms

On which servers and platforms can I use GFI MailArchiver?

GFI MailArchiver can be easily integrated with Microsoft Exchange Server 2000/2003/2007/2010. It does not require a dedicated machine and can be installed on the same machine being used as the mail server. This is particularly beneficial for small businesses, as it eliminates the need of purchasing and maintaining extra servers.

In addition, GFI MailArchiver also supports distributed installation for load sharing, thus addressing the requirements of large organizations. It can also archive from multiple Exchange servers.

While Symantec Enterprise Vault can also be integrated with Microsoft Exchange Server 2000/2003/2007, it cannot be installed on the machine which is being used as the mail server.

GFI MailArchiver is compatible with Windows Server 2000/2003/2008.

GFI MailArchiver ensures smooth functionality of the Exchange Server

Does my archiving solution affect the functionality of the Exchange Server?

GFI MailArchiver does not affect the normal functionality of the Exchange Server in any way. GFI MailArchiver does not replace the original email with a link, it simply archives a copy.

Symantec Enterprise Vault, on the other hand, replaces the email with a stub message, which may affect the functionality of the Exchange Server.

GFI MailArchiver provides robust backend storage

What kind of backend storage is supported by GFI MailArchiver?

Besides Microsoft SQL and SQL Express, GFI MailArchiver can also be integrated with Firebird. Firebird is an in-built, default database for GFI MailArchiver and does not entail any additional cost. Moreover, it is a cheaper alternative to MS SQL database and is best suited for small businesses where email traffic is low.

On the other hand, Symantec Enterprise Vault can only be integrated with MS SQL for backend storage.

In addition, GFI MailArchiver supports all UNC-based storage managers, such as QStar and IBM Tivoli.

GFI MailArchiver offers uninterrupted archiving during backup

Does the backup activity affect my archiving process?

GFI MailArchiver supports a unique feature, 'Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy Service' (MS VSS) for the online backup of archives. This feature enables GFI MailArchiver to backup archives without disturbing the normal archiving activity.

On the other hand, Symantec Enterprise Vault interrupts activities, such as archiving, indexing, retrieval, and journaling to perform backup of archives. In order to have uninterrupted backup, add-on modules (such as 'Backup Exec') have to be implemented at extra cost.

GFI MailArchiver allows users to classify their emails

Can I classify my emails by defining my own categories?

GFI MailArchiver facilitates efficient management of emails by allowing both the administrator and the user to assign labels to emails for classification. While the administrator can enforce organization-level classification, users can also classify emails in self-defined categories. This feature provides more flexibility and control to the user. In addition, labels also help in refining search results and meeting compliance requirements.

Symantec Enterprise Vault allows only administrators to tag emails. Therefore, users can only classify emails in pre-defined default categories or in those specified by the administrator.

GFI MailArchiver dynamically updates search results

Can my archiving solution dynamically update search results?

GFI MailArchiver allows a user to save search results as a Search Folder in the form of a search query. Search Folders only store the search query, allowing the user to delete or modify a Search Folder without affecting archived emails. When a particular search folder is accessed, the search query is executed, including all new mails that meet the conditions of the search query.

Symantec Enterprise Vault also allows the user to save search manually/automatically. However, once a search result is accepted and saved, it cannot be deleted or modified. A completed search cannot be deleted or re-executed; it can only be used as a template.

GFI MailArchiver provides an easy way to export emails from search results

Can I export emails from a search result?

In GFI MailArchiver, emails can be exported from search results to a folder on a disk or to a specific email address. Exporting to an email address can be done in two ways, either as an attachment or as an original email.

On the other hand, Symantec Enterprise Vault cannot export emails directly to an email address. However, users can export results to a PST file.

GFI MailArchiver does not allow any tampering with archived emails

Does my archiving solution save emails in their original form for audit purposes?

GFI MailArchiver archives an email along with its attachment in its original form and does not allow users or administrators to make changes. On the other hand, Symantec Enterprise Vault allows for filtering of attachments, consequently, the original form of the email may be lost.

Furthermore, GFI MailArchiver allows only the administrator to define or modify retention policies. An email can only be deleted when its retention policy expires. On the contrary, Symantec Enterprise Vault can allow users to delete emails by giving access rights.

GFI MailArchiver provides User Interaction and Database Activity Auditing

What mechanisms are available for auditing purposes?

GFI MailArchiver provides two types of auditing features: User Interaction Auditing and Database Activity Auditing.

User Interaction Auditing records all user activities in the form of a report, i.e., User Audit Trail. It records all activities of users when they browse or search through email archives using the web interface.

Database Activity Auditing tracks all the changes made to the database, such as configuration management, access control and retention policies. The administrator can prepare a report of the changes made on the database, i.e. who made the change and who will be affected.

These reports serve as a useful resource during audits, system performance monitoring and in certain cases for regulatory compliance.

GFI MailArchiver ensures legal compliance

Does my archiving solution ensure legal compliance?

GFI MailArchiver does not allow users to modify archived mails. This helps to ascertain the original content of the mail for compliance purposes.

GFI MailArchiver also helps organizations to meet regulatory compliance with, for example, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002, E-Comm Act 2000, BS7799-2:2002, the Enterprise Act 2002, Decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri (8 February 1999).

GFI MailArchiver does not require additional training

Do I need additional training to use this product?

No additional end-user training or administration is required for using and maintaining GFI MailArchiver. It is a very user friendly yet technically robust product.

USA, CANADA AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

15300 Weston Parkway, Suite 104, Cary, NC 27513, USA

Telephone: +1 (888) 243-4329

Fax: +1 (919) 379-3402

ussales@gfi.com

ENGLAND AND IRELAND

Magna House, 18-32 London Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 4BP, UK

Telephone: +44 (0) 870 770 5370

Fax: +44 (0) 870 770 5377

sales@gfi.co.uk

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

GFI House, San Andrea Street, San Gwann, SGN 1612, Malta

Telephone: +356 2205 2000

Fax: +356 2138 2419

sales@gfi.com

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

83 King William Road, Unley 5061, South Australia

Telephone: +61 8 8273 3000

Fax: +61 8 8273 3099

sales@gfiap.com



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