PRODUCT REVIEW

GFI Archiver

In this review we will look at the latest version of GFI Archiver and how it can help organizations archive messaging data and much more.

By Nuno Mota



Product Homepage: click here

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Restricted Content

Introduction

GFI Software is an American developer of IT solutions founded in 1992. Its products range from network performance to patch management, from auditing to security scanning, and more.

In this review, we focus our attention on **GFI Archiver** (v14.2, build 20190521), a software solution that enables organizations to archive and manage their email, calendar and file history in one place and provides easy access to the data when it is needed. It starts by being an email archiving solution that can archive all internal and external emails into a central Archive Store, but it does much more than that as we will see.

Why would an organization use GFI Archiver, or any archiving solution for that matter? Well, there are a variety of reasons, with two common ones being:

- Compliance reasons. GFI Archiver allows organizations to securely manage and access their electronic communications history, including emails, attachments, files, calendar entries, faxes, SMS, and voice messages. Archiving these items in their original state in a central, tamper-proof store helps minimize legal risk by providing compliance and eDiscovery capabilities;
- Improve email performance and possibly save money. Archiving electronic communications separately from applications such as Exchange Server, can help save active server space and improving performance. GFI Archiver uses single-instance storage to store a single copy of a multi-recipient email and its attachments, rather than multiple copies of the same email. On top of that, it compresses (and decompresses) email attachments in real time to make better use of storage resources.

But there are other benefits. For example, GFI Archiver's MailInsights can generate PDF reports to help identify risk and manage email productivity through actionable information found in their email history.

GFI Archiver operations can be classified in three stages:

- **1.** Emails are retrieved from the mail server automatically using journaling, or manually from an Outlook client;
- 2. Those emails are archived in a GFI Archive Store;
- 3. Users can browse and analyze archived emails through a web interface, mobile, or Outlook client.

Let's start by checking what is required to run GFI Archiver.

01 **Requirements and Installation**

To run GFI Archiver, we need a Windows server running Windows Small Business Server 2011, or Windows Server 2008 R2 or above, all the way to Windows Server 2019. Servers running on VMware or Hyper-V are fully supported.

In terms of mail servers, GFI Archiver can be installed directly on an Exchange server, but that is only recommended for test/dev environments. The following are all supported mail servers:

- Microsoft Exchange 2007 or later;
- Office 365 (Exchange Online);
- Mail servers supporting IMAP;
- Kerio Connect;
- Google Apps for Business.

Most deployments will use a Microsoft SQL Server (2005 or later) database to store archive data. SQL Express is also fully supported but it is not included. For evaluation purposes, GFI Archiver includes a free database called *Firebird*.

Just like many other GFI products, installing GFI Archiver could not be easier. It follows the traditional wizard-based installation and starts by checking for any required components missing, making it easy to install them before proceeding:

🛃 GFI Archiver - Instal	lation Wizard				×
Installation Require Not all of the installa	:ments tion requirements h	ave been met			G F I°
Setup has detected install GFI Archiver,	that not all of the ir the following prerec	nstallation requir quisites must be	ements have installed.	been met.	In order to
Microsoft Visual C++R Windows Authenticatio	untime n				
TestellChield				Inst	all Components
Instalionielo ————		< <u>B</u> ack	Nex	t >	Cancel

A decision we need to make during installation is choosing the user directory service to use. GFI Archiver supports Microsoft Active Directory (AD) and GFI Directory services. It is recommended to use AD whenever possible, since user management will be centralized in the existing AD.

🛃 GFI Archiver - Installation Wizard	×
Choose the Directory Service to use Choose betweed Active Directory and GFI Directory	GFI °
Choose which Directory Service to use with GFI Archiver. You have the of Microsoft Active Directory Service or use GFI Directory Service. For more this and about GFI Directory Service click the tell me more below.	option to use your e information on
• Use the detected Microsoft Active Directory Service in your network	
O Install and use GFI Directory Service on this machine	
	Tell me more
InstallShield	Cancel

Once GFI Archiver is successfully installed, the post install wizard starts, which helps us setting up GFI Archiver:



Here, steps 2 and 3 are the most important ones. Archive Store Settings allows us to configure which type of database to use:

