REVIEWER'S GUIDE



MailSite Reviewer's Guide

End User Reviewer's Guide for MailSite 11

MailSite 11

November 2026

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1 Introduction

Thank you for your interest in MailSite. MailSite 11 is a mail and collaboration server for Windows. It serves email, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes to Microsoft Outlook, to its own ExpressPro webmail and to phones and tablets.

MailSite includes an Exchange ActiveSync server. It pushes email, calendar, contact, task and note changes over the air to iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

This guide walks you through an evaluation: installing MailSite, creating a test mailbox, signing in to ExpressPro, connecting Classic Outlook and a phone, and watching changes synchronize between them. The MailSite 11 Administrator Guide has the full detail for every step.

1.1 Company Overview

Rockliffe Systems has built secure messaging software for service providers, hosting providers, enterprises and small businesses since 1995. MailSite is its mail server for Windows. For more information visit www.mailsite.com.

1.2 The MailSite Package

This guide covers the three MailSite 11 editions:

- MailSite SE (Small Enterprise)
- MailSite LE (Large Enterprise)
- MailSite SP (Service Provider)

MailSite SE: for small and medium enterprises
MailSite SE is an easy to use, standards-based mail server for smaller organizations. It includes a calendar and contact server, an ActiveSync server, ExpressPro webmail, anti-spam and anti-virus protection and server-side mail filtering. It works with Classic Outlook, Thunderbird, macOS Mail and other standard mail apps, and with iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

MailSite LE: for large enterprises
MailSite LE gives larger organizations the same mail, calendar, contact and mobile services, with the capacity for more mailboxes. It includes a mail server, a mailing list server, ExpressPro webmail, an ActiveSync server and a calendar server, together with anti-spam, anti-virus and TLS encryption. Administrators manage it from one Console, on the server or in a browser.

MailSite SP: for service providers
MailSite SP is a secure, scalable SMTP, POP and IMAP hosting platform for carriers and service providers. It hosts many independent domains, each with its own administrators, certificates and policies. It can keep mailbox accounts and mailing list members in an external database through ODBC.

Anti-spam
The MailSite anti-spam filter scores every message as it arrives. It combines Bayesian classification, sender authentication checks, public reputation lists and greylisting. Server-side Sieve rules then decide what happens to a message, for example filing spam into each user's Junk Mail folder.

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Anti-virus
MailSite blocks viruses at the mail server, before they reach users. The built-in ClamAV scanner checks incoming, outgoing and internal mail. It keeps its virus definitions and its scanner engine up to date by itself.

Calendar and contact server
MailSite keeps calendars, contacts, tasks and notes in each mailbox and shares them between users. Users work with them in Classic Outlook, ExpressPro, macOS Calendar and Contacts and on their phones. MailSite can also publish a calendar for others to subscribe to, and subscribe to calendars published elsewhere.

ActiveSync server
The MailSite ActiveSync server pushes email, calendar, contact, task and note changes over the air to iPhone, iPad and Android devices, through the Exchange account type built into the phone.

1.3 Product Highlights

MailSite gives business users a complete messaging service:

- Push email, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes to iPhone, iPad and Android devices
- Shared calendars, contacts, tasks and notes
- Classic Outlook for Windows connects over MAPI over HTTP, as it does to Exchange, with no plug-in
- ExpressPro webmail with mail, calendars, contacts, tasks, notes and search
- macOS Mail, Calendar and Contacts through Exchange Web Services (EWS)
- IMAP, POP and SMTP for every standard mail app

MailSite's Exchange ActiveSync (EAS) server supports protocol versions up to 16.1. Phones use their own Exchange account type, so no app or middleware is needed. Users manage their most important data from whatever device suits them:

- Over-the-air synchronization for iPhone, iPad and Android
- Outlook, ExpressPro and phones show the same mail, calendars and contacts
- Changes appear in every client automatically

2 Installing MailSite

This section explains how to install MailSite 11: what you need, what gets installed and the two ways to run the installer.

2.1 Before You Start

Register for a free 30-day trial, then request your evaluation key from Downloads. The key decides the edition, the number of mailboxes, the optional features and the expiry date.

