

# Disconnected Migration Strategy

Priasoft

## Disconnected Migration?

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### What is a Disconnected Migration?

A Disconnected Migration is one where there is no feasible real-time connectivity between the source and target Microsoft Exchange environments. The reason for this scenario can be many but generally center around time or physical access. In the case of time, the amount of time to perform a migration may exceed available bandwidths for connectivity – perhaps the network link is due to shut down in a short period of time. Another concern with time is the existence of a slow link, one with either low capacity (bits/second) or very high latency (source and target are 1000s of miles apart). In these cases, the duration of the migration may span many days or weeks depending on the quantity of data that must be transferred. Such presents a potential problem due to coexistence scenarios (and it's inherent weaknesses) and due to the successive amount of changes that continue in the source environment over such a long period of time. In the case of an issue of physical access – perhaps there is no possibility for the source and target environment to connect, maybe for high security reasons – a different strategy must be approached.

## Best Approach

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When considering a disconnected migration, the best approach is one in which the entire Exchange Organization is migrated from the source environment to the new target environment in as short a time as possible. Priasoft provides the best tools for this due to the performance capabilities the tools provided. Additionally, the approach should be one that considers the end user experience and perception of the migration after it's completed.

Often the first approach is one that seems fairly mundane: export all the data to some portable format (PST files) and then import into the new environment. However there are some inherent problems with this approach; address book details are often lost and many Microsoft Exchange features are degraded, like calendar sharing.

We'd like to introduce a better approach in this document, one that serves the best value to the organization and its end users. This approach is one that brings a snapshot of the source environment locally. Virtual machine architecture is a natural fit for such a scenario. The concept is fairly simple, but does have some important considerations to include: Make a copy of the current source environment as a set of virtual machines (assuming they are not already) and physically transport the environment to the target data-center. Once local to the target environment, local connectivity can be achieved and a complete migration can be performed.

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The initial concern with this approach is one of time, in the sense that there will necessarily be an amount of time in which users should be out of the system so as to reduce uncaptured changes. This amount of time consists of the following:

1. Duration to virtualize the source servers
2. Copy the data to a portable medium
3. Transport the data to the target data-center
4. Bring the virtualized source environment on-line
5. Migrate Microsoft Exchange

However, compared to a data export scenario, the basic above steps are actually very much the same, which means you would likely spend just as much time with one versus the other, the real difference being the result and user experience at the end.

Furthermore, Priasoft's tools will actually reduce the overall time of the project since our performance far outmatches any other process available. Many customers are able to migrate hundreds and even thousands of mailboxes in a 24-48 hour period.

An additional value point is that Priasoft keeps track of migrated items such that even if there were changes in the source that happened after the snapshot, a secondary snapshot can be taken and migrated again to pickup those few changes without duplicating data.

This model is considered best because more than just the mail data is transferred; contacts, calendar, tasks, notes, delegates, rules, out-of-office, send-on-behalf-of, RSS feeds, public folders, distribution lists, and the Outlook client are all handled by the Priasoft Migration Suite. This holistic approach to the migration ensures that end users receive a transparent experience before and after the migration.