

CommuniGate Pro Messaging Platform

Executive Overview

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E-mail is becoming more important each day as a method of communicating. As a result choosing a mature and complete e-mail server for your business is critical. Organizations need a robust yet easy to manage e-mail system and reliable technical support from the system vendor. According to a report from technology analysts IDC, on an average day in 2000, 9.7 billion e-mail messages were sent worldwide. By the year 2005 that number will grow to 35 billion.

And to make matters more complicated, just offering e-mail is not enough. Organizations must offer other services including mailing lists, directories and address books, LDAP look-ups for local and remote account information, customizable Web based e-mail, and personal Web sites. Is your messaging infrastructure ready?

This overview will introduce you to CommuniGate Pro, the carrier scale internet messaging software from Stalker Software.

A recent review by CNET summed the product up nicely saying "CommuniGate Pro is a feature-rich messaging server that not only offers superior IMAP, POP3, and SMTP services, but also provides HTML-based e-mail access, excellent antispam capabilities, LDAP support, and a state-of-the-art list server."

Proven

CommuniGate Pro is a proven solution with several thousand servers installed and running at customer sites worldwide. The implementations range in size from several hundred to multi-million user systems.

Because of its reliable performance and standards based architecture, CommuniGate Pro is utilized as the platform for a wide variety of services including Web based e-mail for large ISPs, Unified Messaging for telcos, and SMS systems for wireless service providers.

Additionally, CommuniGate Pro serves the messaging needs of corporate, government, and educational customers all over the world.

Mature Company

Stalker Software is the market-leading developer of integrated messaging for over 25 major computer platforms including all Unix flavors, AS/400, Windows, and MacOS X. We are a mature and stable company, profitably in operation since 1991, and completely focused on Internet Messaging.

That focus allows us to listen to and deliver on the requirements of our customers, which is quite a refreshing change in an industry where so many companies are focused on mergers and financial difficulties.

As one reviewer from *Linux Journal* noted after monitoring the Stalker technical support mailing list for several months, “for the most part problems are answered the same day, sometimes within hours, including on weekends... staff members at Stalker are very motivated to keep their customers happy.”

Reliable Performance

Does your business depend on e-mail? Want to avoid being front-page news for an e-mail outage? CommuniGate Pro is the answer. Besides being an extremely stable product, as *Linux Journal* reported, “administrators should rarely need to use the monitors section as the system practically runs itself,” CommuniGate Pro supports a Dynamic Cluster environment where servers can be added or taken off-line without affecting service.

The unique CommuniGate Pro Dynamic Cluster technology relies on multi-tier load balancing and redundancy to provide the performance and reliability required by modern messaging providers. The no-single-point-of-failure Dynamic Cluster software allows service providers to exceed 99.999% uptime requirements.

Virus/SPAM Protection

The damage caused by recent “worms” i.e. the Love Letter-Visual Basic Script (VBS) worm and the Anna Kournikova worm, shows how vulnerable e-mail systems can be. CommuniGate Pro supports the use of third-party products to scan all incoming or outgoing messages for virus detection or content filtering. These products, the McAfee Virus Scanner for example, run alongside the e-mail server and provide a much more solid solution than stand-alone SMTP-based mail scanners.

CommuniGate Pro also has very effective built-in antispam functionality. Through the intuitive Web based interface, the administrator can instruct the system when to accept or reject messages. Messages can be blocked from offending hosts based either on IP addresses or on hosts found in the Realtime Blackhole Lists (RBLs). The interface also provides flexible mail-relaying options to control routing of legitimate messages.

Scalable

CommuniGate Pro is completely standards based. By choosing an open-standards-based solution, you avoid getting locked into a proprietary hardware/software system and can create an extensible messaging platform that will grow with your business.

Currently, CommuniGate Pro installations range in size from 100 to 2 million users. Customers are able to deploy on their preferred hardware/operating system and add additional servers or upgrade to a more robust hardware/operating system combination when necessary. They can add additional capacity or services without interrupting their end users or limiting their choice of e-mail clients.