For the evaluation you also need:

- a test server that runs no other mail server or web server, because MailSite uses the standard mail ports and ports 80 and 443
- a public host name in DNS that points to the server, such as mail.example.com, if you want to test from outside your network
- test clients: a web browser, and any of Classic Outlook for Windows, an iPhone or Android phone, macOS Mail or Thunderbird
- an outside mailbox, to test mail in both directions

2.2 System Requirements

Server software

- Windows Server 2012 R2 or later, or Windows 11
- NTFS file system
- SQL Server or another ODBC database only if you keep mailbox accounts or mailing list members in an external database

Server hardware

- 8 GB of RAM minimum
- 1 GB of free disk space to install or upgrade, counting the Windows temporary folder
- More processor and memory for heavy message filtering and scanning, and disk space for mailboxes, logs and backups

ExpressPro, Console and client requirements

- Edge, Firefox or Chrome for ExpressPro and the Console in a browser
- Windows 10, Windows 11 or Windows Server 2016 or later for the ExpressPro and Console desktop apps
- Classic Outlook 2021 or Microsoft 365 Apps for Outlook over MAPI over HTTP

MailSite serves ExpressPro, the Console and the Exchange protocols itself. It needs no Internet Information Services (IIS) and no .NET Framework.

2.3 Installation Contents

MailSite services

The MailSite services receive, sort, address and deliver email, and serve it to clients. They are MSDBMA (the message store and configuration database), HTTPMA (the web server for ExpressPro, the Console and the Exchange protocols), EWSMA, MAPIMA and EASMA (Exchange Web Services, MAPI over HTTP and ActiveSync), IMAP4A and POP3A (mailbox access) and SMTPRA and SMTPDA (receiving and delivering mail).

MailSite Console

The Console is where you configure and manage MailSite. Run it as a desktop app on the server, or open it from any browser. A server administrator manages the whole server, and a domain administrator manages only their own domain.

MailSite ExpressPro

ExpressPro is MailSite's webmail. It has a three-pane mail view, full text search, contacts, calendars, tasks, notes and account settings. Users open it in a browser or as a desktop app.

Command-line utilities

The command-line utilities manage mailboxes, mailing lists, domains, aliases and other settings from the Windows command prompt. They are useful for scripts that automate configuration. The Administrator Guide describes each one.

2.4 Installing MailSite SE, LE and SP

Sign in to the server as an administrator. You can install with one PowerShell command, or with the graphical MailSite Setup. Both install the same package to `C:\Program Files\MailSite` by default.

Install with PowerShell

Open the Start menu, find Windows PowerShell, choose Run as administrator, then paste this command and press Enter:

```
[Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol =
  [Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol -bor
  [Net.SecurityProtocolType]::Tls12;
irm "https://mailsite.com/install" | iex
```

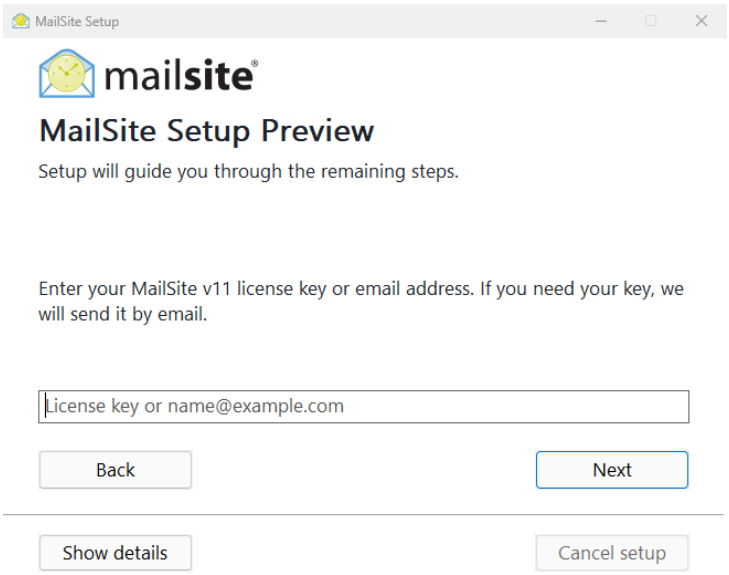
The first part turns on TLS 1.2, which the download site needs. The installer downloads and checks the current release, then asks for:

