# GFI KerioConnect: The viable Microsoft Exchange Server alternative for SMB


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Introduction

Microsoft's Exchange Server, often regarded as the gold standard for corporate mail systems, isn't necessarily the best choice for every organization. Smaller organizations find Exchange Server cost prohibitive and overly complex.

Fortunately, there is an alternative. GFI KerioConnect provides an Exchange-like experience but with far less complexity at a cost that small businesses can afford.

✉ GFI KerioConnect Client

The GFI KerioConnect Client offers functionality similar to Microsoft Outlook but with a cleaner look and feel. GFI KerioConnect Client, which you can see below, provides email access and access to the user's calendar, contact list, and task list. It also supports instant messaging.
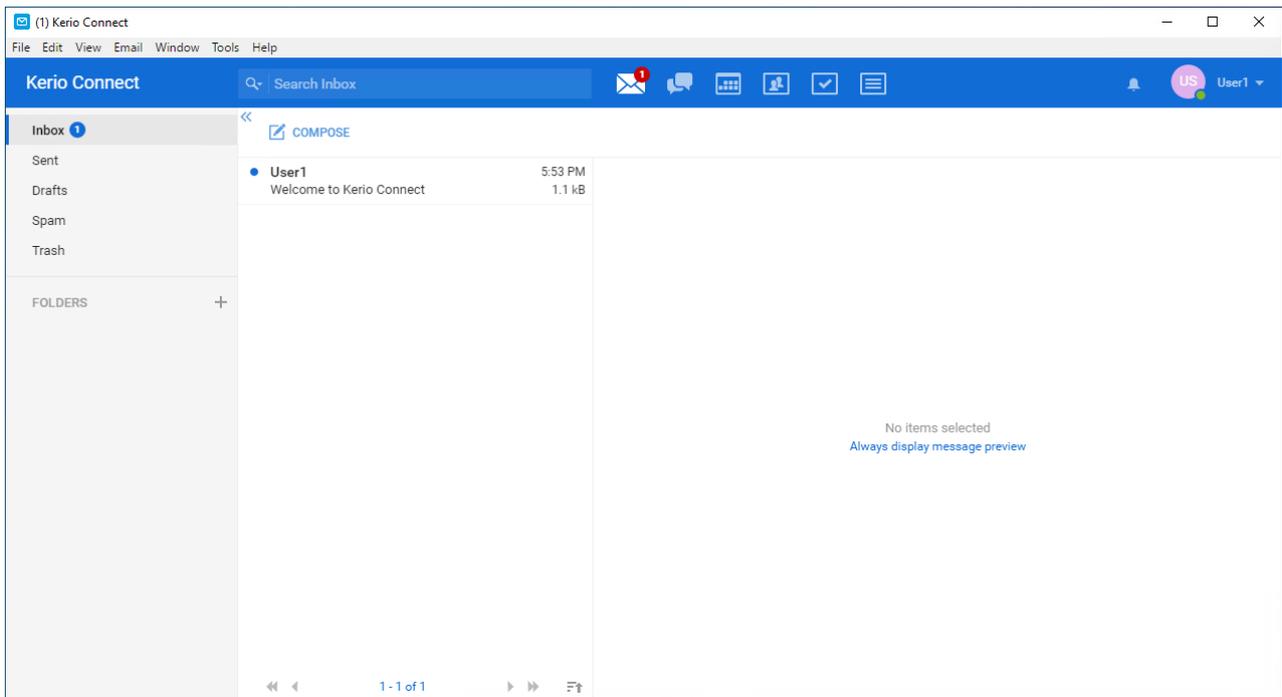

This is the GFI KerioConnect Client.

You can use the GFI KerioConnect Client in multi-platform environments. GFI provides versions for both Windows and Mac.

🧩 Other supported clients

Although GFI KerioConnect Client delivers a rich end-user experience, it's not the only option for interacting with GFI KerioConnect. One option is to use Microsoft Outlook. Thanks to the product's built-in Outlook Connector Extension, Outlook is fully supported for use with GFI KerioConnect.

Another way in which users can attach to GFI KerioConnect is through a web browser. Users can access their mailbox, contacts, calendar, and more using any supported web browser. As shown in the figure below, GFI KerioConnect's web client delivers an experience identical to the desktop client.

