

GFI Product comparison:

GFI MailEssentials®

VS

**Microsoft Forefront
for Exchange Server**

Comparing GFI MailEssentials features
with Microsoft Forefront for Exchange

Introduction

GFI MailEssentials is a comprehensive email threat management solution that is easy to install, configure and use. It offers protection from viruses, spyware, spam, and Trojan executables and gives your IT department complete control of policies and configuration. It can support thousands of users too.

GFI MailEssentials is the only alternative to Microsoft Forefront since it is the only offering which offers up to 5 Anti-Virus engines (BitDefender, VIPRE, Avira, McAfee and Kaspersky) just like Microsoft Forefront. GFI MailEssentials is also VBSpam+ certified with over 99% of spam capture rate and zero false positives.

Microsoft Forefront for Exchange is an offering from Microsoft which offers a secure email gateway for Microsoft Exchange. This offering is currently in end of life (EOL).

Features compared

Feature	GFI MailEssentials	Microsoft Forefront Protection 2010 for Exchange Server	Additional comments
Microsoft Exchange 2003/2007/2010/2013 integration	✓	✗	FPE only integrates with Microsoft Exchange 2007 SP1 and Microsoft Exchange 2010 (SP1 and later) FPE can only be installed on a server running a supported Microsoft Exchange version.
Option to run as a separate gateway	✓	✗	FPE can only be installed on a server running a supported Microsoft Exchange version.
Real-time dashboard showing processed emails and actions taken	✓	✗	[ref.]

Feature	GFI MailEssentials	Microsoft Forefront Protection 2010 for Exchange Server	Additional comments
Web-based interface	✓	✗	
Number of antivirus engines	5	4	
Antivirus engines used	BitDefender, VIPRE, Avira, McAfee and Kaspersky	Norman, Microsoft Antimalware, Authentium Command and Kaspersky	Microsoft retired the 'Virus Buster' engine on September 2012 [ref.] Forefront also offers a 'Worm list' filter, but this just includes generic worm name entries and it is not an antivirus as such.
Dedicated anti-exploit engine	✓	✗	[ref.]
Cleaning HTML emails from harmful scripts	✓	✗	[ref.]
Self-learning Bayesian anti-spam technology	✓	✗	[ref.]
Anti-phishing protection	✓	✓	[ref.]
Customizable list of IP DNS block list sources	✓	✗	FPE uses a list maintained by Microsoft whereas MailEssentials has a customizable list of DNS block list providers. Spamcop is used by default but more providers can be added to the list, such as Spamhaus.

Feature	GFI MailEssentials	Microsoft Forefront Protection 2010 for Exchange Server	Additional comments
Send Policy Framework (SPF) Anti-Spam technology	✓	✓	
Spam URI DNS Blocklist to block emails that contain links to domains listed on public Spam URI Blocklists	✓	✗	[ref.]
Greylist filter	✓	✗	[ref.]
IP Allow and IP Block lists	✓	✓	
Personal whitelist/blocklist	✓	✗	[ref.] & [ref.]
Language detection	✓	✗	[ref.]
Content Filtering rules	✓	✓	[ref.]
Customizable priority for filters and AV engines	✓	✗	
Possibility to define different actions (e.g. quarantine, delete, etc.) for each of the filters	✓	✗	

Feature	GFI MailEssentials	Microsoft Forefront Protection 2010 for Exchange Server	Additional comments
No need to interrupt mail flow when changes are made to the filters	✓	✗	FPE requires you to restart the Microsoft Exchange Information Store service in order to apply some filter settings. Other filter modifications require the Microsoft Exchange Transport service to be restarted.
Reporting features available	✓	✓	

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