- your license key, or the email address you registered with (it can send you the key)
- the first mail domain, such as example.com
- a password for the Postmaster account, at least 8 characters with a lower case letter, an upper case letter, a number and a symbol. Leave it blank and the installer makes one and shows it once: write it down.
- optionally, a Windows account to run the services

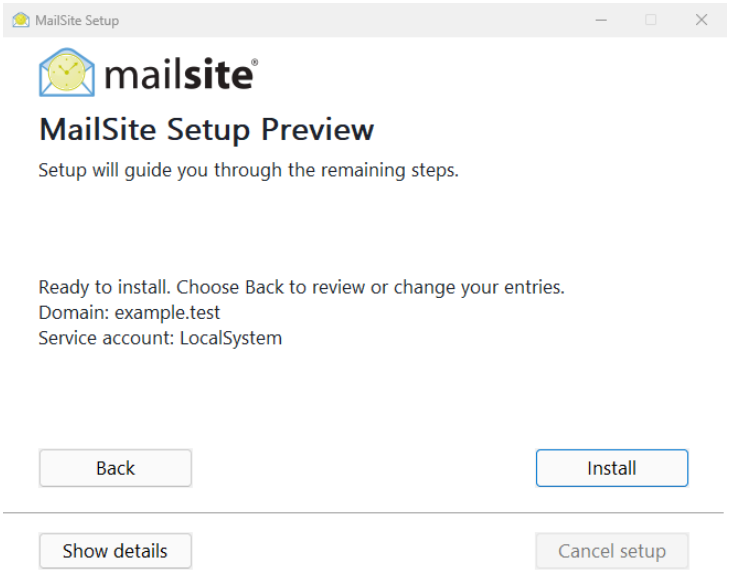
Review the plan and approve it. The installer then installs and starts the services.

Install with MailSite Setup

If you prefer a graphical installer, download `mailsite-installer.exe` from the release, open it and choose Install MailSite. MailSite Setup asks the same questions. Enter your license key or the email address you registered with:



Setup then asks for the domain, the Postmaster password and the service account. It shows what it will do before it changes anything. Click Install to start the installation:



During installation the status line shows each step. Show details lists more messages, and the full log is saved under the installation folder.

Check the installation

Open the Console. On the server, start the MailSite Console desktop app with Run as administrator and choose the connection named This computer. From any browser, go to `https://<your server>/console` and sign in as `postmaster@<your domain>`.

The Console lists the server's settings on the left, with the domains and their mailboxes below them. Open Server, Services and check that the MailSite services are running.

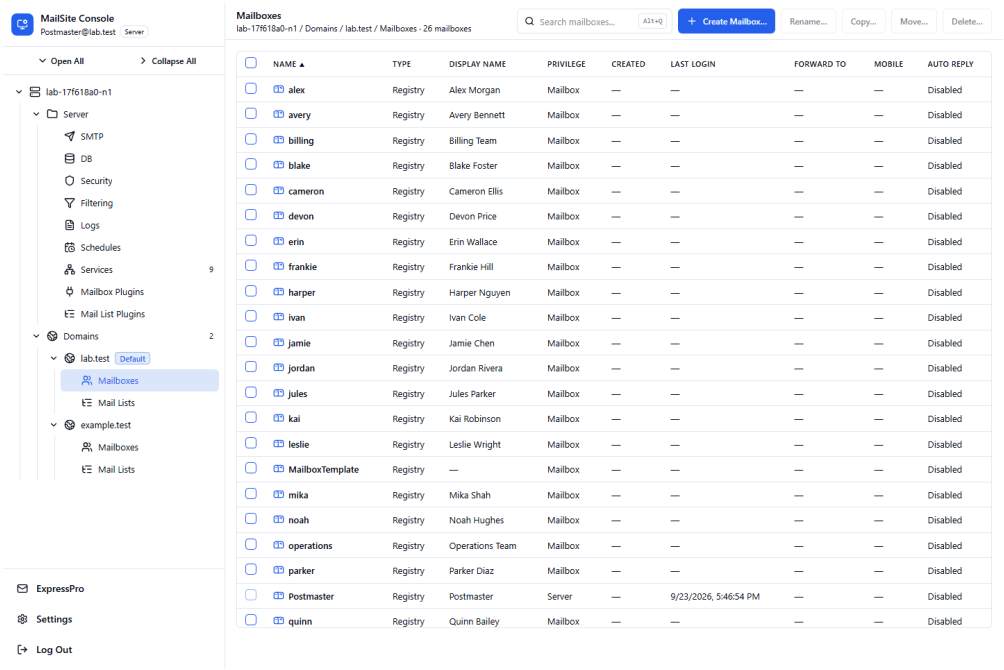
Then open Server, License Key and click Validate to see what your key includes: the mailbox limit, the expiry date and the number of calendaring, ActiveSync and MAPI users.