Where would you like to store your archived items? Select the storage setup you wish to use. Image: Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] with File Storage Recommended for or organizations that require a highly scalable solution Image: Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Required if you need full auditing of both user and database activity Image: Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Required if you need full auditing of both user and database activity Image: Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Required if you need full auditing of both user and database activity Image: Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Represe with File Storage Sutable for small to medium sized organizations (up to 180 malboxes or 6,000 em alls per day) Image: GFI Archiver [®] Database Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 malboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended Hardware: Mid RAM, 3 Physical disks	ost li	nstall Wizard	
Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] with File Storage Recommended for organizations that require a highly scalable solution Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Required if you need full auditing of both user and database activity Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Express with File Storage Suitable for small to medium sized organizations (up to 150 maliboxes or 6,000 emails per day) GFI Archiver [®] Database Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 maliboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended hirdware: Hit Xeon 3,23Hz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 808 RAM 3 Physical disks		Where would you like to store your archived items? Select the storage setup you wish to use.	
 Microsoft[®] SQL Server[®] Required if you need full auditing of both user and database activity Microsoft[®] SQL Server[®] Express with File Storage Suitable for small to medium sized organizations (up to 150 mallboxes or 6,000 emails per day) GFI Archiver[®] Database Recommended for evaluation use only Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 mallboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended Hardware: Intel Xeon 3,23Hz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 808 RAM 3 Physical disks 		Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] with File Storage Recommended for organizations that require a highly scalable solution	
 Microsoft[®] SQL Server[®] Express with File Storage Suitable for small to medium sized organizations (up to 150 mallboxes or 6,000 emails per day) GFI Archiver[™] Database Recommended for evaluation use only Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 mailboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For ophmal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended Hardware: Intel Xeon 3,2GHz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 8GB RAM 3 Physical disks	>>	O Microsoft [®] SQL Server [®] Required If you need full auditing of both user and database activity	
C GFI Archiver [™] Database Recommended for evaluation use only Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 mailboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended Hardware: Intel Xeon 3,2GHz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 808 RAM 3 Physical disks		 Microsoft[®] SQL Server[®] Express with File Storage Suitable for small to medium sized organizations (up to 150 mallboxes or 6,000 emails per day) 	
Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 mailboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items per day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered. Recommended Hardware: httl Xeon 3,29Hz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 808 RAM. 3 Physical disks		O GFI Archiver [™] Database Recommended for evaluation use only	
Recommended Hardware: Intel Xeon 3.2GHz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 8GB RAM 3 Physical disks		Recommended for: Organisations with more than 500 mailboxes or with an average archive of more than 8,000 items pe day. For optimal performance distribute data across multiple disk drives. Distributed deployment should be considered.	r
		Recommended Hardware: Intel Xeon 3.2CHz – 64-bit (2 processor cores) 82B RAM 3 Physical disks	

In step 3 we configure the **Archiving Method** to define how GFI Archiver collects items for storage in the archive stores. This method will depend on the infrastructure and organization

Archiv	ing Method
Choose	your prefered archiving method to start archiving your mail.
Choo	ose your prefered archiving method:
» V	Manual Archiving
	This archiving method enables you to manually archive messages directly from Microsof® Outlook to archive folders using the GFI Archiver [™] Archive Assistant.
5	Auto-Archiving (Journaling)
	This archiving method archives emails and meeting requests automatically by collecting them from the Journal mailbox
	Ill Emails
	Archive all incoming emails from journaling.
	Rule-Based Archiving
	Archive incoming emails from journaling that match specific rules and specify the folders these emails will be archived in.

- Manual archiving lets users decide which emails to archive. Users can manually archive a single email or a whole folder. This archiving method does not require Exchange, which means that any business using Outlook can manually archive emails irrespective of where their email is hosted;
- All Emails uses the journaling feature of Exchange. Journaled emails are copied (and deleted from Exchange if desired) by GFI Archiver and archived. GFI Archiver can also poll email from any mail server that supports IMAP and Active Directory;
- Rule-Based Archiving is suitable for organizations that do not want to archive everything.
 Using this option, administrators can selectively archive email based on specific criteria.

