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Microsoft® Office Groove® 2007

Comparing Groove Enterprise Services with Onsite Groove Server 2007

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### Empowering the Enterprise with Groove 2007

By investing in Microsoft® Office Groove® 2007, you promote timely and dynamic collaboration within and across organizational boundaries, empowering business teams without sacrificing central control. The Office Groove system offers two options for deploying Groove in an enterprise. You can either:

* Deploy Groove Servers at your site, or
* Subscribe to Groove Enterprise Services hosted by Microsoft

This paper presents guidelines for making the right choice for your organization.

### Microsoft Office Groove Enterprise Services

Microsoft Office Groove Enterprise Services is designed for the small to mid-sized organization, or for larger enterprises that want to deploy Office Groove 2007 to a sub-set of users, such as a specific workgroup or department. Enterprise Services offers a hosted services option for setting up a managed Groove domain and relay system without the capital investment and operational costs of building an onsite server infrastructure.

Two components comprise Microsoft Office Groove Enterprise Services:

* Groove Enterprise Services Manager, which provides Web-based management services that allow administrators to set security and communication policies for Groove accounts, schedule periodic account backups, and view reports of Groove activity and usage statistics.
* Groove Enterprise Services Relay, which provides data relay services to transmit data between Groove clients when they cannot connect directly.

### Microsoft Office Groove Server

Some of the most useful Groove management features are available only with Groove Servers installed at your site. Groove Server utilizes highly efficient 64-bit architecture so fewer servers can support more users.

Office Groove Server 2007 consists of three servers packaged in a suite:

* Groove Server Manager, required
* Groove Server Relay, required
* Groove Server Data Bridge, optional

**Groove Server Manager**

Groove Server Manager enables administrators to set security and communication policies for Groove accounts, schedule periodic account backups, view reports of Groove activity and usage statistics. In addition, onsite servers running the Manager application allow corporate IT administrators to oversee Groove Server operation, automate Groove account configuration, integrate Active Directory into Groove user management, and employ existing enterprise public key infrastructure for user authentication. Groove Manager works with Groove Relay; both are necessary to complete your Groove management environment.

**Groove Server Relay**

Groove Server Relay provides vital communication capabilities for Groove users. Servers running the Relay application hold data for users while they are working offline, enable cross firewall communications, help Groove users discover each other by revealing presence information for Groove contacts, and enable more efficient use of network bandwidth. Deploying relay servers onsite allows enterprise administrators to make their own decisions about Groove user relay assignments and to secure relay devices based on corporate regulations and processes.

**Groove Server Data Bridge**

Groove Server Data Bridge (GDB) provides a Web services enabled data access tier. The Data Bridge application enables IT organizations to build integrated solutions that connect project teams working in Office Groove 2007 workspaces with "live" data from Microsoft systems and applications and other enterprise data sources. GDB works with either hosted Enterprise Services or onsite Groove Server, however, the GDB server must be located on site.

### Differences Between Office Groove Enterprise Services and Office Groove Server 2007

Various criteria contribute the choice of Office Groove Enterprise Services or Office Groove Server. But as a general rule, Office Groove Enterprise Services is more economical for smaller deployments, while Office Groove Server 2007 is more economical for larger deployments.

**For 50-500 users**: Companies can benefit by starting with the online offering, Microsoft Groove Enterprise Services (GES). This means less overhead in terms of hardware and administration. GES gives mid-size organizations access to their own Groove Domain through a browser connected to Groove Manager.

**For 500-500,000 users:** Companies may benefit by setting up the Groove Server on site to automate user deployment and take advantage of features that require onsite server installations.

**Security**

Both the Groove Enterprise Services and onsite Groove Server options provide a centralized administrative interface for setting Groove security policies while keeping infrastructure and administrative costs to a minimum. Onsite Groove Server installations allow you comprehensive control, using your own IT policies to secure your hardware. In addition, you can choose to employ your company’s existing Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for user authentication.

**Management Capabilities**

While Groove Enterprise Services offers most of the management capabilities afforded by onsite Groove Server, deploying Groove Server on-site provides additional capabilities of value to larger organizations. For example, only onsite Groove management servers provide Active Directory integration, administrative control over server functions through roles-based access control, and the ability to create multiple domains. Onsite installations also provide an option to install the Groove Audit feature which can be used with Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services or Crystal Reports for Microsoft Visual Studio to generate details about Groove usage events.

