Our Microsoft Exchange is Zarafa

Open Source Days 2012, Copenhagen

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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





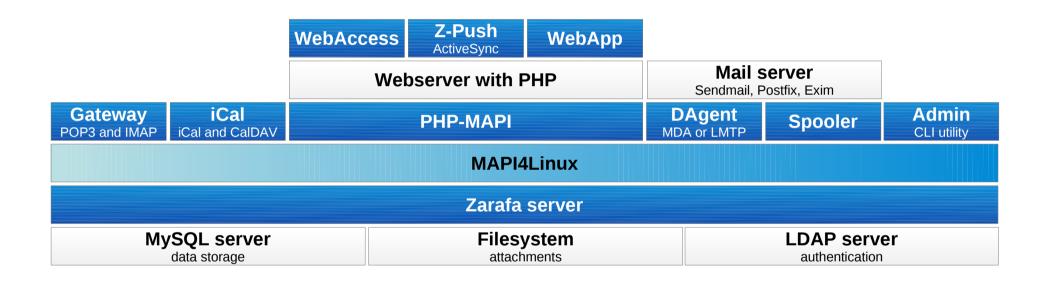
What is MAPI?

- 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



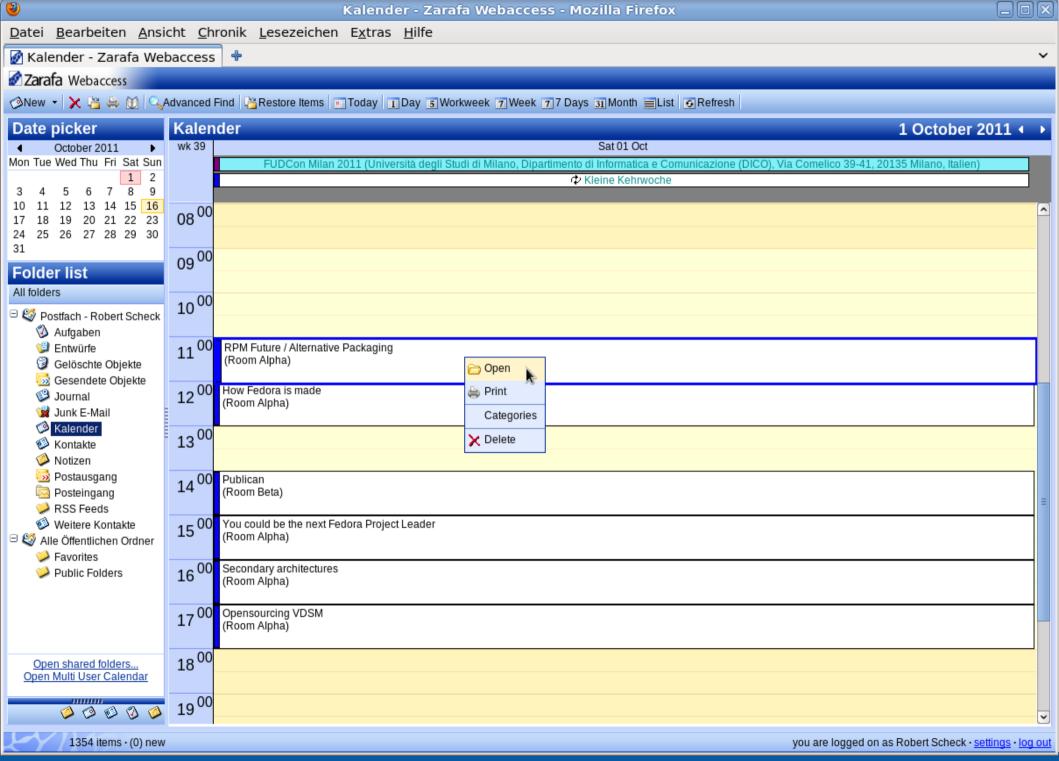


WebAccess: Outlook feeling

- 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 somehow retired 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 Q2/2012





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



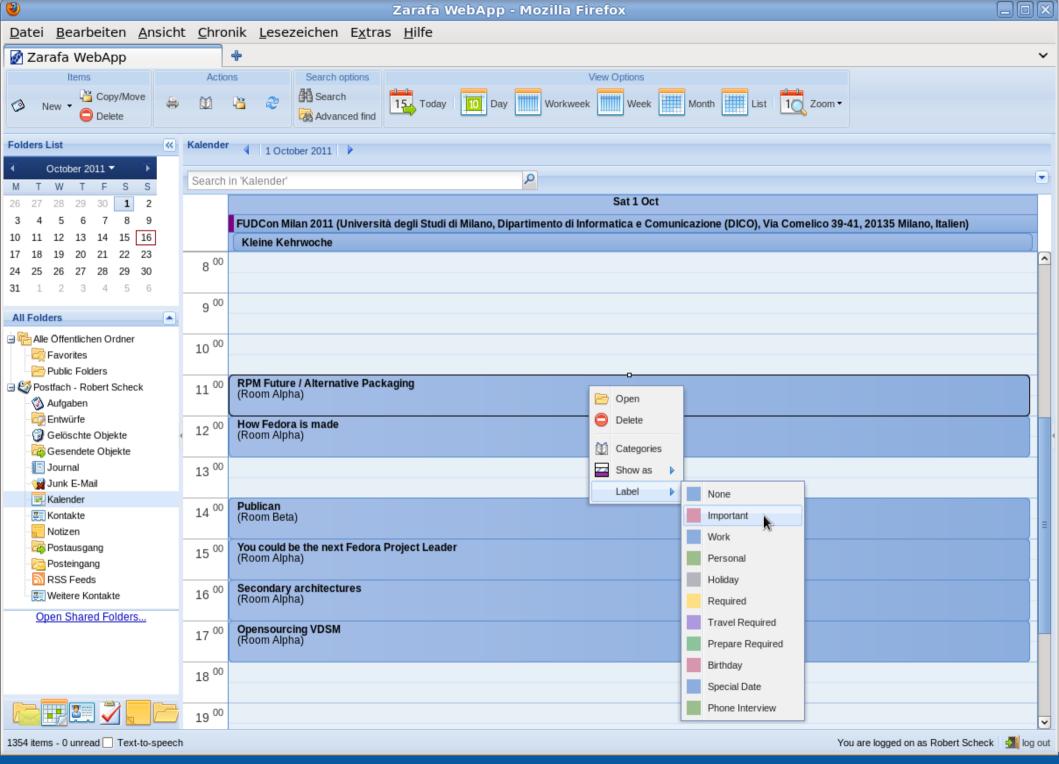


Future: Zarafa WebApp

- 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
- ▶ 1st release in Q2/2012: Not feature complete







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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?
- Intensive Zarafa WebApp testing and usage





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?



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