

Outlook to Evolution Migration User Guide

Using Outlook2Evolution

Personal Information Migrating Tools

version 0.4

Introduction

This is a document describing a method of migrating personal information and mail data from Microsoft Outlook to Ximian Evolution. This guide is provided to you by NeoTek Systems (Arnold Matyasi, dr. Gabor Zala) in an effort to help the transition from a proprietary data format to a free, human readable data format employed by Evolution.

This guide is intended to a somewhat experienced user or system administrator. The solution described in this document uses free components: 1, Mozilla Thunderbird for Win32, 2, Outport for Win32, and 3, the O2E batch processing application for Gnu based systems. If you do not wish to read about the issue of migration, jump to the Migration Process section of this document.

Please send any comments or patches to o2e@neotek.hu email.

Architecture

In the following we assume that you have a Windows based operation system running on one or more PCs using the Microsoft Outlook Personal Information Manager and you wish to switch yourself or your users to a non-Windows based operation system desktop (eg. Fedora Core, RedHat WS, Suse, Debian, Mandrake, Solaris, xBSD, etc.) using Gnome environment and Evolution PIM software preserving all your personal data (including Calendar, Contacts, Mail, Tasks).

Furthermore, we assume that you have a dedicated migrating computer running one of the latter operating systems with the help of which you want to perform the migration process. This computer connects to the Windows machines via Samba.

The method described below works for either one or more Windows desktops as well as a centralized Exchange mail server with Outlook clients.

Understanding Tasks

Outlook stores the users' information in a proprietary format called PST. Since the details of this format are unknown and considered to be a trade secret of Microsoft corporation, it is only possible to extract information from these files using Outlook itself via calling MAPI functions from an external program (in our case Mozilla Thunderbird for mails and Outport for Calendar, Contacts and Tasks information).

This means that we first export all personal information using the mentioned application as an intermediary format and then manipulate the resulting data to match Evolution's internal format using the O2E batch processing application.

O2E File and Directory Structure

You have a Windows-side file structure (o2e/win) and a Gnu-side file structure (o2e/gnu) on the migration machine. The Windows-side file structure includes a software directory (o2e/win/sw) containing Mozilla Thunderbird and the Outport softwares and, naturally, your data folder (one for each user, o2e/win/data/username) containing Calendar, Contacts, Tasks and Mail folders and files in intermediary format.

The Gnu-side files structure (o2e/gnu) is very similar, the software directory (o2e/gnu/sw) contains the O2E batch processing application and the data directory (one for each user) contains personal data readable by Evolution (o2e/gnu/data/username/evolution). Apart from these, a backup folder will be created during the migration process (one per user, o2e/gnu/data/username/backup) where a compressed backup copy of intermediary data will be stored for data security concerns.

A tree view of the directory structure used in O2E Personal Information Migrating Tools can be found in Appendix I.

Migration Process

You have to go through the following processes:

- Part 1: Downloading O2E migration tools and setting it up
- Part 2: Exporting mails with Mozilla Thunderbird
- Part 3: Exporting calendar, contacts, tasks with Outport
- Part 4: Batch processing exported data with O2E application to create all Personal Information in Evolution format
- Part 5: Copying Evolution formatted Personal Information into Evolution user directory
- Part 6: Start Evolution and let it create indexes of migrated Personal Information
- Part 7: Testing Evolution

Part 1 - Downloading O2E migration tools and setting it up

1. Go to a directory where you have enough free space to store approximately twice or three times the amount of information as your PST file(s) for each user. This may amount to a few Gbytes even for only a handful of users.
2. Download the O2E Personal Information Migrating Tool from our website (or possible mirror sites) to the designated migrating computer running Gnu and Samba.
3. Unpack the tar.gz file with "tar xvzf o2e-0.4.tar.gz".
4. An "o2e" directory is created where all the necessary software and data reside. This directory must be shared through Samba (with read and write rights) with the Windows clients you want to migrate from. In our example the Samba name of the directory is "[\\S3\o2e](#)" for the Windows clients, where "S3" is the name of the Samba server and "o2e" is the name of the top level directory of migrating tools and data.
5. In our example we used the following addition to /etc/samba/smb.conf :

```
[o2e]
comment = o2e
path = /mnt/os3b3/o2e
writeable = yes
guest ok = yes
```

6. Sit down in front of the first Windows machine (or use VNC for remote desktop control) and check if you can read and write the shared Samba folder by creating a directory with name "username" of the person to migrate first in the "[\\S3\o2e\win\data](#)" directory. Furthermore, create four subdirectories within this folder, named: "calendar", "contacts", "tasks" and "mails". The easiest way to do this is to copy the preinstalled directory named "username" in "[\\S3\o2e\win\data](#)" and rename it to the name of the user to migrate. This task has to be repeated for all users you intend to migrate to Evolution.