**Relay Capabilities**

Groove Enterprise Services and onsite Groove Server provide comparable relay functionality. However, customers who choose to deploy and manage Groove Server onsite can customize dedicated Office Groove Relay servers to optimize system performance and utilize in-house security and network procedures. For instance, an enterprise with five global offices can deploy several Office Groove Server Relays in different locations. Users in each office can be provisioned to the nearest relay servers to reduce latency and improve performance.

### Quick Compare

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Groove Enterprise Services** | **Groove 2007 Server** |
| **Requires onsite hardware** | No | Yes |
| **Provides Active Directory integration** | No | Yes |
| **Integrates Corporate PKI** | No | Yes |
| **Provides Reports** | Yes | Yes |
| **Provides Groove Relay Services** | Yes. Microsoft-hosted | Yes. Onsite server |
| **Provides administrative interface for setting Security, Backup, and other policies** | Yes | Yes |
| **License type** | Subscription | Perpetual |

### More Detail About Groove Enterprise Services

Office Groove Enterprise Services 2007 provides IT organizations with powerful Web-based tools to centrally manage smaller Groove deployments without the overhead of on-site servers. Here are the top benefits of using Office Groove Enterprise Services.

**Efficiently deploy Office Groove 2007 to targeted groups.**

Office Groove Enterprise Services is a wise choice for organizations that want to start small and grow their Office Groove 2007 deployment over time. You can centrally deploy and manage Office Groove 2007 users without any server infrastructure requirements or data storage fees. And, you can easily migrate to Office Groove Server 2007 when the time is right.

**No extra charges for workspace data storage.**

Office Groove makes the most of your users' PC storage and power. Groove Enterprise Services Relay holds data changes only temporarily and there are no data-storage charges.

**Reduce infrastructure needs for cross-organizational collaboration.**

Groove Enterprise Services enables your business teams to work in a security-enhanced environment with third-party organizations, without application servers in the perimeter network, virtual private network (VPN) provisioning, or network changes. It also provides an efficient store and forward service that keeps Groove desktop clients synchronized even when some users are offline. Whether team members are in the office or on a plane, working with colleagues down the hall or partners across the world, relay services keep them up to date automatically and efficiently, without compromising data security.

**Support your mobile users without add-on technology.**

Groove Enterprise Services keeps your team workspaces synchronized even when users are working offline. No third-party solutions are required to keep mobile users productive.

### More Detail About Groove Server

Office Groove Server 2007provides IT organizations with enterprise-class server software and tools for deploying, managing, and integrating Microsoft Groove 2007 software across the enterprise.

Here are the top benefits of using Office Groove Server 2007 to manage your organization’s Groove 2007 deployment.

**Use your Active Directory for easy account configuration.**

With Office Groove Server, you can populate and synchronize Office Groove user information with your existing Microsoft Active Directory service, allowing automatic Groove account configuration and facilitating user provisioning.

**Scale Office Groove deployments with minimal infrastructure.**

Groove Server handles the routing of administrative updates among Groove clients and x64-bit architecture enables you to scale your Groove deployment to thousands of users with minimal infrastructure.

**Oversee and Monitor your own Groove Servers**

Places server deployment decisions and oversight in the hands of your IT professionals, allowing them incorporate Groove management operations into the existing corporate infrastructure.

**Bring the data center to your teams, wherever they work.**

Microsoft Office Groove Server Data Bridge, a component of Office Groove Server 2007, enables IT organizations to build integrated solutions that connect project teams working in Office Groove 2007 workspaces with "live" data from Microsoft systems and applications, and other enterprise data sources. At last, an integration platform exists for building solutions that link unstructured team collaboration with structured organizational data and processes.

**Centrally back up and restore Office Groove 2007 workspaces.**

With its integrated archive service, Office Groove Server Data Bridge enables you to automate backup of Office Groove 2007 desktop workspaces. You can give users the flexibility and freedom to work anywhere without having to worry about lost or corrupted data.

### Additional Resources

Groove

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/groove/FX100487641033.aspx>

Groove Enterprise Services

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/grooveservices/FX101674141033.aspx>

Groove Server

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/grooveserver/FX101674161033.aspx>

Groove Advisor Blog

<http://blogs.technet.com/groove/>