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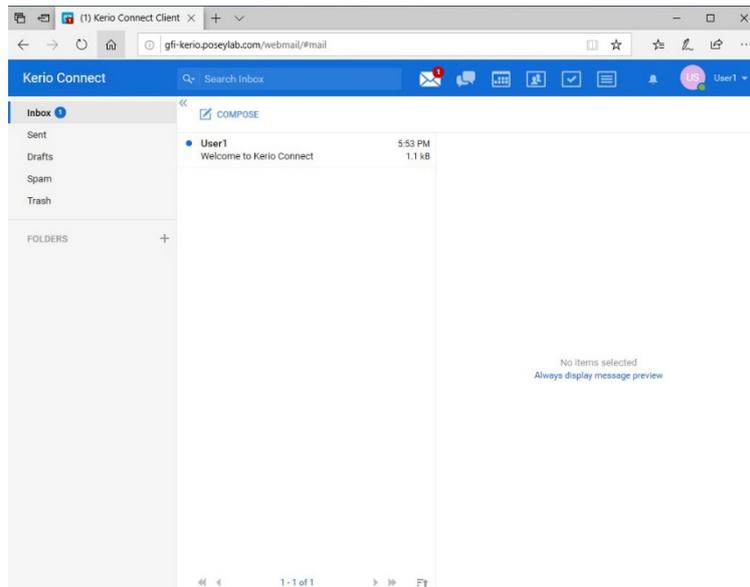
Users can access the GFI KerioConnect web client from any supported web browser.

GFI KerioConnect also fully supports access from mobile devices. Users can attach their devices to GFI KerioConnect using IMAP or ActiveSync.

Directory support

GFI KerioConnect is a great fit for small organizations that want an on-premise mail server but have limited IT resources. It doesn't even require an Active Directory environment. You can create users and mailboxes locally within the GFI KerioConnect software.

But, if an organization has a directory infrastructure, GFI KerioConnect can use it. GFI KerioConnect supports Microsoft Active Directory and Apple Open Directory. The figure below shows how easy it is to map user accounts and groups from a supported directory to GFI KerioConnect.

GFI KerioConnect supports Microsoft Active Directory and Apple Open Directory.

Content filtering

One of the most important capabilities of any mail platform is the ability to filter out undesirable content such as spam and malware. GFI KerioConnect offers a variety of content filtering tools that are both useful and effective.

As shown in the figure below, GFI KerioConnect has many tools for dealing with spam. You can set spam filtering based on a message's SPF rating, spam rating, spam blocklists, grey lists, or even the caller ID information for incoming messages.
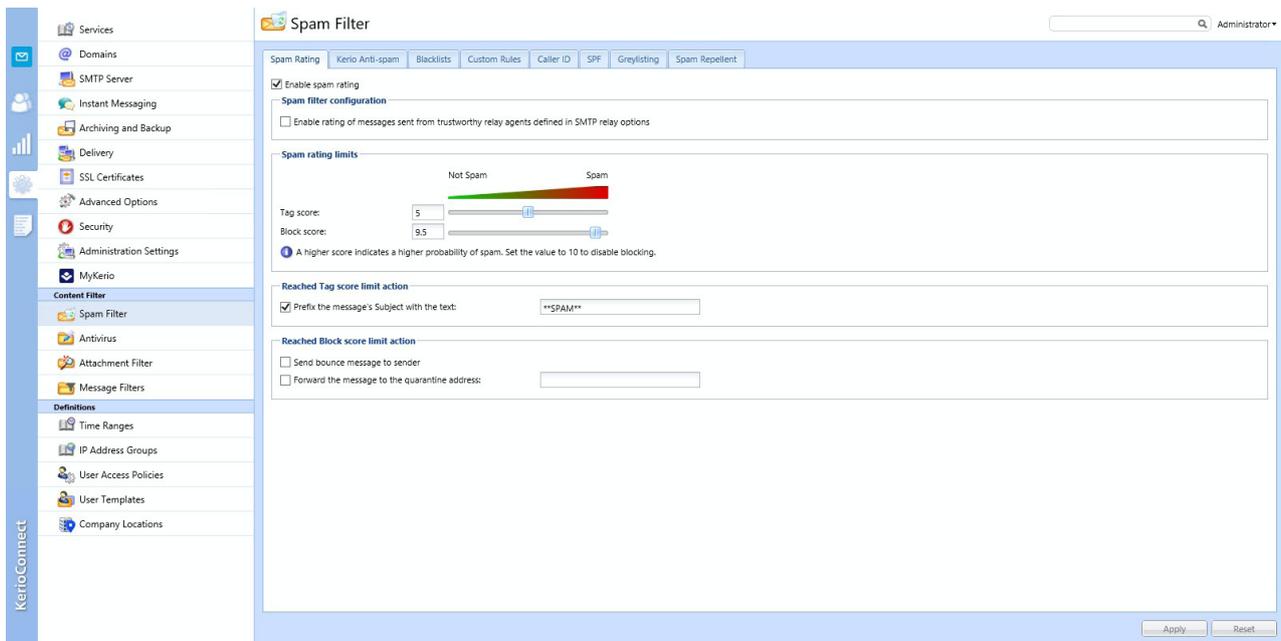
GFI KerioConnect includes a nice variety of anti-spam tools.