Set up the domain and a test mailbox

The installer created your first domain. Point the domain's MX record at the server so that outside mail arrives. Add `autodiscover.<your domain>` pointing to the server, so that Outlook and phones can find it from an email address alone.

A new domain gets free Let's Encrypt certificates automatically, for the server's public name, its MX host names and `autodiscover.<your domain>`. Open the domain's Certificates and click Test to check that each name resolves to the server and that port 80 reaches it. Without a trusted certificate, phones and Outlook warn about the connection or refuse it.

Under the domain, open Mailboxes and click Create Mailbox. Enter a name and a password. Use this mailbox, not the Postmaster, for every client test.



3 Reviewing MailSite

These tips will help you evaluate MailSite's main features.

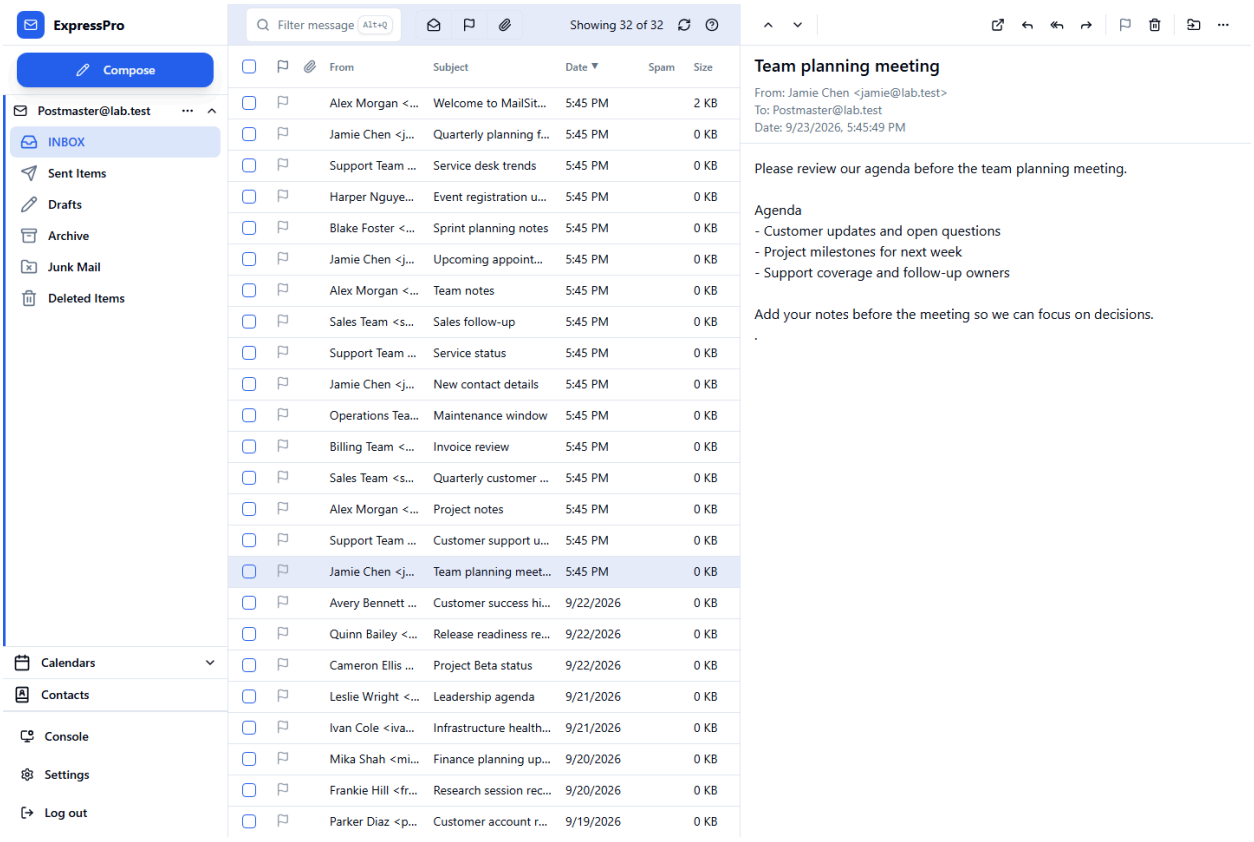
To see synchronization at its best, use both Classic Outlook and an ActiveSync phone such as an iPhone or Android phone, alongside ExpressPro. You can then watch the same data synchronize between all three.

