

Oracle Connector for Outlook v. Microsoft Outlook / Exchange Product Comparison Matrix

Last updated: April 2004

Introduction

The following matrix is derived from Microsoft's own comparison of features between different versions of Outlook¹. It has been adapted to use for the following purposes:

1. To compare the functionality of Microsoft Outlook/Exchange 2003 to Oracle Connector for Outlook R2 (builds 9.0.4.11 and higher) that includes support of key Outlook 2003 features. Additional Outlook 2003 features that are scheduled for the Connector for Outlook (version 9.0.5) are also indicated in the matrix.
2. To compare the functionality of Microsoft Outlook Web Access 2003 to the Release 2 Oracle Email and Calendar web clients (9.0.4.2).
3. For reference, the document also includes product feature listings of older versions of Microsoft Outlook, including Outlook 98, 2000 and 2002.

While removing Exchange from the picture does mean that certain Outlook features that depend on server-side functionality are unavailable when using Oracle Connector for Outlook, there are significant benefits to using Oracle's solution. First, Oracle Connector for Outlook improves the user experience in a number of key areas: It provides an end-to-end solution bringing all users' calendars together, regardless of their platform or operating system, and adds real-time availability to the Outlook interface. This incorporates access to the most up-to-date information, real-time free/busy viewing, real-time attendee responses, and the ability to view unconfirmed meetings. Second, in regard to Outlook 2003 functionality, the Connector for Outlook offers backwards compatibility to certain features where Outlook/Exchange does not (as indicated in the matrix); Oracle Collaboration Suite continues to provide integration between applications without requiring additional software expenditure, whereas Microsoft requires customers to attain numerous costly servers to attain collaborative functionality such as workspace management or web conferencing; and Oracle provides the right architecture for enterprise collaboration right now – Microsoft is still years away from reaching this goal.

For more information on Oracle Connector for Outlook and Microsoft competitive information, visit:
<http://oraclecalendar.us.oracle.com>.

¹ <http://www.microsoft.com/office/outlook/prodinfo/guide.msp>

Embed documents in messages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Request read or delivery receipt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Word as E-Mail Editor (Wordmail)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Spell checking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Background/AutoCorrect spelling (Word Mail)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Add words to spell check dictionaries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Recall Message	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Auto-select Message Encoding	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Send mail message with Voting buttons (AutoVote)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Track delivery and read receipts with original message	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Create messages from Address Book	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Receive HTML mail	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HTML editing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Plain-text editing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTF editing	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Automatic formatting of messages with color based on criteria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
AutoText	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Automatic text corrections (Word Mail)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
AutoSignature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insert signature on demand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Multiple signatures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Include vCard in signature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Set message importance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Message sensitivity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Message expiration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Deferred delivery (with or without rules)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Message templates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Default font for new messages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Default font for replies and forwards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Redirected replies	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
File routing	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Internet Faxing	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Receive/reply to messages							
New Mail Notification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Respond to mail message with Voting buttons	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Reply in same format received	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
No indentation of reply/forward bodies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
New Desktop Alert	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Auto Horizontal line to reply to messages	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Read as plain text option	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Expandable Distribution List	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Auto complete with 1 letter	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Search for messages							
Find	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Search capabilities (Advanced Find)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Search folders	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes ¹
Organize messages							
Quick Flags/Message flags	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Categories and Master Category List	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Drag and drop messages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Multiple views	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Arrange By	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Arrange by Conversation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
View by category	Yes **	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
View mail by follow-up flag	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Public Folders	Yes †	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sort message list by standard fields	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Set order/size of columns in message list	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Enhanced conversation management	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Manage messages by group	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
For Follow-Up folder	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes ¹
Display custom views	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ²
Create custom views	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Mark message as read or unread	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Recover deleted messages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User saves e-mail messages to Drafts	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Mailbox Cleanup	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Ability to disable individual rules	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
AutoArchive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
E-mail Account Setup Wizard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Test E-Mail Account tool	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Drafts folder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

User-configurable Delegate Access permissions	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
User configures Public Folder permissions	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Display total number or unread mail in folders	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Smart Dates	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

Collaboration Features	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Document workspaces	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Meeting workspaces	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Instant Messaging / Presence Awareness	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Live attachments	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

Calendar	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Calendar views of different time periods	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Calendar preferences	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Side-by-side viewing of multiple calendars	Yes *	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Meeting reminders (minutes, hours, or days in advance)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Color individual or recurring appointments	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Notification of adjacent or conflicting appointments	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Lunar Calendar Support	Yes *	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Offline use of calendar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
List of recently opened calendars	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

