

CoexLinks 3.0

Lotus Notes & Non-Notes E-mail Coexistence Overview

Compatible with IBM Lotus Notes/Domino 6.5x to 8.5.x

Introduction

Companies who have used IBM Lotus Notes/Domino over a period of years have often developed applications or purchased third party applications that utilize Notes-specific features such as doclinks. These links can play a crucial role in a workflow or approval process, or can provide contextual linkages between existing company data and process information sent by e-mail. When a company decides to switch e-mail systems to a non-Notes system, these links can be lost, thus breaking the workflow process or losing the linkage to company assets.

To prevent this disruption, companies are often faced with migrating or replacing critical applications at the same time as they replace their mail systems. An alternative to this approach is the use of a “coexistence” tool which preserves the functionality of the links in the non-Notes mail system. CoexLinks is just such a coexistence tool, consisting of three components to address your varied needs. CoexLinks converts links to your choice of attached NDL files, Notes URLs or web URLs. CoexLinks Clipper copies doclinks to the Windows clipboard as NDL files, Notes URLs or web URLs in a manner which allows them to be pasted into MS Outlook or other 3rd party applications that accept file or HTML pasting. CoexLinks Fidelity handles conversion of all email into higher quality HTML for better rendering on the target email client. Users who have migrated can continue to access workflow and company information as before, and can communicate using doclinks with those inside and out of IBM Lotus Notes email. Users who have not yet migrated to the new e-mail system may also use converted links.

In addition to its role as a coexistence tool, CoexLinks can play a vital role in the migration of applications from the Notes client to web based applications. Companies who do not want to maintain a Notes client infrastructure for all of its personnel may migrate certain critical applications to Domino web or portal based web applications. Links to those particular applications must be rendered differently than links to applications which are still Notes client based, and CoexLinks provides the configurability to easily differentiate and render links appropriately.

Business Benefits

CoexLinks offers several business benefits:

- Third party Domino applications that send links can remain in use
- Applications and users can send links without regard to the recipient’s mail system, thus allowing smooth, gradual migrations
- Links to specific databases can be launched on the web while others are launched in a Notes client, allowing removal of Notes clients for some groups of people without disruption of others who still need the Notes client.
- Disclaimers may be added to modified e-mails to describe how links should be used.
- No end user changes are required – a system administrator simply installs and configures CoexLinks and it takes care of links automatically
- No re-training of users required
- High performance plug-in adds virtually no load to server

CoexLinks Fidelity (bundled extension manager utility requiring CoexLinks license):

- Convert emails in Lotus Notes rich text to MIME using the Genii Software proprietary rendering system for high quality results in Outlook, Gmail or elsewhere
 - High performance plug-in adds virtually no load to server
- CoexLinks Clipper (bundled menu add-in utility requiring CoexLinks license):

- Copy a doclink in Lotus Notes client and paste it into 3rd part email as working link

Supported Operating Systems

CoexLinks: Windows 32-bit/64-bit, Linux

CoexLinks Fidelity: Windows 32-bit/64-bit, Linux

CoexLinks Clipper: Windows 32-bit (all Notes clients on Windows are 32-bit)

Supported IBM Lotus Releases

CoexLinks: IBM Lotus Domino 6.5x, 7.x, 8.x, 8.5.x

CoexLinks Fidelity: IBM Lotus Domino 6.5x, 7.x, 8.x, 8.5.x

CoexLinks Clipper: IBM Lotus Notes 6.5x, 7.x, 8.x, 8.5.x

Architecture

CoexLinks uses extension manager technology and the Domino C API toolkit to hook into the Domino router task and intercept messages that are about to be routed. Using standard, supported call-out functions, CoexLinks checks the e-mail messages for the existence of links, whether doclinks, viewlinks, db links or anchor links. Each link is replaced with an NDL attachment, Notes URL or web URL before passing the e-mail back to the router. Specific handling of links may be controlled by server hint or by replica id for maximum flexibility. A disclaimer may be added to each modified e-mail to describe how the links should be accessed. No scripts or agents are required.

CoexLinks Fidelity also uses extension manager technology and the Domino C API toolkit to hook into the Domino router task and intercept messages that are about to be routed. Using Genii Software's proprietary Midas Rich Text rendering engine, CoexLinks Fidelity converts the email to MIME, thus preempting the SMTP task with its lower quality conversion. No scripts or agents are required.

CoexLinks Clipper uses menu add-in technology and the Domino C API toolkit to add menu items. These enable the user to copy a doclink, view link or application link onto the Windows clipboard in a format consistent with the CoexLinks conversion settings, where it can be pasted into any word processor or mail client that accepts a file or HTML pasting.