Zarafa in Fedora



Robert Scheck

Robert Scheck

Fedora Package Maintainer and Provenpackager Fedora Ambassador and Ambassador Mentor Part of Fedora Websites and Translation teams Open Source Contributor and Software Developer

Mail: robert@fedoraproject.org

Web: http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/RobertScheck





What is Zarafa?



- Arabic for "giraffe" means "charming" or "lovely one"
- Name of first giraffe in Europe at the year 1827
- Open Source alternative to Microsoft Exchange
- Groupware / Collaboration Platform





Zarafa Collaboration Platform

- Zarafa is a Groupware / Collaborative Software
- Exists since 2005, Open Source since 2008
- Developed by Zarafa B.V. in the Netherlands
- GNU Affero General Public License, Version 3
- Focused to Open Standards and Compatibility
- Optimal integration into Linux and Windows
- Outlook/BlackBerry connectivity are proprietary





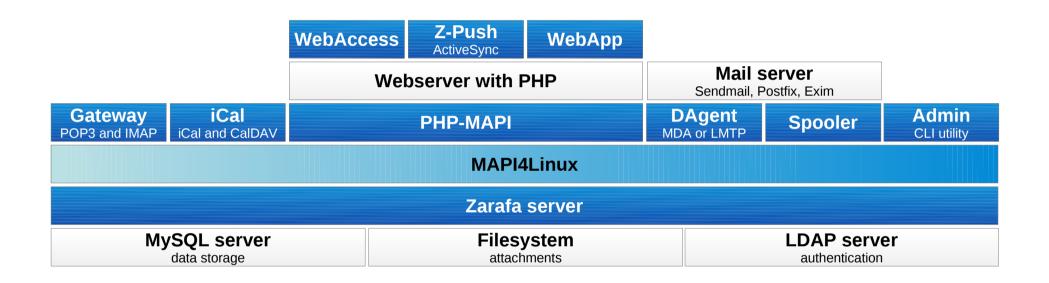
What is MAPI?

- Messaging Application Programming Interface
- Designed in 1991 by Microsoft and ~ 100 ISVs
- Allows control of messaging system & mailbox
- Only interface specification, not a protocol
- MAPI is not proprietary, but an Open Standard
- MAPI/RPC is proprietary (used for Exchange)
- Different MAPI service providers





Architecture & Components





Zarafa component

Open Standard

3rd party component





Server: Heart component

- Main process: The only non-optional part
- Contacts the MySQL database server
- Offers "MAPI in SOAP" for all other services
 - Via Unix socket at /var/run/zarafa
 - Via HTTP (optionally over SSL) at port 236 & 237
- Handles MySQL database server connection
- Optional: Queries external sources for users





DAgent: Mail Delivery Agent

- Converts e-mails (RFC 822) into MAPI objects
 - Mail Delivery Agent (MDA) like procmail
 - LMTP server listening at port 2003 (by default)
- Mail parsing happens by using libvmime
- Executes zarafa-autoresponder if needed





Gateway: POP3 and IMAP

- Enables non-MAPI clients to access e-mails
 - POP3 and POP3 over SSL (POP3S)
 - IMAP4 and IMAP4 over SSL (IMAPS)
- Gateway: No native POP3 or IMAP server
- Puts the different MAPI properties together
- Mail parsing happens by using libvmime
- Rewrite for Zarafa 7 for performance reasons





iCal: iCal/CalDAV gateway

- Enables non-MAPI clients to access calendars
 - iCalendar (RFC 2445/5545)
 - CalDAV (RFC 4791)
- Gateway: No native iCal or CalDAV server
- Puts the different MAPI properties together
- Supports HTTP and HTTPS requests
- Uses existing libical implementation