3.1 Signing In to ExpressPro

Open a browser (Edge, Firefox or Chrome) and go to your server's address:

- `https://mail.example.com/`

You should see the ExpressPro sign-in page. Sign in with the test mailbox's full email address and password. The ExpressPro inbox opens:



Signing in shows that MailSite's web services are running, so you are ready to start the review. Try the everyday tasks:

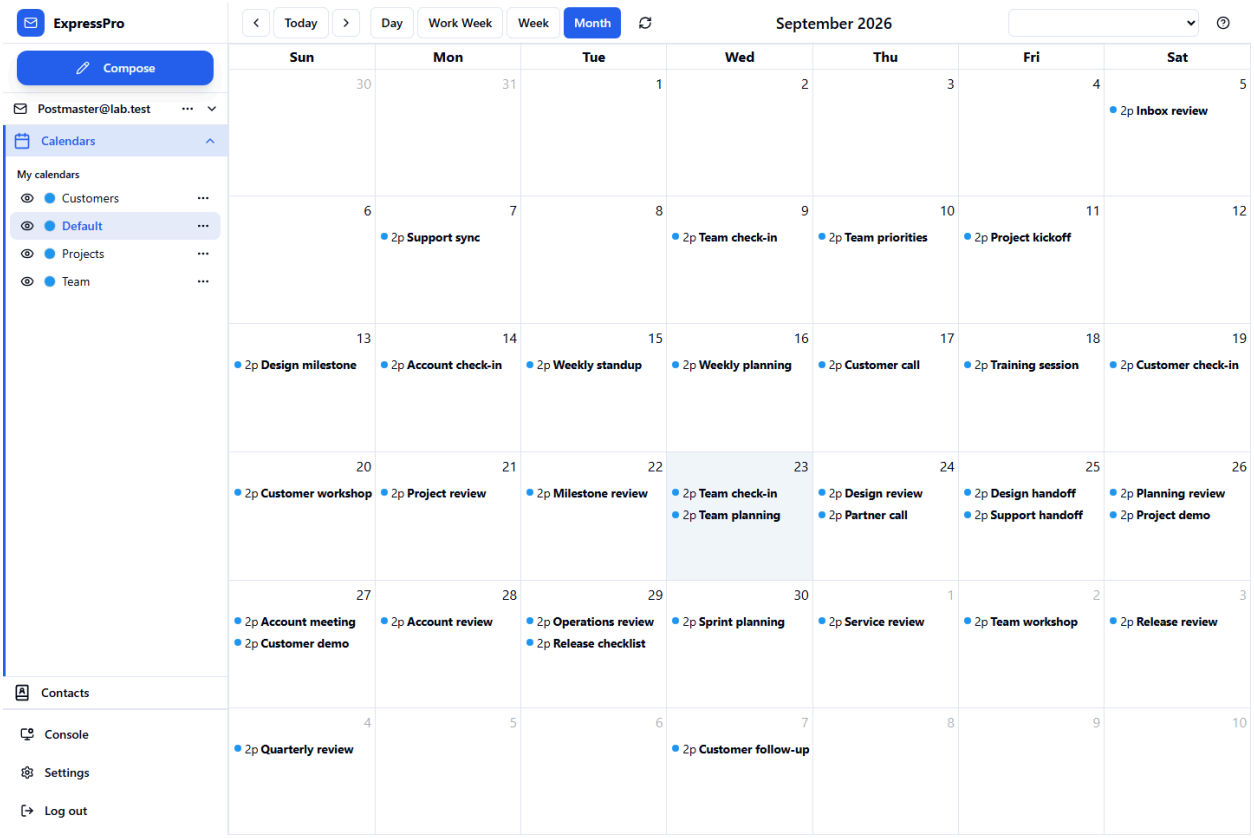
- Send a message to your outside mailbox, then reply to it from there. Check that mail arrives in both directions.
- Read, reply to and file a message. Use the search box to find a message by a word in its text.
- Create a contact, a calendar event, a task and a note.
- Open Settings to set an automatic reply or change the theme.