Next, we need to tell GFI Archiver which journaling mailbox(es) to archive emails from or let it automatically create one:

N							
) Let	the wizard create a	new journal mailbox	to use to start a	archiving your em	ails.		
90	GFI Archiver™ will aut	tomatically create a ne	w journal mailb	ox for use with the	selected serv	er.	
Ma	nually enter journal	mailbox details					
Prová	de the connection an	d credential details to	a previously cre	ated journal mails	NOX.		
1100	de life connection an	d credential details to	a previously de				_
0	Requirements for au	tomatic creation of M	S Exchange jou	rnaling:			
¥	Microsoft ® Exchang	e Server Management	Tools (installed	on the same GFI	Archiver™ ser	ver)	
		e databases with jouri	naling disabled				

Once this is done, and if we let it create a journaling mailbox, it will appear in the mailboxes list:

Exchange admin center						
recipients	mailboxes group	s resources o	contacts shared migration			
permissions						
compliance management	+-∥≐₽₿…					
organization	DISPLAY NAME	MAILBOX TYPE	EMAIL ADDRESS			
protection	admin GFIJOURNAL_6519750	User User	admin@vrfytech.com GFIJOURNAL_6519750@vrfytech.com	m		

Additionally, the database where it was created (chosen by us) will be automatically configured to journal everything since we selected the option to archive all emails:

<i> Mailbox database - Internet Exp</i>	lorer
DB01	
general	Journal recipient:
limits	GFIJOURNAL_6519750 X Browse
client settings	Maintenance schedule: 00 02 04 06 08 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 Mo Mo

02 Administration

By this stage, GFI Archiver has been installed and an initial configuration performed. To open its management console, we use the GFI Archiver icon on our desktop/start menu, or we browse to the URL chosen during installation in the form of *http://<GFI Archiver hostname>/<GFI Archiver virtual folder name>:*



Once logged in, we are taken to the Home tab. Its graphical and statistical information provides a real-time overview of the general operational parameters of GFI Archiver, and it helps identify any issues:

GFI Archiver [*]		Welcome, admin				
HOME ARCHIVE MAILINSIGHTS CONFIGURATION CLIENT ACCESS	AUDITING HELP					
Status Overview	Version 14.2 Build 20190521	SERVERI				
Services Journaling Maliboxes SQL Servers Licensing	Archive Stores	Hard Drive Capacity				
Configuration: OK	Date: 28/03/2020 20:10 Tota	cal Emails: 13839				
Store: OK	Archive Stores Arc	chived Items				
Search: OK	2020 Mar - Apr 12404	4 emails (30.19MB)				
Import: OK	2020 Jan - Feb 5 ema	ails (2.87MB)				
IMAP: OK	2019 Sep - Oct 4 ema	ails (2.87MB) 🗸				
SMTP: Notifications failing to be sent	Emails:	10 (01) (01)				
Version Check: OK						
Auditing: Service Disabled	Files:					
	Audio Video Images Documents Ot	ther man and the second s				
Cueue V Last 24hours V Referation						
100						
0 14:00 14:15 14:30 14:45 15:00 15:15 15:30 15	45 16:00 16:15 16:30 16:45 17:00 17:	15 17:30 17:45 18:00 18:15 18:30 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:30 19:45 20:00				

In this pane we can see information such as any possible issues related to various components of GFI Archiver, how much disk space we have free on the GFI Archiver server, information about the total number of emails archived and the number of Archive Stores used, a graphical overview of the quantity of emails being archived, and information about GFI Archiver events (if any).

CONFIGURATION

The Configuration tab enables us to configure every aspect of GFI Archiver:



Unfortunately, it is not possible to cover everything in this review, so here is a brief description of some of these options.

Archive Sources

- Archiving Method shows the Archiving Method currently enabled (what we configured in the post-installation wizard);
- Mail Servers to Archive shows all the journal mailboxes configured for archiving. Configuring GFI Archiver to connect to Office 365 is straightforward and can be done using Exchange Web Services (EWS). Although we can also use IMAP, EWS with Exchange Online is no longer supported, so hopefully GFI Archiver will be updated in a future release to support Graph API.

Specify how GFI Arch	iver connects to the selected journal mailbox.
Journal Mailbox Credentials	
Connect Using:	EWS 🔹
Login:	DOMAIN\USER
Password:	
Folder:	Inbox
Public Folder:	
Exchange Server Host:	Auto Discovery Manual Host to Exchange/Office 365 CAS https://outlock.office365.com/EWS/Exchange.asm; ?