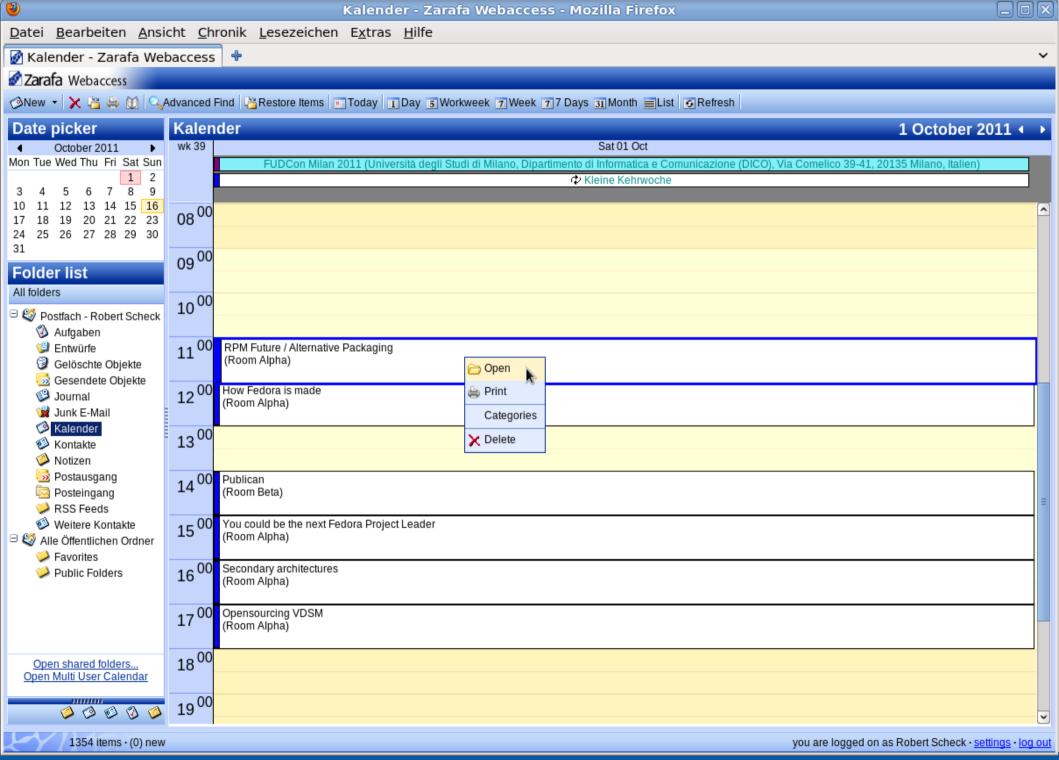


WebAccess: Outlook feeling

- Familiar Outlook "Look & Feel" web interface
- View own or colleagues' e-mails via browser
- Sending and answering meeting requests
- Free/busy information and resource scheduling
- Context menu, "Drag & Drop" for all elements
- Ajax technology for more interactive feeling
- Plugins: S/MIME, Google Maps, MDM, ...







Spooler: E-mail spooler

- Converts MAPI elements into mails (RFC 822)
- Reads only the "Outbox" folder of Zarafa
- Speaks SMTP to configured relay host
- Does not support SMTP authentication
- SMTP relay host is often the local mail server





Indexer: Search engine

- Indexing service for fast full-text searching
- Makes an index per user of messages and attachments
- Search queries use index to find messages
- Also finds content in attachments of e-mails
 - Configurable in /etc/zarafa/indexerscripts/
- Uses CLucene search engine (libclucene)





Monitor: Quota monitor

- Monitors the user store (mailbox) sizes
- Notifies user (and administrator) if soft or hard quota limits are reached
- Just quota monitor, does not enforce quota
- Quota limit enforcement by Zarafa Server





Archiver: Move old messages

- Copies or moves messages to
 - 2nd Zarafa server (requires a common userbase)
 - Another store at the same server (simple setup)
- Goal: Decrease size of production Zarafa
- Rules decide about age and copying/moving
- One of the key features of Zarafa 7 release





Admin: Administration utility

- Full-featured command line utility (CLI)
- Create/modify/remove users and groups
- Management of multi-company support
- Quota settings, administrative privileges
- Not to be mixed up with "Z-Admin" project
- Additionally: zarafa-stats and zarafa-fsck





User Management

- Zarafa provides different user plugins
 - Internal database plugin
 - Integration with Unix (Linux system) users
 - Integration with LDAP
 - OpenLDAP, 389 Directory Server, Red Hat Directory Server, Novell eDirectory, Microsoft Active Directory
- Many users: Database or LDAP plugin





Programming Interfaces

- ► C++
 - Most complete, because all Zarafa services use it
- PHP
 - Similar complete like C++ for WebAccess/Z-Push
- Python
 - Less complete than PHP, usually for prototyping
- Perl
 - Exists, but almost dead since switch to swig





What is Z-Push?

