



- Main Page
- Recent changes
- New pages
- Random page
- Formatting Help
- Wiki Help
- Create new page

- CIA Tools
- Tools catalog
- Talkabout sites
- Squawk forums
- CIA HCS Wiki

IC Tools


Tools

Talk Preferences Watchlist Contributions Log (b)(3) (b)(6)

Page Discussion Read Edit View history Search Go

(U) Lotus Notes

UNCLASSIFIED//A//UO

 See the Intellipedia article at **Lotus Notes**
Also see *breadcrumbs*

(U) **Lotus Notes** is a groupware application owned by IBM. It permits the use of enterprise-class email and calendaring as well as providing a robust and flexible development environment for building applications of varying complexities.

(U) Tips for maximizing the usefulness of Lotus Notes can be found in this helpful presentation put together by DI/Business and Information Strategy:

- The Lotus Notes Inbox: Tapping the Power of Your Everyday Workspace  Link

Contents [hide]

- 1 (U) Differing Perspectives
- 2 (U) CIO Guidance
- 3 (U) Benefits
- 4 (U) Drawbacks
- 5 (U) Terminology
- 6 (U) References
- 7 (U) Related
- 8 (U) Other Lotus Notes Related Links

(U) Differing Perspectives [edit]

While some think that Lotus Notes has served the Agency well for many years and believe that it has been surpassed by other technologies that are more user-friendly and more supportive of the Agency's vision of "One Agency, One Community", others appreciate the security and the flexibility of it. Because a large number of Lotus Notes databases have been created over the years with poor interfaces, many users have become frustrated with the application itself, but if designed properly, a Notes database can still be an effective application, and in some cases, remains the only application available for some tasks. While the security of Lotus Notes databases is a highly-regarded feature, it also allows for the proliferation of a number of small repositories of data which could be of benefit to other CIA personnel.

(U) CIO Guidance [edit]

(U//A//UO) Based on the Agency IT strategic direction, the Chief Information Officer (CIO) is accelerating the development of Agency classified applications using web-based technologies, in lieu of IBM Lotus Notes-based client applications. Effective March 2008, the Agency will no longer support

Lotus Notes client development for new Headquarters-based applications and effective January 2009 the Agency will no longer support Lotus Notes client development for new Field-based applications (support to existing applications will continue during the transition).^[1]

(U) The IBM Lotus Notes client environment has provided the Agency with a robust set of information technology (IT) features for over 15 years. Beyond its email, calendar, and calendaring features, the Notes client application feature in particular has seen widespread use by Agency applications developers. This feature has allowed many developers to address a wide variety of customer requirements in a quick and agile manner. This success should be celebrated as we move forward to a new applications development environment. The Agency will remain committed to Lotus Notes as our email, calendar, and calendaring environment for the foreseeable future -- this notice only applies to the Lotus Notes client application feature.^[1]

(U) There are many Lotus Notes applications currently in operation around the Agency requiring ongoing upgrades and enhancements Agency components responsible for the existing Notes systems should continue applying necessary upgrades while concurrently identifying strategies to migrate to web-based platforms. For planning purposes, Agency components must eliminate all existing Lotus Notes client capabilities and Lotus Notes client application dependencies from systems by December 2012.^[1]

(U) Benefits [edit]

- (U) A strong development platform where almost any type of application can be created.
- (U) Replication - Servers in different locations can easily synch information. People around the world don't have to connect to servers in one location, they can connect to local copies on local servers and have the servers synch the information.
- (U) Replication also works well for traveling workers. Email and databases can be replicated onto a laptop. Changes can be made without being connected and can then be synched up when the laptop is hooked into the network.
- (U) The server software runs on many different servers and operating systems, not just Windows. The client runs on many different operating systems, not just Windows.
- (U) Email is one small part of the entire Lotus Notes system.
- (U) Very strong encryption is built into the Notes client. Encryption can be at the document level or even down to the field level, meaning every can see a document but if they don't have an encryption key they can't see what's in a certain field.
- (U) Security, security, security. Notes has a 7 level security system. Operating system, server, database, design, document, section, field. That's kind of important around here.
- (U) No known email virus has ever infected a Notes mail system. The same can't be said for an Exchange server.
- (U) If one person's mail file gets corrupted because it is over 50 GB because they never delete anything, the entire server doesn't fail, which happens with other products.
- (U) Collaboration is a major part of what Notes is known for. Many people can be working in the same database at the same time. More than one person can work on the same document at the same time.

