

# **Quest's Exchange Management Tools To Integrate Tightly With MMC**

## **--An Excellent Move**

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As Quest integrates its offerings into more cohesive suites of functionality based on customer challenges, it is implementing deeper integration with products like Exchange. Typically third party management products offer a branded management application that includes all their functionality. This is used in addition to the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) that comes with Microsoft Enterprise products. In the case of Exchange, the tool is called Exchange System Manager (ESM).

Quest is working to do more than utilize the MMC framework that companies often develop for. The next releases of Exchange products will actually sit inside the ESM MMC, both as additional nodes and as additional properties within existing objects (a technology called MMC extensibility). This is quite exciting for Exchange administrators and organizations as it should make using the products seamless and lower training costs. In short, an excellent move.

Microsoft has stated publicly that the next major release of Exchange (E12 due in early 2007) will have a revamped UI heading more from a component topology in the MMC, towards a task oriented layout. With the work Quest is doing on integration, it should be well positioned to be a seamless part of however that new interface looks.

*Lee Benjamin*

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