GFI also provides a spam repellent tool that works by inserting a delay into the SMTP negotiation process. The idea behind this technique is that because spammers send a large volume of messages, the automated tools they use can sometimes give up on sending messages to domains perceived as being excessively slow.
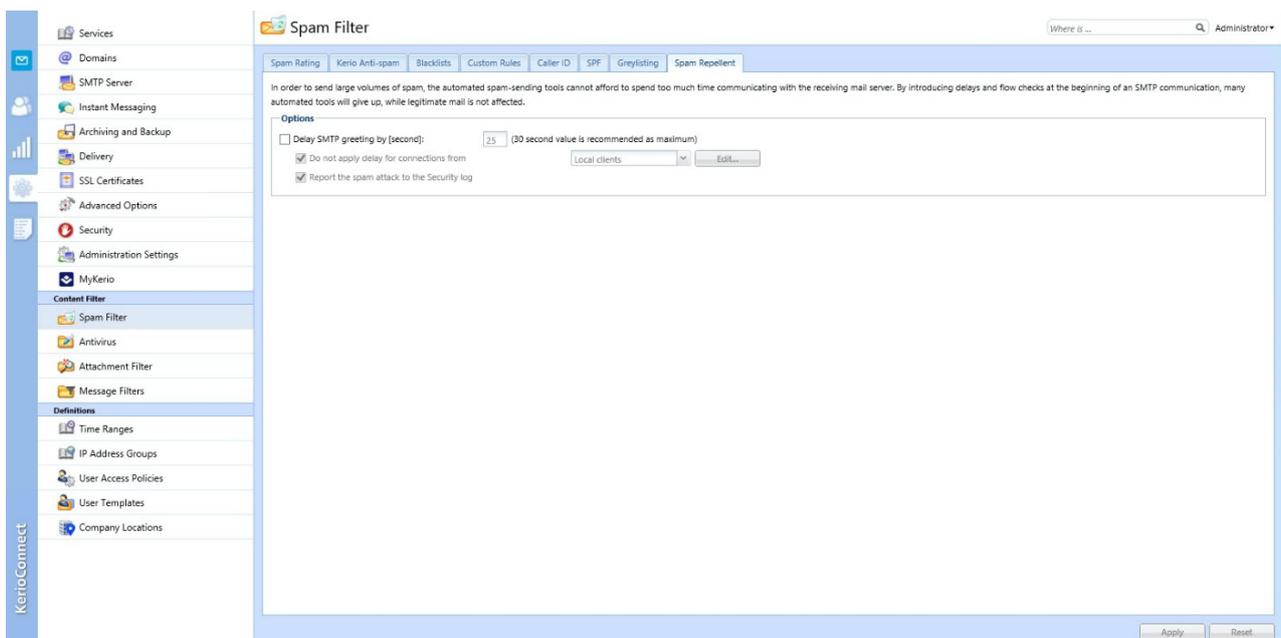
Spam repellent may force some spammers to give up on trying to send messages to your domain.