3.2 Connecting Classic Outlook

Classic Outlook for Windows connects to MailSite over MAPI over HTTP, the same way it connects to Exchange. One account carries mail, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes, with no plug-in. The server needs a MAPI license, and the mailbox needs MAPI access turned on.

1. In Outlook, add an account with the test mailbox's email address and password.
2. Outlook finds the server through Autodiscover and sets up the account.
3. Check that the mail, calendar events, contacts, tasks and notes you created in ExpressPro appear in Outlook.

You can now add events in Outlook and in ExpressPro, and the two stay synchronized automatically. Calendars and contacts that other users share with you can be opened in Outlook too.



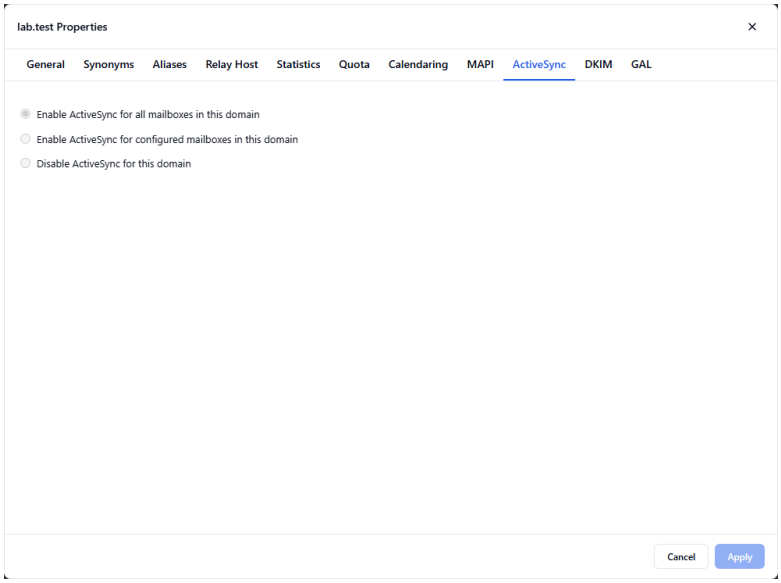
Contacts synchronize in exactly the same way. A contact you create or change in Outlook appears in ExpressPro, and the other way round.

Other desktop apps connect too. macOS Mail, Calendar and Contacts use Exchange Web Services: add the account as an Exchange account. Thunderbird and other mail apps can use IMAP and SMTP for mail.

3.3 Mobile Sync

MailSite synchronizes email, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes with iPhone, iPad and Android devices over Exchange ActiveSync. Phones see MailSite as an Exchange server, so they set it up with their built-in Exchange account type.

First, check that ActiveSync is on. Open Server, ActiveSync in the Console and turn it on for all mailboxes, or for chosen domains and mailboxes. Each domain's ActiveSync tab can turn it on for all of its mailboxes or only for chosen ones. Your license must include ActiveSync.



iPhone and iPad

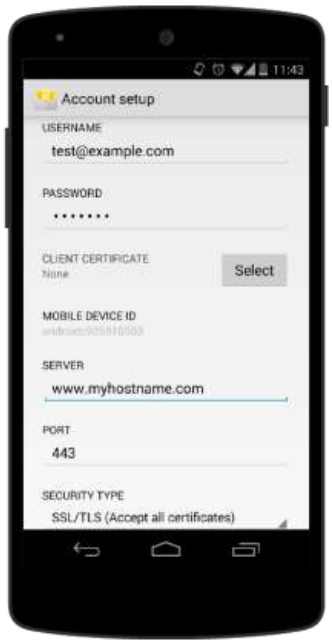
Below are basic instructions for setting up an iOS device. For other devices, see the device's documentation for an Exchange account: MailSite's ActiveSync server works the same way as a Microsoft Exchange server.



