Google Apps vs. Microsoft Exchange 2010 Evaluation Summary:

Perspective: Exchange Security

Physical Security

- Physical security is controlled at the data center. Access to machine rooms are limited to specific personnel and the servers that hold the data are password protected with access limited to a handful of people.

Software Security

- Software clients require authentication and support strong passwords.
- Support for encryption technologies to protect message contents.
- Support for digital signatures to verify the content author.
- Support for client-side attachment blocking to prevent potentially dangerous e-mail attachments.
- Systems are kept current on patches and access off campus is limited to only those services and personnel required for proper operation or maintenance.
- Incoming, outgoing and internal messages and attachments are scanned for virus and other malware infections prior to delivery using a third party application.
- Spam is managed through third party anti-spam devices.

User Security

- Authentication is required.
- Users can be given delegate roles to other mailboxes for send as or full access.
- Users can give specific access to parts of their mailbox for sharing. Sharing a calendar is an example.
- Users can add a digital signature to their email so parties on the receiving end can be assured that the email has come from them.
- Deleted items can be retrieved for up to 60 days. Once an item has been deleted, it will no longer be recoverable after 60 days. Data is permanently deleted and tapes with backup data are written over after that time. 60 day retention is Middlebury’s policy. The time frame in Exchange itself can be changed.
If there is a security breach, admins will review network and security logs to determine where the breach originates and how to stop and/or prevent additional breaches of the same type. Affected accounts would typically be locked and/or have passwords changed while the investigation is taking place.


Technical Information about Exchange.

Security Features in Microsoft Online Services. These are based on Exchange so the information is relevant.

Exchange Features.

Exchange 2010 Overview.