

Configuring email and PIM parameters in Windows Mobile 5

There are several ways in which you can configure Microsoft Outlook components to work with a Windows Mobile device with Exchange Direct Push.

To configure these components you must navigate to the ActiveSync screen and select 'Options'. In here there will be four fields with tick boxes next to them; Contacts, Calendar, Email and Tasks. The tick boxes denote whether or not that particular element is set to wireless synchronise with an Exchange mailbox. Simply un-ticking the field will stop that component synchronising wirelessly. There are also additional settings for the Calendar and Email configurations.

Calendar

Whilst still on the ActiveSync Options window, highlight 'Calendar' and select 'Settings' and you will now have the option of configuring Calendar pre-population (by this we mean how far back the Outlook Calendar will track events). This can be set from as little as two weeks through to every past event in a user's Outlook Calendar.

Email

By returning to the ActiveSync Options window highlighting 'Email' and selecting 'Settings' you can, like the Calendar, set how many previous emails you would like the device to synchronise (pre-population). The thresholds here can be as little as one day to as much as the entire inbox.

There is also an additional option which can be set within the email settings, and this is the size limitation. By default a Windows Mobile device will collect email in 500 byte chunks and if more is required a user must either perform a manual 'send/receive' or wait for the next ActiveSync session. While this keeps data transfer low, it can be frustrating for users who receive long emails or emails with attachments. This setting allows you to configure how much data from each email received is transmitted to the device during an ActiveSync session. There are several settings for this option:

0.5KB

1KB

5KB

All (the entire email, including any attachments)

While 'all' might be the preferred choice for ease of use, you must bear in mind that the data consumption of a device using this setting could be high depending on the size of emails and attachments which are sent to that user's mailbox, therefore the 'all' setting should be used with caution and monitored closely.