- Sync for mobile devices and smart-phones
- Works with all devices supporting Exchange
- GNU Affero General Public License, Version 3
- Exchange ActiveSync is patented by Microsoft
- ▶ RPM Fusion, 3rd party repository in Europe
- Two RPM packages: z-push and zarafa-z-push
- ► Full rewrite for Z-Push 2, release in Q1/2012





MailBridge: Zarafa ↔ Dovecot

- Connects Zarafa with Dovecot on mail base
- Zarafa uses Dovecot server as IMAP cache
 - High performance and full IMAP compatibility
- Extended/MAPI functionality for existing users
 - ActiveSync via Z-Push for Dovecot IMAP users
 - BlackBerry integration for Dovecot IMAP users
- Nearly real-time synchronization via Python





Missing Features

- File upload via "Drag & Drop" by W3C File API
- Offline WebAccess / Offline WebApp
- Integration with Evolution or Thunderbird
- Exchange Web Services (EWS)
- vCard interface or CardDAV server
- IPv6 support
- Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) support



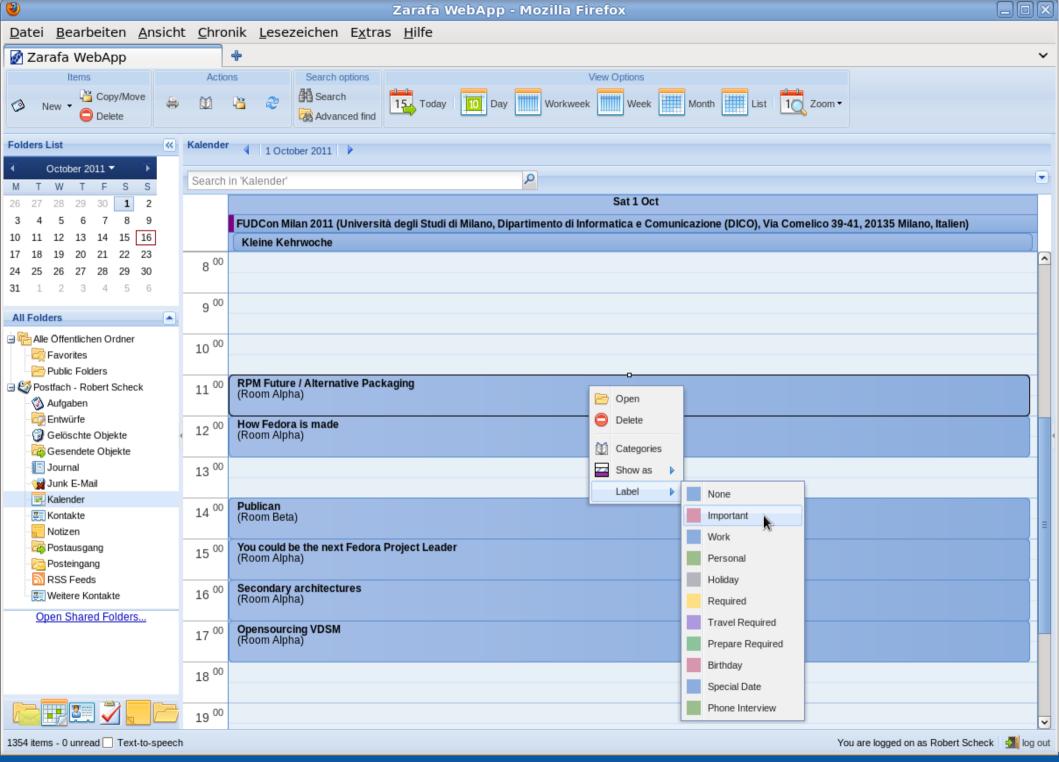


Future: Zarafa WebApp

- Successor of current Zarafa WebAccess
- Complete rewrite: Visually and technically
- Own Ajax framework replaced by Ext JS
- Faster, behaves more like an application
- Microsoft Outlook 2010 feeling and features
- Technology preview, release in Q1/2012







FUDCon India 2011 – Zarafa in Fedora – Robert Scheck

Help at Fedora needed

- Further work at Zarafa policy in SELinux
 - Matěj Cepl, Miroslav Grepl and Daniel Walsh
- Rewrite of the initscripts for systemd support
 - Somebody with systemd knowledge interested?
- Some Zarafa WebApp testing once available





Links to further resources

- Fedora Project
 - http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Zarafa
 - http://lists.fedoraproject.org/mailman/listinfo/zarafa
- Zarafa upstream
 - http://community.zarafa.com
 - http://forums.zarafa.com
 - http://www.zarafa.com/content/documentation
 - http://jira.zarafa.com/browse/ZCP





Questions?



fedora™

