



# Novanet Internet Consulting

## Groupware as a Service

**H**eadquartered in Zurich, Novanet Internet Consulting AG has been offering its customers professional hosting services in a bank-certified data centre for more than 10 years. Over the past few years, the company has placed an increased focus on the Software as a Service (SaaS) sector.

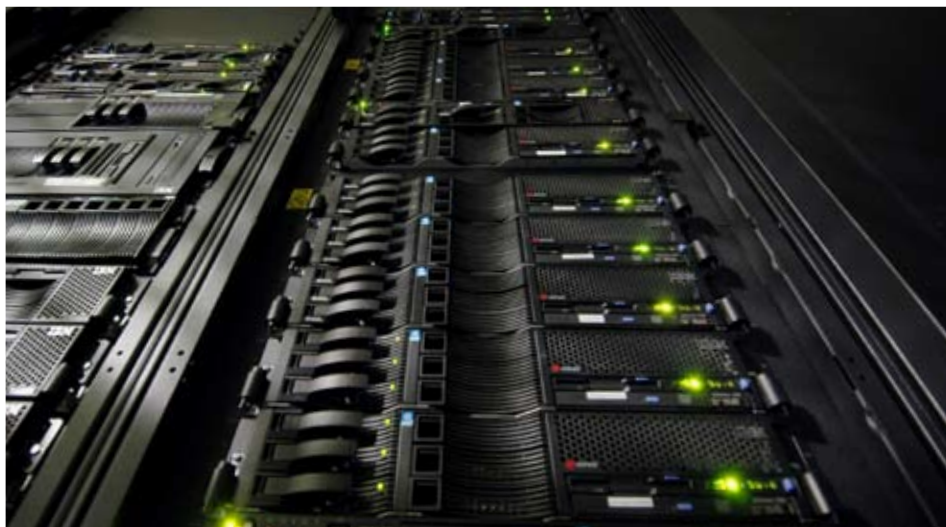
Although email is one of the standard products offered by hosting providers, the email service was becoming an increasing headache for Raymond Grossert, director of hosting at Novanet, and his team – in particular, the mail server used could no longer meet user requirements for a groupware environment with adequate spam protection. So in mid-2006, Novanet began to look for alternative solutions.

### Clear ideas

The new system needed to combine all the usual email functions with effective virus and spam protection. At the same time, emphasis was placed on additional groupware functions such as shared calendars, to-do lists, contacts and note management. Other key features for the Zurich-based IT provider included a user-friendly client interface, support for push email to mobile devices such as smartphones and PDAs, and automatic synchronisation of the mail server with Microsoft Outlook. And as a Software as a Service provider, Novanet attached particular importance to ease of use of the mail server via a web browser as well as to low investment and operating costs.



**“Kerio MailServer enables us to offer comprehensive groupware functionality at a very attractive price.”**



## Choosing Kerio

After around a month of evaluation, Novanet drew up a shortlist of two candidates: Microsoft Exchange and Kerio MailServer. “In the end, we decided on the Kerio product because its investment and operating costs in particular are very low – much lower than those of Exchange – and it offers better performance with similar features,” recalls Raymond Grossert. “It was also important for us as an SaaS provider not to be seen as another hosted exchange provider but to be able to compete against the major providers’ products.”

## Availability and security

With email being essential nowadays, high availability of email services is particularly important to users. In order to guarantee uninterrupted service, Novanet’s mail server can be transferred in live operation from the original computer to a second server. For users, this means that their emails are virtually always available. McAfee’s virus scanner is integrated in the groupware server and protects users from email viruses. The mail server has a total of 14 different functions to combat the flood of spam.

## Low operating costs

The number of accounts at Novanet has increased from just under 400 a year ago to a current total of over 700, which Raymond Grossert attributes to a number of factors: “Firstly, user satisfaction has increased considerably – spam and viruses haven’t been an issue since the migration. Thanks to low investment and operating costs, we can also offer a complete groupware solution including shared address books, calendars and contact lists for as little as five Swiss francs per user per month. As a result, our prices are between 30 and 50 per cent lower than those of the major hosted exchange providers.”

## Kerio MailServer

- ▶ Integrated Anti-Spam
- ▶ Dual Anti-Virus Option
- ▶ Groupware Support
- ▶ Runs on Windows, Linux & Mac
- ▶ Mobile Email Support for Treo with Palm OS, Windows Mobile, Symbian and BlackBerry

