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You have to be hiding under a rock for the last few years to not know that Enterprises are moving away from Lotus Notes faster than ever. The Million Dollar question rather is – Where do they go?

The world out there in Lotus world is not so simple. The Lotus Notes platform has provided a broad range of functionality including email, calendaring, instant messaging, voice & video conferencing and/or web-collaboration (with additional IBM software), discussion forums and blogs. In addition, the Lotus platform also has Domino Designer – a development environment to rapidly create business applications.

It's not a simple "Migrate the Emails" project. We're talking about migration to a better Work-force productivity & collaboration ecosystem. Two choices emerge – Some go Google, some prefer Microsoft.

Microsoft Exchange has been an alternate platform of choice for Emails for a long time, alongside Lotus. Hence, for most observers and decision makers, it should be a no-brainer to just decide on Microsoft Platform. Is that the case? No. We see very large businesses like Royal Ahold NV (55,000 users), Jaguar Land Rover (15,000 users), Rentokil Initial (35,000 users), University of Portsmouth (35,000 users), and General Motors (100,000 users) move to Google instead! Obviously, there's more than meets the eye on [changing preferences of Enterprise IT](#).

Here's what's going on. We're in Knowledge Economy. Cloud is one of the key drivers for IT decisions. Mobility is the top trend in Business Technology. Workforce dynamics are changing fast with BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), remote working, offline collaboration, flexi-timings, and emphasis on empowerment. IT Teams are being driven by [Consumerization of IT](#), the rise of PaaS and App ecosystems.

Put all these together, crunch some numbers on costing, and Google turns out as a better futuristic choice to replace Lotus Notes.

If it still doesn't make sense, here is more dope:

- Gmail is familiar to most work-force as a personal email solution. Even though it seems like a relatively smaller point, one of the biggest barriers against a workforce environment change is cultural and psychological. User training and adoption is a top concern. This is relatively easier to address in case of Google.
- Costing. For most enterprises, the Microsoft licensing is still a key deterrent. Migration costs, licensing costs and ongoing maintenance costs form a major point of decision. Google has a simpler, lighter cost structure. Another factor that drives the decision is the ability of the environment to scale without causing too much headache for Enterprise buyers, and Google with the cloud infrastructure is able to offer that advantage to all its customers – Large Enterprises, SMEs as well as Individuals.

- Google ecosystem has got built over time with millions of users adopting it and driving it based on their preferences on personal productivity and collaboration needs. Gmail and Google Apps form a well-knit collaboration ecosystem for end-users. MS Office has very powerful set of tools, but still not designed toward collaboration. In Lotus Notes alternative scenario, collaboration and groupware requirements trump individual productivity tool preference. What's more, on the cloud Google is ever-improving, which is a major assurance for progressive decision makers.
- Mobility and BYOD are also driving workplace technology decisions. Emails and collaboration suites need to work on multiple devices, and of course need to work off of cloud with seamless sync. Google beats Microsoft in this area too.
- Another trend that becomes important in the context of workplace productivity is the remote collaboration through seamless messaging, meetings, tele-conferencing, and video-conferencing. Most businesses using Google Apps leverage Google+ as an extension to their portal and Information sharing needs, and GTalk + Google Hangout for their conferencing needs. There are bonus cost advantages in plugging Google ecosystem in the workplace.

Then, there is a case of Business Applications. Large enterprises with an extensive Lotus Notes deployment typically have hundreds of Notes applications that play a key role in keeping the enterprise running smoothly. There could be hundreds of workflow Apps, and few very complex functional Apps (like CRM) built on Lotus over time. There are platform alternatives available on both Google (in form of App Engine) and Microsoft (in form of SharePoint & Azure). Then, it boils down to availability of seamless options for the workflow apps. There are neutral scenarios of moving these Apps to the Java or .Net based architecture, however when picking the alternative for Lotus, it boils down to the availability of "equivalent" options.

With OrangeScape's [Lotus Migration offerings](#) on top of Google platform, with the cost advantage of 60-75% against the standard solutions such as Java or .Net or Python, the decision tilts even further in Google's favor. Ready-to-Use Business driven Workflow Framework (in [KiSSFLOW](#)) makes it easy to move the simple and mid complexity workflows to Google with the seamless integration to other Google tools. And with [OrangeScape Visual PaaS](#), the more complex workflows can be built faster than other approaches.

Overall, Google trumps Microsoft as an alternative for Lotus Notes.

If you have questions about Lotus Notes Domino Apps migration to Google Cloud, send us an email to connect@orangescape.com.