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As important as it may be to keep spam out of your users' inboxes, it is even more important to keep malware at bay. GFI KerioConnect includes a built-in antivirus engine that can automatically scan all inbound messages and dispose of those containing malware. You can see GFI KerioConnect's antivirus options in the next figure.
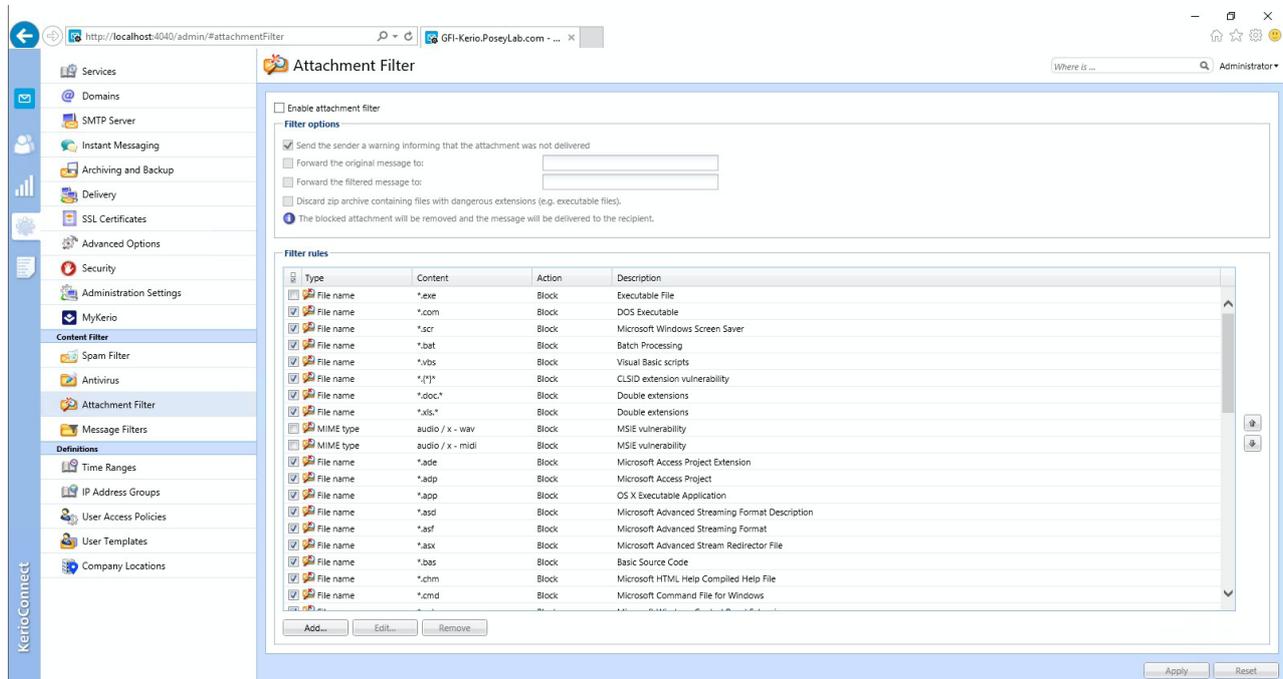
GFI KerioConnect has a built-in malware scanner that helps users to avoid messages with malicious payloads.

Even though GFI KerioConnect's native filtering engines do a good job of protecting users from spam and malware, achieving an even greater level of protection is possible. GFI offers a supplementary product called GFI MailEssentials that provides 14 spam and phishing filters and four antivirus scanning engines from vendors such as Bitdefender and Sophos.

GFI KerioConnect also allows you to filter message attachments by extension type. As you can see below, the attachment filter filters messages containing executable attachments. However, the filter can also identify attachments that use a double file extension to trick the recipient into believing that the attachment is a Microsoft Office document.
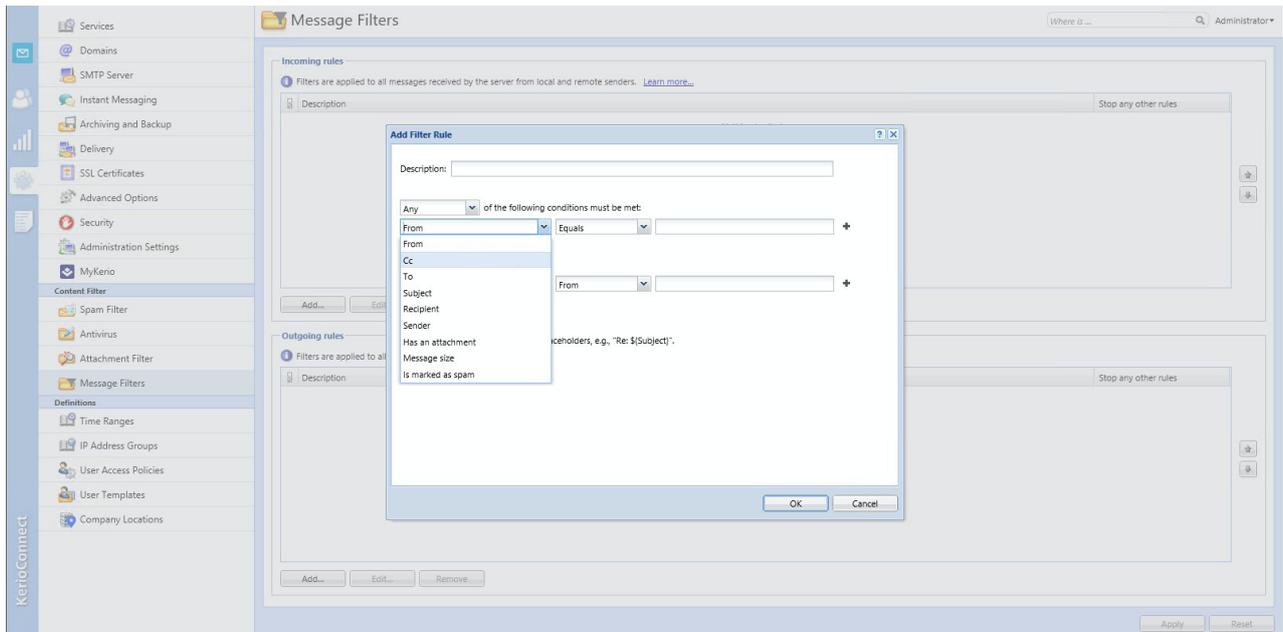
GFI KerioConnect can filter message attachments by file type.

