

# EXCHANGE 2003 TIPS

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## Tip #1: Managing Database Size

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### Exchange Databases: Does Size Matter?

*Courtesy of Jay Paul Gundotra, Principal Architect, ENow, inc.*

Does your Exchange Server need to go on a diet? Are your Microsoft Exchange databases getting too large? Does size really matter? The answer is yes....at least when one is referring to Exchange databases.

Exchange is a very robust messaging platform and it can handle a large amount of data. So why should you be concerned about the size of your databases?

Microsoft does not publish best practice guidelines for database size, but you need to consider carefully how database size affects Exchange uptime. Maintenance windows, repair times, and restore times all take longer for a 75 GB database than for a 20 GB database.

Now that we have established the relevance of database size, how can we put this information to good use?

Step one is to set a target maximum database size. This can be determined by your SLA or by an acceptable restore time. If you haven't tested your restore procedure, now would be a good time to do so. Remember—a backup is only good if it can be restored.

Once you have determined your maximum database size, consider implementing mailbox quotas to ensure that a database does not exceed your target maximum.

Next, utilize multiple databases. Exchange is scalable; take advantage of it by using more than one store. This will make it easier to stay within your target database size and also decrease your maintenance or repair windows. Spreading users across multiple databases also reduces your risk.

Finally, monitor the growth of your Exchange databases to ensure they stay within your predefined size limit. (This is especially important if you have not implemented mailbox quotas.)

If you follow these simple steps, your Exchange databases will stay happy and healthy!

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### About ENow, inc.

ENow is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner specializing in high-end Exchange consulting and the development of software to simplify Exchange system management. The company's flagship product is an innovative utility called Mailscape that provides administrators with a 'one-look dashboard view' of the entire Exchange environment. ENow is headquartered in Orange, California, and is proudly represented by a world-wide network of resellers and distributors.



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