Schedule Meetings	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Plan a face-to-face meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
View other user's free/busy information	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Propose New Time	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Appointments summarized in Outlook Today	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No (equivalent functionality)	No
Invoke calendar from meeting request to see full schedule	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Include attachments in appointments and meeting requests	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Insert e-mail messages as attachments in appointments and meeting requests	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Create a Meeting Workspace in a meeting request	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Track acceptance of attendees to a meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Attendee list visible to all attendees	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Send or receive requests over the Internet as calendar attachments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Publish free and busy information to the Internet with iCalendar subset	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Retrieve free and busy information to the Internet with iCalendar subset	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Advanced, automatic meeting-request processing options	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Plan online meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Microsoft Exchange Conferencing	No (equivalent functionality)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No (equivalent functionality)	No
Use Address Book to pick attendees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Free and busy view	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forward or reply to a meeting request	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
All-day events	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Real-Time scheduling	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Activity Journal with Scrolling Timeline views	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
Change Ownership of meetings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
Link a Meeting with contract/company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
Search for resources by geography or capacity	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Book resources through workflow approval mechanism	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Download other User's calendar for offline viewing	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
New Meeting With in calendar	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No (equivalent functionality)	No
Rule to alert mobile device	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No

of an updated meeting							
Schedule meetings with users on other platforms (Mac, Linux)	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Over-the-air Calendar synchronization using SyncML	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Address Book and Global Address List	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Address Book	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Browseable Global Address List (GAL)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Access to general GAL properties (name, address, phone)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to advanced GAL properties (org chart, DL membership)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Synchronized offline GAL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Contacts	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Business Contact Manager	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Contact picture	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Use e-mail properties to add Contacts data	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Use contact information in mail merge	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Contact activity tracking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
View by company	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Print address cards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Important dates (birthdays and anniversaries) in Contacts listings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Exchange virtual business cards (vCards)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Shared contacts	Yes *	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
View contacts by follow-up flag	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Internet addresses listed in Contacts.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple addresses in Contacts items	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Add/edit contacts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Send new message to contact	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
More than one physical and e-mail address listed in Contacts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Associate reminders with contacts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
Attach files with contacts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	Yes

Over-the-air Contacts synchronization using SyncML	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
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Tasks	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Create and manage tasks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Create task from e-mail message	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Simple and Detailed task views	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
View tasks by category	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
View by active/completed/overdue status	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edit tasks in view	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Task reminders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Task requests and tracking	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Tasks timeline view	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
TaskPad view in Calendar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Recurring Task	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	Yes
Attach files with Task	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes

Client Services	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Alerts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Outlook Custom Installation Wizard	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Out of Office Assistant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recover Application	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Read-only Delegate Access to messages and other information	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Editable Delegate Access of messages to other accounts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
AutoCreate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Import/Export files	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Client-side Setup Wizard	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Outlook Hotmail Support	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Custom forms	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Consolidated offline settings	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Support for IMAP4, POP3, and SMTP	Yes *	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Security and Content Management	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Information Rights Management	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Junk E-Mail Filters	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes ⁵	No
Junk E-Mail Folder	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes ⁵	Yes
Trusted Senders and Trusted	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes

Recipients Lists							
Block External Content	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Block attachments	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Anti-virus enhancements	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Digital signature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ³
Digital encryption	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ³
Single sign-on	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (not to Win OS)	Yes ²
Certificate management	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kerberos Authentication	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (thru AD sync)	No
Automatic logoff after inactive period	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes ⁴
Journal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (not email)	No
Notes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (not email)	No
CRAM-MD5 authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

Outlook Performance Improvements	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Cached mode	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Intelligent Connectivity	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
HTTP Access to Servers	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Synchronization groups	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Background synchronization of local and server folders	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Differential, offline address-book synchronization w/server	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Incremental change synchronization	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Smart change synchronization	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	NA	No
Pre-synchronization reporting	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Offline synchronization	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Buffer packing	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
MAPI compression	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Skip bad items	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Outlook performance monitoring	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Unicode PST Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Cancel request to server	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Send and Receive groups	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Support and default list	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

Miscellaneous	OCFO R2 †	Outlook 2003	Outlook 2002	Outlook 2000	Outlook 98	OCS Web R2	OWA 2003
Automatic Dial-up of Mail Accounts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	No	No
SSL support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	No

TLS support	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Ink Support for Tablet PCs	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Unicode Support for all fields	Yes *	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

Key	Meaning
Yes	Feature is included in product version.
Yes *	Planned for upcoming release
Yes **	Available only on Outlook 2003
Yes ¹	Search folders and For Follow Up folders must be activated in Outlook online mode rather than cached Exchange mode.
Yes ²	Single sign-on requires direct connection to Outlook Web Access on the mailbox server with NT LAN Manager enabled and running Exchange.
Yes ³	You must install the Outlook Web Access S/MIME control to use this feature.
Yes ⁴	Forms-based authentication must be enabled before you can automatically log off.
Yes ⁵	Requires Rules set-up
Yes ≠	Public folders support email and documents; more functionality to be added in an upcoming release
No*	Disabled on purpose: Security hole
‡	Oracle Connector for Outlook versions 9.0.4.11 and higher
NA	The feature is not applicable to this version or product.
Grey Shade	Oracle added feature