GFI KerioConnect can filter messages based on a custom collection of filter rules. You can establish these rules on criteria such as the sender, recipient, message size, attachment, and much more.
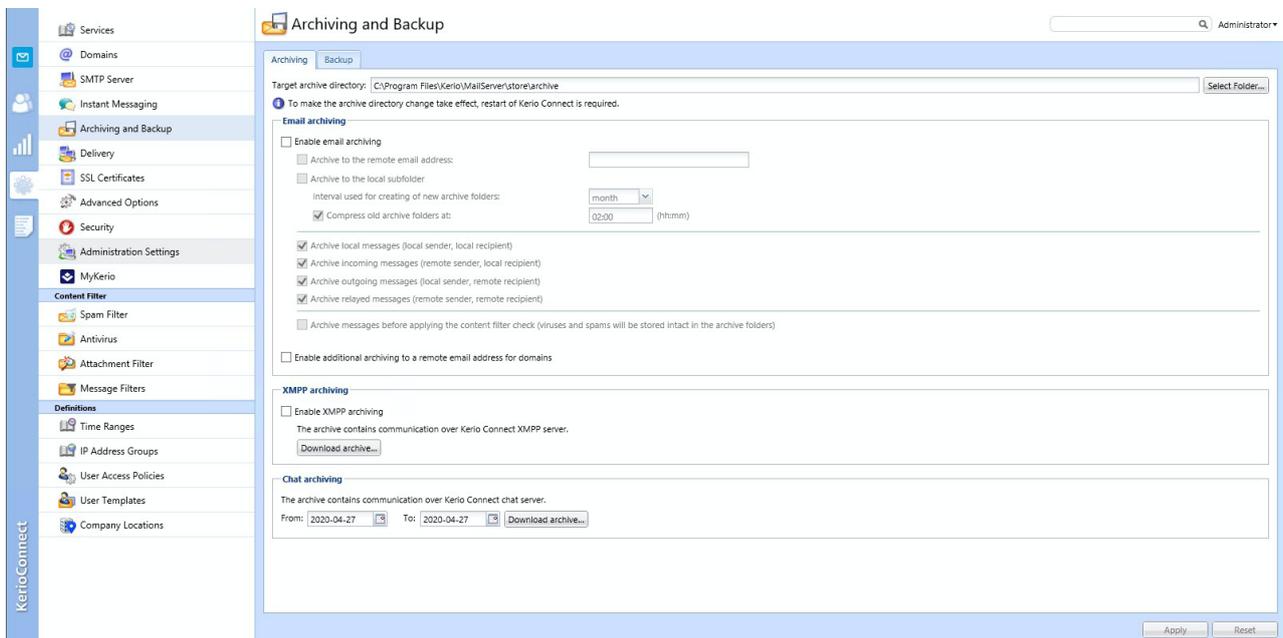
*You can create your own custom rules for filtering messages.*

Email archiving

Organizations often archive users' messages to retain a copy of each message for a specific period. Depending on an organization's geographic location and the nature of its business, the law may require message archiving. Even if it isn't a legal requirement, message archiving can still be useful for maintaining a record of the organization's communications.

GFI KerioConnect provides native message archiving capabilities, which you can see below. Organizations with more stringent message archiving requirements may wish to consider **GFI Archiver**, a supplementary product designed to augment GFI KerioConnect's native archiving capabilities.

Acquiring GFI KerioConnect

GFI KerioConnect can be a compelling alternative to Microsoft Office, especially for smaller organizations. If you want to try GFI KerioConnect, you can download a **free 30-day trial**.

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KerioConnect

Secure, enterprise-style email,
calendar & collaboration
without the high cost

Try Free for 30 Days

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