- Go to Settings, open Mail, then Mail Accounts (Accounts on some versions), then Add Account
- Select Microsoft Exchange
- Enter the full email address you wish to sync, for example `test@example.com`
- Enter your own description and select Next
- Choose Configure Manually if asked, and enter the password
- If the device cannot find the server, enter your server name, for example `mail.example.com`, and the same email address as the username. Leave the domain blank.
- Select the services you wish to sync: Mail, Contacts, Calendars and, where offered, Reminders and Notes
- Select Save

Android

Below are basic instructions for setting up an Android device. Menu names differ between Android versions and manufacturers.



- Open the device's mail app and add an account of the Exchange type
- Enter the full email address you wish to sync, for example `test@example.com`, and the password
- If asked, enter the same email address as the username and your server name, for example `mail.example.com`
- Set the security type to SSL/TLS. With a trusted certificate, there is no need to accept all certificates.
- Leave the client certificate blank
- Select the services you wish to sync, such as email, contacts and calendar

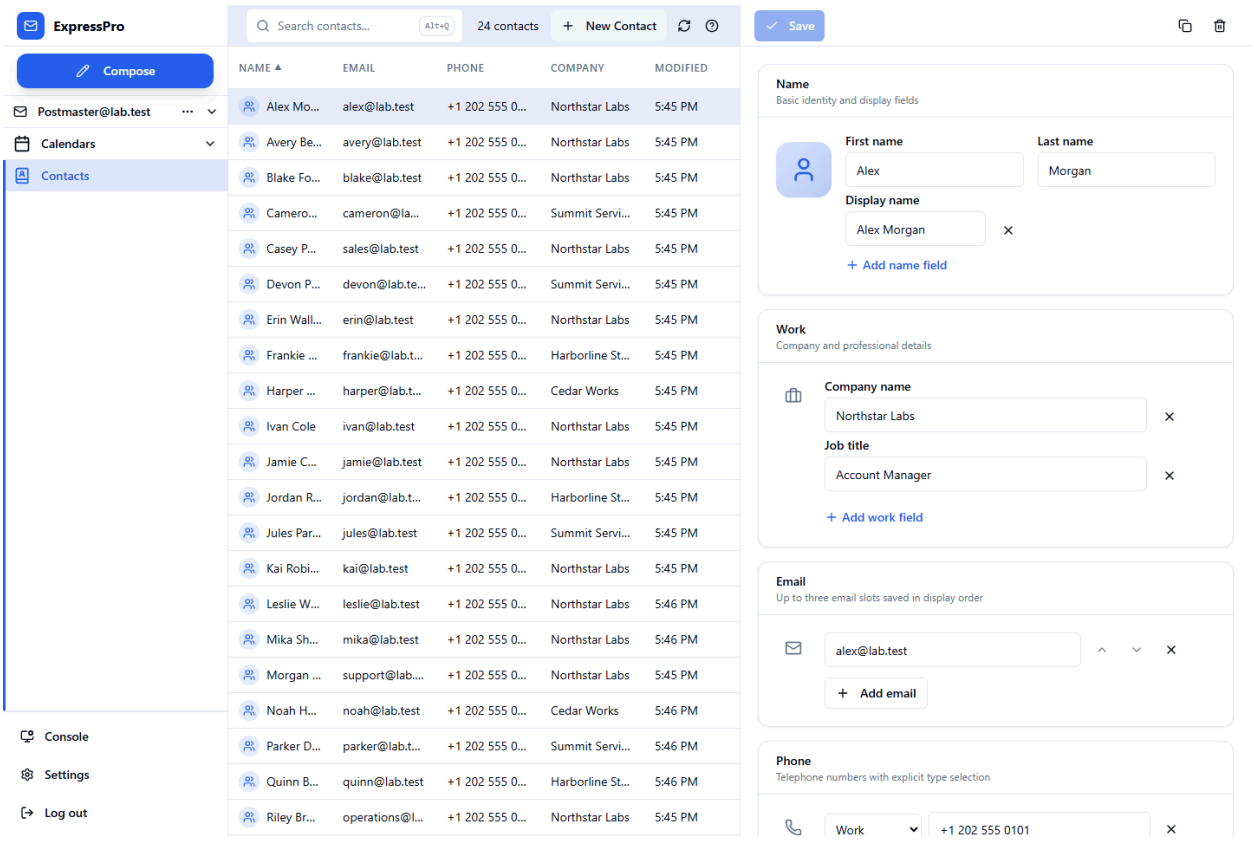
3.4 Synchronizing Collections

With ActiveSync, email, contacts, calendar events, tasks and notes synchronize between your phone and MailSite. A change made on the phone, in ExpressPro or in Outlook appears in all three.

Contact example

Create a new contact on your phone. When you save it, the phone sends it to the MailSite ActiveSync server.

The new contact now appears in the Contacts list in ExpressPro:



Outlook receives the change from MailSite as it happens, so the contact also appears in Outlook's Contacts.

Calendar events, tasks and notes synchronize between Outlook, ExpressPro and the phone in the same way. Try creating a meeting in ExpressPro and watching it appear on the phone, or moving a message to another folder on the phone and seeing it move in ExpressPro.

4 Summary

The product

MailSite provides an ActiveSync server, native Classic Outlook support over MAPI over HTTP and ExpressPro webmail. Users manage their mail, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes from wherever they are.

MailSite has been meeting the performance, scalability and reliability needs of service providers and businesses for many years. It makes it easier than ever to give today's demanding users what they need, on a Windows server you control.

The features

