

The Kontact Administrator's Guide

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Abstract

This is the administrator's manual for Kontact, the integrated solution to your personal information management (PIM) needs. Kontact combines well-known KDE applications like KMail, KOrganizer and KAddressBook into a single interface to provide easy access to mail, scheduling, address book and other PIM functionality.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This is the administrator's manual for Kontact, the integrated solution to your personal information management (PIM) needs. This document is intended to aid the groupware administrator with typical tasks needed to setup Kontact and make it work smoothly in various environments.

Kontact combines well-known KDE applications like KMail, KOrganizer and KAddressBook into a single interface to provide easy access to mail, scheduling, address book and other PIM functionality.

Chapter 2

Compatibility Issues

This chapter provides help with how to make Kontact communicate effectively with various groupware solutions.

2.1 Outlook and Exchange

In the Kontact configuration dialog, under Misc->Groupware... you will find the following options that will help the user communicate with Microsoft Outlook(tm) running in a Kolab environment or in a Microsoft Exchange(tm) environment.

Mangle From:/To: headers in replies to invitations Enable this option to make Microsoft Outlook(tm) understand your answers to invitations replies.

Microsoft Outlook has a number of shortcomings in its implementation of the iCalendar standard; this option works around one of them. If you have problems with Outlook users not being able to get your replies, try setting this option.

Details: When mailing an iCal invitation this makes the message have the From: header that is the same as the To: header. It also sets header X-KMail-Identity to the To's UID and makes sure the BCC: is blank. Outlook will only understand the reply if the From: header is the same as the To: header of the invitation message.

Send invitations in the mail body Invitations are normally sent as attachments to a mail. This switch changes the invitation mails to be sent in the text of the mail instead; this is necessary to send invitations and replies to Microsoft Outlook. But, when you do this, you no longer get descriptive text that mail programs can read; so, to people who have email programs that do not understand the invitations, the resulting messages look very odd. People that have email programs that do understand invitations will still be able to work with this.

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Details: When mailing an iCal invitation this option makes the message body from the attachment data and sets the Content-Type header to 'text/calendar; method=something; charset="utf-8"'.
Auto-sending is also turned-on so there is no human intervention required for composing.

NOTE

Encryption and self-signing are disabled.

Exchange compatible invitations naming Microsoft Outlook, when used in combination with a Microsoft Exchange server, has a problem understanding standards-compliant groupware e-mail. Enable this option to send groupware invitations in a way that Microsoft Exchange understands. The invitation will be sent as an attachment with name `ical.ics`.
Details: When mailing an iCal invitation this makes the message have the subject "(Declined | Tentative | Accepted | Delegated): subject". The invitation will be sent as an attachment with name `ical.ics`.

Outlook compatible invitation reply comments When the user provides comments when responding to invitations, send the comment in way that Microsoft Outlook(tm) understands. If this option is not enabled, the response comments will not be seen in Outlook.

Details: Comments when answering the invitation will be sent as a DESCRIPTION iCal property instead of the COMMENT iCal property (in violation of RFC2446).

Chapter 3

Behavioral Issues

This chapter provides instructions on how to make Kontact behave more like other groupware clients.

3.1 Composing Messages

Outlook users are accustomed to typing a list of addresses in the To, CC: or BCC: fields separated by a semicolon (;) character in addition to a comma (,). By default, Kontact only allows the comma as an address separator character. To also allow the semicolon, change the `AllowSemicolonAsAddressSeparator` from `false` to `true` in the installed `share/config.kcfg/kmail.kcfg` file.

Chapter 4

RFC Compromises

Kontact is designed to interoperate as well as possible with a wide variety of groupware solutions. To that end, we sometimes make design compromises with respect to the various Internet RFCs that provide the basis for low-level libraries on which Kontact relies heavily.

NOTE

We never knowingly violate any RFC.

The following list of RFC compromises is made by Kontact or the low-level libraries used by Kontact:

- When writing durations values into iCalendar files, Kontact never writes the DURATION property in terms of weeks (i.e., 1*DIGIT "W"); instead, the integer number of weeks is always multiplied by 7 and written in terms of days (i.e. 1*DIGIT "D").

Chapter 5

Common Problems

This chapter deals with common problems the administrator is likely to encounter.

5.1 FreeBusy

FreeBusy common problems ...

Chapter 6

Credits and License

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Appendix A

Installation

A.1 How to obtain Kontakt

Kontakt is part of the KDE project <http://www.kde.org/> .

Kontakt can be found in the kdepim package on <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/> , the main FTP site of the KDE project.

A.2 Compilation and Installation

For detailed information on how to compile and install KDE applications see [Building KDE4 From Source](#)

Since KDE uses **cmake** you should have no trouble compiling it. Should you run into problems please report them to the KDE mailing lists.