- Archiving Rules, when enabled, allows us to configure rules that determine what gets archived and what does not;
- Archive Restrictions allows us to exclude certain mailboxes from archiving while including specific ones:

CONFIGURATION				
ve Restriction Configurati	n			
Archive Rest	riction Configur s configuration allow s you to	ation configure w hich users w	will be archived.	
Enable Archiving F	Restrictions			
Using an exclusion	ist			
DONOT arc	nive item at all if ANY of the	e recipients or sender	s are in the restriction list	
 Archive item 	for users in your organiza	tion. Users in restricti	on list will not be able to view it	
Using an inclusion li	st			
Always archi	ve item if ANY of the recipi	ients or senders are in	n the restriction list	
Only archive	item if all recipients and s	senders are in the rest	triction list	
	Pre Restriction Configuration Archive Rest The archive restrictions Enable Archiving F Using an exclusion I DO NOT arch Archive item Using an inclusion Ii Always archiv Only archive	Controlocation Controlocation Controlocation Archive Restriction Configuration Archive Restrictions configuration allow s you to Controlocation allow a system Controlocation Controlocati	Contribution Contribution Contribution Configuration Archive Restriction Configuration The archive restrictions configuration allow s you to configure which users to Enable Archiving Restrictions Using an exclusion list DO NOT archive item at all if ANY of the recipients or sender Archive item for users in your organization. Users in restriction Using an inclusion list Always archive item if ANY of the recipients or senders are in Only archive item if all recipients and senders are in the ress	CONFIGURATION CONFIGURATION CONFIGURATION CONFIGURATION CARCENS CONFIGURATION CARCENS

 Archiving Scope defines whether incoming, outgoing, or internal emails (or a combination) are archived:



 Mailbox Folder Structure Retrieval enables the replication of the folder structure of the mailboxes within Exchange with GFI Archiver.

Archive

 Archiving Stores shows the number of Archive Stores configured and in use, as well as their database and indexing status:

Archive Stores Archives Stores are repositories for archived	ams and are created automatically by GR Archiver.
B New Archive Store Settings (2) Schedule	chive 🖾 Index Management
Summary of new Archive Store:	Expand +
Next Scheduled Archive Store: 2020 Ma To be cr	- Jun covering period from 01/05/2020 to 30/06/2020 ted on 01/05/2020 or with the first archived item for the above date range.
🗎 Attach 🍞 Edit 🍧 Detach 👔 Summ	y 💑 Rebuild Index 📲 Pause Indexing
Group by: Start Date (Year) • Order: D	cending 💌
Archive Store	Start Date End Date Status
2020	
🥝 2020 Jan - Feb	01/01/2020 29/02/2020 🔂 🐯
2020 Mar - Apr	01/03/2020 30/04/2020 🐻 🗒
2019	
2019 Jan - Feb	01/01/2019 28/02/2019 🔛 📆
2019 Mar - Apr	01/03/2019 30/04/2019 🖬 🗒
2019 May - Jun	01/05/2019 30/06/2019 🚯 🗒
2019 Jul - Aug	01/07/2019 31/08/2019 🖬 🗒
2019 Sep - Oct	01/09/2019 31/10/2019 🔂 🗒
2018	
2018 Jan - Feb	01/01/2018 28/02/2018 🖬 🖼
2018 Mar - Apr	01/03/2018 30/04/2018 🖬 👼
2018 May - Jun	01/05/2018 30/06/2018 🔂 👼
2018 Jul - Aug	01/07/2018 31/08/2018 🔛 👼

 Access Control defines who has access to which mailboxes. For example, a manager might be allowed to browse and search through the archived emails of all its team members.

