

Public Folder Management

It seems simple on the surface: you create a public folder and your users post to them. Exchange automatically replicates the folder data to other servers around the globe to make it faster and easier for users to share documents, calendars, contact information, and much more. However, there's an awful lot of hidden complexity lurking beneath the surface.

It's not uncommon for medium and large organizations to have tens or hundreds of thousands of folders that consume gigabytes to terabytes of space in their stores. With the increasing number and size of public folders comes the likelihood that you'll actually have to maintain and manage your public folders instead of just leaving them alone.

Where We Can Help

The StealthAUDIT™ Management Platform (SMP) for Public Folders offers an out-of-the-box set of comprehensive audit jobs that collect everything you need to get started with your initiative. Charts and graphs provide various levels of detail that position you to launch into action and summarize project progress across multiple dimensions:



Establish a Baseline

Most Exchange Administrators agree that Public Folders are a bear to maintain when they get into the multiple-gig range. They know they have a mounting problem, but aren't in a position to say how bad it really is. The first order of business is to keep the Exchange servers running and your users off the phone to the helpdesk. All other efforts fall to the wayside until it becomes a big enough problem, right? So, now that Public Folders are becoming enough of a problem to draw organizations to wrestle that bear, administrators are looking for tools to help simplify the task. The StealthAUDIT Management Platform (SMP) is loaded with the capabilities of many different tools to quickly audit and summarize your Public Folder infrastructure so you can clearly articulate and show how bad the problem *really* is.

Prioritize Efforts

Each organization will have a different desired outcome

from their efforts. After establishing where you are, you'll need to prioritize your efforts in order to start making progress toward where you are headed. Our out-of-the-box reports will help you quickly prioritize efforts by highlighting particular locations, servers, departments, largest folders, fastest growing folders, oldest content, stale or unused folders, or even by type of content. The Public Folder Data Collector recognizes and sorts results for all MS Office document types posted across your Public Folders, but is easily customizable for any content that you are interested in assessing.

Find the Right Owner

The task of finding the right owner of a public folder can be very difficult. Each public folder has the ability to have several users listed as owners and most administrators are listed as owners due to the need to assist and maintain your user base. Additionally, the owners that set up many of your Public Folders years ago may have moved

Folder Name	Proposed Owner	Proposed User Type	Proposed User's Full Name	Appropriate	Level	Check
Folder Name: C:\Exchange\Public\... (C:\Exchange\Public\...)	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]
Folder Name: [Name]	Proposed Owner: [Name]	Proposed User Type: [Type]	Proposed User's Full Name: [Name]	Appropriate: [Yes/No]	Level: [Level]	Check: [X]

onto new roles within and outside of the corporate boundaries, leaving you at a loss to know who really owns and maintains the folder. SMP's Public Folder Data Collector contains built-in business intelligence to identify the "Most Probable Owner" of each Public Folder in order to make short work of this tall task.

Collaborate With Users

Another unique feature of SMP is the embedded ability to reach out and solicit information from your targeted users and tie those responses to the Public Folder data stored in your central database. Email requests and web-based survey forms can easily take on the look and feel of your internal corporate processes, including logos and color schemes, thus giving them a polished, professional, and official corporate look.

Make Changes to Public Folders

Now that you have gathered the technical information and validated your program with your user base, it's time to take action! Leveraging SMP's Public Folder Action Module, you can quickly and easily make changes based on the survey responses you have received. Cycle through options to modify owners, replicas, folder names, member

permissions, delete the Public Folder, or even enforce storage and age limits. Action Modules put you in control right from a centralized console!

Track and Trend Progress

Finally, it's time to sit back and reap the benefits of your efforts. Monitor the status and effectiveness of your initiative through Public Folder summary and trend reports and publish them to an online reporting index for management and colleagues to view at their convenience. Watch as the Public Folder tree shrinks and database whitespace grows!

Customer Profile

“ After only three weeks of using StealthAUDIT in our production environment, we were able to retire over 5,000 Public Folders and reclaim over 50GB of storage space. ”

-Fortune 50 Financial

Did you know?

The StealthAUDIT Management Platform is capable of so much more than Public Folder Auditing, Reporting, and Management.

StealthAUDIT is a highly extensible framework for the Microsoft Infrastructure space, specializing in OS and Application Auditing, Reporting, Compliance, and Management. Originally designed for the Desktop and Server Administrator, StealthAUDIT has grown to include multiple core competencies in Exchange, Active Directory, BlackBerry, and all Microsoft Operating System platforms!

About STEALTHbits™

STEALTHbits Technologies, Inc. provides a rich set of solutions to help manage your Microsoft infrastructure and beyond. As an industry leader in Auditing, Reporting, and Compliance software, solutions from STEALTHbits increase efficiencies, reduce downtime, and optimize the performance of your systems and applications to provide instant value and the quickest return on investment.

About StealthAUDIT™

Using over 30 comprehensive Data Collectors, the StealthAUDIT Management Platform (SMP) gathers information about Windows servers, workstations, Active Directory, Exchange, BlackBerry, Share Point and more, all from a single product.

Once the data is returned, administrators can view the results in customizable reports, use the platform's Analysis Modules to interact with the data, and even make changes using integrated Action Modules—all from within SMP!

System Requirements

Operating Systems

Workstation: Windows 2000 and up
Server: Server 2000 and up

Application Versions*

MS Exchange Server v.5.5 - 2010
BlackBerry Enterprise Server v4.x - v5.x
Active Directory 2000 – 2008

Platform

Pentium 4 class or greater
1Gb RAM minimum (4 GB rec.)
1Gb Available Disk minimum
100Mb Network Connection

Additional Software

Microsoft SQL 2005+ (including SQL Express)
Exchange System Manager
Adobe Flash

*Requirements vary based on product

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