Complete Solution

For enterprises needing uptime guarantees, quick set-up or with limited IT resources, Stalker will ship complete hardware/software solutions. Customers can choose from single-server, fail-over, or full-scale cluster systems; all completely assembled, configured, tuned and tested by Stalker Software.

Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

CommuniGate Pro has an abundance of features which are easily administered, allowing your staff to focus on other tasks. System administrators can choose to work in the intuitive Web based administration interface or use the Application Program Interface (API) which allows them to build external provisioning, monitoring, and billing applications to integrate with the messaging server.

The Web based administration interface supports "domain delegation", where each domain may have its own set of administrators. This functionality liberates your support staff from client calls requesting a change in domain settings or the creation of a new account within their domain.

To support migrating from another e-mail system, CommuniGate Pro provides simple tools to import users and mailboxes. For organizations moving thousands of users, these tools can reduce the complexity and time needed to complete a migration.

Because CommuniGate Pro supports so many operating systems, you will not be forced to purchase new hardware or retrain your support staff. The product is based on the Stalker Foundation Framework, which allows us to easily support all major operating systems. We currently support Solaris, Tru64, Linux/LinuxPPC, FreeBSD, BSDi, WindowsNT, UnixWare, MacOS X, AIX, Cobalt, HP/UX, IRIX, AS/400 and Linux for S390, allowing you to utilize existing hardware/operating system infrastructure. The Server takes full advantage of modern multi-threaded and multi-processor environments allowing for efficient and reliable message processing while still being easy on system resources.

What About the End Users?

With so many e-mail infrastructure options to choose from, sometimes the most important requirements are overlooked – those of your end users. Recently Network Computing suggested “approach the decision from the user perspective, assuming the customer experience is paramount.”

CommuniGate Pro supports access by any standards compliant e-mail client, web browsers, and many legacy applications, reducing support costs by allowing your users to keep their favorite e-mail client whether it is Outlook Express, Netscape, Eudora, or even Pine.

Comprehensive mailbox filtering, forwarding and sharing capabilities, allow your end users to more efficiently manage their daily deluge of e-mail. Each user can define their own message processing rules in a way that makes sense to them, taking that burden off your system administrator.

Don't Just Take our Word for It

At NetWorld+Interop 2001 Las Vegas, CommuniGate Pro swept Network Computing's 7th Annual Well-Connected awards. Not only did it win the award for the Best Large-Scale Mail System, but more importantly was chosen the Software Product of the Year. As reported by Network Computing, "Standards-based e-mail isn't trendy -- it's a staple. CommuniGate Pro impressed our editors with its low cost, low overhead, high availability, outstanding manageability, excellent security and platform support, and all the bells and whistles we expect in a mature, standards-based e-mail server. "

CommuniGate Pro has also proven itself in head-to-head performance contests. In September 2000 Network Computing invited six vendors including Stalker Software, iPlanet, Critical Path, Rockliffe, Mirapoint and Novell to submit proposals for two fictitious RFPs. The first was an e-mail system for a 10,000-user corporation and the second was an e-mail system for a 250,000-user ISP. The editors then tested each solution with a simulated user population performing e-mail transactions. The number of transactions was gradually increased to measure performance of each e-mail server under extreme loads. All of the testing was performed in Network Computing's Real-World Labs® at Syracuse University.

Network Computing awarded both bids to Stalker Software, based on the analysis of the proposals and the benchmarking performed in the labs. The reviewer wrote "CommuniGate Pro worked flawlessly on the least expensive hardware during the performance testing and nailed the functionality requirements" leading testers to conclude that CommuniGate Pro had the best price/performance ratio.

And We Agree

Stalker Software wants you to try CommuniGate Pro and evaluate for yourself how well it meets your organization's needs. We offer fully functioning, fully supported versions that you can download and install from our Website at www.stalker.com.

We're sure that you will find the rich set of advanced messaging features, scalability, reliability, and unmatched performance make the CommuniGate Pro software the best choice for your organization.