Policies

 Retention and Spam policies define the lifetime of an archive email within GFI Archiver. Emails matching specific criteria can be deleted immediately or after a specific period of time. For example, by default GFI Archiver creates a retention policy to not retain any probing emails from Exchange *Managed Availability*:

I	Retention and Spam Po Retention policies allow you to specify for	how long an item is	archived before it is deleted.	
٠	Run Retroactive	Stop Retroa	ictive	
Sumn	nary for retroactive retention			
Cli	ck Run Retroactive to start.			0%
+	Add 📝 Edit 🍧 Remove 🎓 Move Policy Name	Up Move Do Active	Action	
4	MS Exchange 2013 Health Probing Emails	*	Do NOT retain items, delete immediately	
	Summary			
	[Subject Contains: 'MBTSubmission/S [Sender Contains: 'HealthMailbox*@*	toreDriverSubmiss OR 'inboundprox	sion/*' OR 'Inbound proxy probe' OR 'Client submission probe' sy@inboundproxy.com' OR 'inboundproxy@contoso.com']	OR 'MapiSubmitLAMProbe'] AND

• File History Retention Policies define the length of time that an archived version of a file is retained in the Archive Store before it is deleted:

File History Retention Policies Retention policies for file history (FAA) are set to provide retention on the archived file revision history.							
🖕 Add 📝 Edit 😁 Remove Move Up 🗍 Move Down							
	Policy Name Active Action						
~	 Y 10 year retention policy Y Do NOT retain any file history. 						
Summary							
[Last	file older: '3650 days']						

- Classification Rules automate the labeling of emails through policies, useful for legal reasons for example.
- Auditing shows and defines whether GFI Archiver Auditing is switched on or not. GFI Archiver database activity auditing uses the tracing capabilities of SQL Server to record all activity affecting the archive databases. User interaction through the web interface is also audited.

ARCHIVE

In the Archive tab we can view archived items for all the mailboxes in the environment:

GFI Archiver [*]			Welcome, <u>admin</u>
HOME ARCHIVE MA	ILINSIGHTS CONFIGURATION CLIENT A	ACCESS AUDITING	HELP
Search mailbox to add 🔹 🌩	Archive Store: 2020 Mar - Apr 💌 隆 💌 📗 🔹	• 🚨 🤷	Search: 'Inbox' in all stores
🗉 🚔 admin 😋	Arranged By: Sent Date 🗢	Newest on top 🗢	_
🗉 🚔 Mota 🕑 🔀	Join CompTIA IT Pro	29/03/2020 11:13	^
🖃 🚔 Nuno 😋 🗰	From Nuno To Nuno	18 KB 🖂	From: (ISC)2 Customer Support <customersupport@isc2.org></customersupport@isc2.org>
🗉 📔 Files	Join CompTIA IT Pro	29/03/2020 11:09	Sent: 03 June 2016 22:41
📄 Inbox	From Nuno To Nuno	19 KB 🖂	To: Nuno <nuno ()<br="">Subject: (ISC) 2 CISSP Examination Results</nuno>
📔 Inbox 2	FW: Application Progress Question	29/03/2020 11:06	ISC2:0007
🖃 🧰 П	From Nuno To Nuno	15 KB 🖂	Nuno Mota
🔄 Sent Items	FW: (ISC)2 CISSP Examination Results ISC2:00026574	Open	
	From Nuno To Nuno	Download EML	London, 22 to the second secon
	FW: Candidate Information Bulletin Request	Download MSG	United Kingdom
	From Nuno lo Nuno	Restore	Certificate/ID number:
	FW: CCSP - Official (ISC)2 Practice Tests.pdf	29/03/2020 11:02	
	From Nuno Io Nuno	2.10 MB 🌇	Dear Nuno:
	Test Email	29/03/2020 10:37	Congratulations! We are pleased to
	From admin@vrtytecn.com /o nuno@vrtytecn.com	2 KB 🖴	inform you that you have provisionally
	Test Email	29/03/2020 10:37	Security Professional (CISSP®)

Users have access to the same Archive console, limited to their own archive of course.

We can perform several actions here, such as preview an email, delete emails from the archive (if the option has been enabled), switch between email conversations and calendar items, or restoring an item.