- Mobile sync for iPhone, iPad and Android through the built-in ActiveSync server
- Shared calendars, contacts, tasks and notes
- Classic Outlook over MAPI over HTTP, with email, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes in one account
- ExpressPro webmail, with a familiar three-pane design and full text search
- Email security: ClamAV anti-virus, Bayesian anti-spam, greylisting, Sieve filtering and free Let's Encrypt certificates
- POP and IMAP mailbox access for every standard mail app

Next steps

When you buy a license, enter the new key in the Console under Server, License Key. To start, register for a free trial.

5 Email Acronym Reference Guide

Term	Meaning
MTA	Message Transfer Agent: a server that passes mail on to other servers
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol: carries mail between servers, and from mail apps to the server
IMAP	Internet Message Access Protocol: reads mail from the server, keeping the folders on the server and fetching one part at a time
POP	Post Office Protocol: downloads whole messages from the mailbox to the mail app
MAPI over HTTP	How Classic Outlook connects to Exchange, and to MailSite
EWS	Exchange Web Services: how macOS Mail, Calendar and Contacts and ExpressPro reach the mailbox
EAS	Exchange ActiveSync: how phones sync mail, calendars, contacts, tasks and notes
Autodiscover	How Outlook and phones find the server from an email address
TLS	Transport Layer Security: encrypts connections and proves the server's identity with a certificate
MX record	The DNS record that tells other mail servers where to deliver mail for a domain
DKIM	DomainKeys Identified Mail: a signature that proves a message came from its domain
Sieve	The standard language for server-side mail filtering rules
iCalendar	The standard format for calendar events, used to publish and subscribe to calendars
BFAP	Brute Force Attack Protection: blocks addresses that guess passwords or recipient addresses

5.1 Supported Standards

Rockliffe has a long tradition of working with Internet standards. MailSite 11 implements the principal Internet mail standards, including:

- SMTP with service extensions, STARTTLS and authenticated submission
- IMAP4rev1 with access control lists (ACLs), and POP3
- TLS for SMTP, IMAP, POP and HTTPS
- MIME message format and delivery status notifications
- iCalendar for calendar publishing and subscriptions
- DKIM signing, and SPF, DKIM and DMARC checks in spam scoring
- Sieve mail filtering
- Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync up to 16.1, Exchange Web Services and MAPI over HTTP