Part 2 - Exporting mails with Mozilla Thunderbird

7. Change directory to "[\\S3\o2e\win\sw\thunderbird](#)" using Windows Explorer and double-click "thunderbird.exe". Thunderbird now loads into the memory of the Windows machine (no installation required).
8. The Account Wizard comes up, click Next to create an email account. Enter any name and email address at the upcoming dialog box.
9. Click Next again and type any Incoming and Outgoing Server Name.
10. Click Next three times until the Congratulations ! Dialog Window appears. Here unselect Download Messages now. Finally, press Finish.
11. Go to the Tools menu and select Account Settings...
12. Here select Local Folders on the left-hand side and change the Local Directory Setting to "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\mails](#)". Press OK.
13. Go to the Tools Menu again and select Import...
14. A dialog window appears, here select Mail as the type of the material to import. Click Next.
15. Select Outlook in the next dialog window and press Next.
16. Wait till Mozilla Thunderbird converts your Mail files to its own format. This may take several minutes.
17. Check if some data is created in "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\mails](#)". If yes, Exit Mozilla Thunderbird, you are done with Part 2 of the migration process.

Part 3 - Exporting calendar, contacts, tasks with Outport

18. Change directory to "[\\S3\o2e\win\sw\outport](#)" using Windows Explorer and double-click "outport.exe". Outport now loads into the memory of the Windows machine (no installation required).
19. Outport comes up, click to select Calendar on the left-hand side, then click to select "Auto-select child folders" on bottom of the left-hand side.
20. In the upper-middle of the screen select Evolution Calendar as Export format from the drop-down menu, then configure your locale settings.

21. In the bottom of the screen change Destination to "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\calendar](#)", then click on the Export button.
22. Calendar now is exported. Unselect Calendar on the left-hand side and click to select Contacts .
23. In the upper-middle of the screen select Evolution Contacts as Export format from the drop-down menu.
24. In the bottom of the screen change Destination to "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\contacts](#)", then click on the Export button.
25. Contacts now are exported. Unselect Contacts on the left-hand side and click to select Tasks.
26. In the upper-middle of the screen select Evolution Tasks as Export format from the drop-down menu, then configure your locale settings.
27. In the bottom of the screen change Destination to "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\tasks](#)", then click on the Export button.
28. Tasks are exported now. Check if some data is created in "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\calendar](#)", "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\contacts](#)", "[\\S3\o2e\win\data\username\tasks](#)". If yes, Exit Outport, you are done with Part 3 of the migration process.
29. Repeat Part 2 and Part 3 for every user you want to migrate on their Windows desktop or on your Gnu machine using VNC remote desktop control. Since Mail exporting described in Part 2 can be very time consuming, it is recommended to start as many parallel mail exporting processes as your Gnu Samba can handle without becoming overloaded.

Part 4 - Batch processing exported data with O2E

30. On your Gnu machine, change directory to "o2e/gnu/sw/o2e".
31. Type ./o2e.sh and press Enter. The batch processing of intermediary data is running now, please be patient, it may take a while to create a backup file and to process the data to create Evolution files.
32. The final result is created in the "o2e/gnu/data/username/evolution" directory, the backup files are located in "o2e/gnu/data/username/backup" directory. Temporary files in "o2e/win/data" can be deleted.
33. The conversion is over, you are ready to start the installation of the new operating system and the Evolution PIM application.

Part 5 - Copying converted data to Evolution

34. On each configured desktop change directory to `"/home/username/evolution/local"` and copy the Evolution formatted files from `\\S3\o2e\gnu\data\username\evolution*` there with your favorite file manager or command line tool.

Part 6 - Start Evolution and let it index PI data

35. Type `evolution` or click on the Evolution icon on your Gnome desktop.

36. Be patient. Evolution has to generate index files

37. for the imported mail and other personal data.

Part 7 - Testing Evolution

38. Make sure that every piece of information migrated successfully. Check if there is any code page problem.

Appendix I.

o2e directory:

```
|-- doc
|-- gnu
|   |-- data
|   |   |-- username
|   |   |   |-- backup
|   |   |   |-- evolution
|   |   |-- sw
|   |   |-- o2e
|-- win
|   |-- data
|   |   |-- username
|   |   |   |-- calendar
|   |   |   |-- contacts
|   |   |   |-- mails
|   |   |   |-- tasks
|   |-- sw
|       |-- output
|       |-- thunderbird
```