To view an archived email, we can also double click it to view it in a new window:

(ISC)2 CISSP Exar	nination Results ISC2:00026574		1
🚡 🧙 🕞 😭			
(ISC)2 CISSI (ISC)2 Custo	P Examination Results ISC2:000		
To: Bcc: Sent On:	Nuno 03 June 2016 22:41:05		
Archived On: Identification Code:	28 March 2020 20:55:41 eml:7dfa7f08-08e0-4102-8a27-a313e7afa4c9-2147470800		
Folders:	Inbox		
Nuno Mota London: 2, 4 United Kingdo Certificate/ID r	m number Strate		Í
Dear Nuno:			
Congratulation Systems Second completed the	ons! We are pleased to inform you that you have provisionally passed the Certified Informat urity Professional (CISSP*) examination. By successfully passing this examination, you have ne first of two steps in earning your CISSP credential.	ion	
The next ste	p is completing your endorsement process, which you should do within nine (9) months of yo	bur	1

Depending on the type of archived item selected, we can view the item's header, view the conversation thread, edit its labels which allows organizations to categorize items (useful for legal searches for example), save the email to EML or MSG format, download the calendar item, print it and more. From this window we can also easily restore the item to a specific mailbox or forward a copy to an email address:

(ISC)2 CISSP	Examination Results ISC2 Operation
le 😞 😪	
Restore	
Send this it	em to the following email address
admin@vrfyte	ch.com
Restore	

There is also a file and calendar view:

GFI Archiver ⁻							Welcome	, <u>admin</u>
HOME ARCHIVE MAI	LINSIGHTS COM	IFIGURATION	CLIENTACCESS	AUDITING	HELP			
Search mailbox to add 🔹 🔹	Archive Store: 2020 M	1ar - Apr 🔻 🛅 🔹	💷 🔹 📓		Search:	'Calendar' in all stores	P	~
🔒 admin 😋	< > today			March 2020 V			month week	day 🔨
🚔 Mota 🥑 💥	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 ■ Suno c ¥ ■ Calendar 	1 09:00 09:30 Service Charges O	2 Contract to Perm	3	4	5 17:00 18:00 MVP Reconnect Technical Call - Get Started with GitHub Pages and Blogging with Jekyll - Option 1	6 01:00 02:00 MVP Reconnect Technical Call - Get Started with GitHub Pages and Blogging with Jekyll - Option 2		7
	8	9 09:00 09:30 Invitation: Nuno Mota and Andrew 2020 09:00 - 09:30 (GMT) (nunc 2020 09:00 (GMT)	10	11	12	13		14
	15	16	17	18	19	20		21
Saved Searches	22	23	24	25 Aniv. Mãe 🕝	26	27 17:00 18:00 Invitation: GFI Archiver @ Fri Mar 27, 2020 1pm - 2pm (EDT) (nune)		28
Large items 🗱	29	30	31					4
Items in last 30 days 🗱								
Items in last 7 days 🗱	5	6						11

It is easy to search archived items (including calendar items). GFI Archiver queries its email index and retrieves any matching item with its respective attachment:

Archive Store	e: 2020 Mar - Apr 💌 🤍 💌 📳 🔹 📓	Search:	P >
Search for:	🖾 Email 🗋 File 🖾 Calendar 🖾 Fax		×
Contains:		From:	
Subject:		To:	
Sent Date:	This Year 👻	Attachment:	
Search all A	rchive Stores for emails you have access to		
	options		Reset Save Search

Alternatively, we can use the *Advanced Search* to use a wider range of search criteria when searching for archived items:

Archive Store: 2020 Mar - Apr 💌	🗭 💌 🔝 📼		Search:	2 >
Search items for: (All Users)	Archive Store:	•	Sent Date: last 365 days	×
Includes all • of these conditions:	•	Excludes any of the	ese conditions: 🔶	
Subject Confident	tial	No condition add	lded	
Received Date IS AFTER	• 01/01/2020 \$	¢		
<< back to basic options			2 Reset Save	Search



We can also search and view emails (including attachments) using a smartphone!



03

Archiving Data

By now we have Exchange journaling every email in our Exchange environment and GFI Archiver archiving those same emails. But what about all those emails sent/received before we deployed GFI Archiver? There are several ways of ingesting historic data.

The first option is to use the **File Archive Assistant** which enables users to sync files between their computer and GFI Archiver. It can be used in 2 ways: archive files manually from any location on the computer using the new context menu. This is done by right-clicking on any folder, file, selection of folders or a selection of files and clicking *Archive files*:



Or use a *Synchronized Folder* to automatically archive files. Any file saved in this folder (or folders) is automatically uploaded to GFI Archiver.