(U) Drawbacks [edit]

- (U) The User Interface has a bad reputation because it's not very pretty and most find it unfriendly. This has been addressed finally in the latest version, Notes 8.
- (U) Many of the shortcut keys are different than the standard ones used by virtually all other Windows programs. For example, F9 refreshes the current view rather than the standard F5 used by Windows. The lack of standard shortcuts tends to frustrate new users who come from a Windows environment but have never used Notes.
- (U) The strong development platform allows people to easily create very crappy applications that don't work well.
- (U) This platform allows managers to assign non-technical people the job of creating applications that end up working terribly.
- (U) Notes allows people to create their own little repositories that lock down data that could be helpful to others.
- (U) In this environment, it seems the problem with Notes stems from how people use it and not from the technology itself.

(U) Terminology [edit]

- Lotus Notes - This is the client software used to access email, calendars, and other databases. It is a standard application included on CWE workstations.
- Lotus Domino - In the past, the software used to host Lotus Notes databases was known simply as "Lotus Notes Server." Upon the release of version 5, however, the name of the server was changed to Lotus Domino. The phrase "moving to Domino" is occasionally used as shorthand to indicate the process of making a client-based application accessible via a web browser. This phrase, however, is inaccurate, since Lotus Notes databases have been hosted on Lotus Domino servers for many years.
- Domino Administrator - This is the software used primarily by Lotus Domino server administrators to manage databases, monitor servers, and perform maintenance on Domino systems. It is available to all CWE users as a WinInstall and can be installed via the Add or Remove CWE Applications control panel.
- Domino Designer - This is the software used by application developers to create new applications and update the design of existing ones. It is also available to all CWE users.

(U) References [edit]

1. ^{1.0} ^{1.1} ^{1.2} (U//~~ATUO~~) PHASED DEACTIVATION OF LOTUS NOTES CLIENT ENVIRONMENT FOR APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT/HOSTING , EB Number 0007-07, 17 October 2007

(U) Related [edit]

- Lotus Notes Transition/How To
- Lotus Notes Technical Support
- Lotus Notes Development Tips
- Lotus Notes Termination Fix
- Creating Custom Mailing Lists in Lotus Notes

(U) Other Lotus Notes Related Links [edit]

- Lotus Notes Transition
- Notes Document Link
- Champions
- Sending Lotus Notes Mail with Rails
- Lotus Notes Development Tips
- Lotus Notes Instances - Links
- Lotus Notes Instance Tracking
- Lotus Notes Instance - Backups
- Lotus Note Client Application Deactivation

Lotus Notes

view • talk • edit

Links	Lotus Notes Transition • Champions • StEMS • Sending Lotus Notes Mail with Rails • Lotus Notes Development Tips • Lotus Notes Technical Support • Lotus Notes (Intellipedia) • SMTP Servers on JWICS • Notes Document Link • Creating Custom Mailing Lists in Lotus Notes
"Instances"	Lotus Notes Instances - Links • Lotus Notes Instance Tracking • Lotus Notes Instance - Backups • Lotus Notes Instances - Code Cut-off Reload Schedule
Databases	Category with Database Links • Admin Power Suite • Intel Clearance Requests • DI Conference Room Database • Directorate of Intelligence Reporting Memorandum • Finished Intelligence Production System • Current Intelligence Production System • Arabic Names Dictionary

Categories : [Articles with Intellipedia Counterparts](#) | [Lotus Notes](#) | [Software](#) (b)(3)
(b)(6)

This page has been accessed 15,739 times.

10 watching users

This page was last modified 14:26, 22 October 2010 by [redacted] and others.

Based on work by [redacted]

[Privacy policy](#) [About CIA Wiki](#) [Disclaimers](#)



(b)(3)
(b)(6)

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

(b)(3)