File Archive A	Assistant Settings	-		>
Synchronizatio	on Folders Connection	Advanced		
🕂 Add 🗙	Remove 🦯 Edit 📑	Enable/Disable		
Destination F	older	Local Folder		
@vrfvtech.co	om\Files\Svnc Files	Users\nuno\Documents	\GFI Files	
mmary Activity	məərətanıt.			
mmary Activity	File archiving status inform	ation		
mmary Activity	File archiving status inform	ation : 3		
mmary Activity	File archiving status inform Number of files archived today Conflict Status:	ation 3 No conflicts		
mmary Activity	File archiving status inform Number of files archived today Conflict Status: Last file archived on:	ation 3 No conflicts 3/28/2020 2:54:23 PM		
mmary Activity	File archiving status inform Number of files archived today Conflict Status: Last file archived on: GFI Archiver Server:	ation : 3 No conflicts 3/28/2020 2:54:23 PM http://server1/Archiver		

All files archived are accessible by users via the GFI Archiver Web Interface that users have access to:



Settings such as synchronisation frequency, maximum file size, and more, can all be configured from the admin console:

File Archive Assistant View and configure the File Archive Assi	stants in your organizatior	l.		
B New Default File Archive Assistant Setti	ngs			
Summary of Default File Archive Assistant	Settings			Collapse -
Licensed Users:	Unlimited Users			
Enabled Users:	1			
License Status:	Evaluation expires in	n 18 day/s.		
Polling interval:	Check new/updated	files every 5 mins		
Default synchronised folder:	%USERPROFILE%	Documents\GFI Files		
Default destination mailbox path:	Files\Sync Files			
Extensions included	.3GP, .AAF, .ACCDB	, .AI, .AIFF, .APE, .ASF, .AS	K,	
Maximum file size:	50 MB			
Filter by User 💌	with			
User IP Address (MAC	Address)	Synched Folders	Synched Files	Last Client Access
Nuno fe80::7cd0:419e:2301:83ed%	5 (00155D012B02)	1	4	28/03/2020 15:09

A second method of archiving data that can be made available to users is **Outlook Connector**, which allows the archive of old emails (those that weren't archived through Journaling, for example) from within Outlook:



Synchronization with GFI Archiver takes place automatically at a specified time interval, or manually using the Outlook Connector status toolbar:

GFI Archiver	Outlook Connector		-		×
Summar	y 🗾 Activity 🕘 History				
•	Synchronizing mailbox 1 / 1 - I Downloading: 72.28 MB / 168.89 N	luno 1B - 16 minutes and 39 seconds remaining			
	Stage:	3 of 3 - Downloading emails since 29/02/2020 for offline access			
	Downloading email:	1,100 / 12,996			
	Downloading email subject:	Re: Checking in (Size: 18 KB)			
	Downloaded emails:	1,099			
	Errors/Warnings:	0 Error(s), 0 Warning(s)			
	GFI Archiver Server:	http://server1/Archiver			
		Stop	Close	H	elp

Outlook Connector adds the folder GFI Archiver *Mailbox* to the Outlook folder list, allowing users to see the email messages archived by GFI Archiver. Archived emails are displayed in an organized folder structure, identical to that in the user's mailbox:



A third option available to users is the **Archive Assistant**, which enables users to manually archive emails, calendar items and files (such as documents or images) from Outlook (as long as admins have allowed users to manually archive items):



From within Outlook, a user can select an email, a group of emails, calendar item(s) or a folder, and use the archive buttons in the toolbar (above) that is installed when Archive Assistant is deployed. The Archive Assistant then initiates a request to synchronize the selected items with GFI Archiver:



Users can also right-click a folder, and select Archive Outlook Folder:



From an administrator perspective, we can use the **Import and Export** Tool to extract emails and calendar items from various email databases or PST files and import them into the Archive Stores.



When importing a PST, we can select the folder(s) we want to import:

GFI Archiver Import and Expo	ort Tool	-		×
	PST File(s) Selection PST Source(s) Selection Add a PST File and select the folders from where you want to ext Detected terms - 12602 Detected terms - 12602 Detected terms - 91 Detected terms - 91 Files - 0 Development terms - 91 Development terms - 91 Develop	Add PST File Remove PST	File	
	Back	Next	Canc	xel

Choose if we want to import them into GFI Archiver or into a local directory, and select the time range of emails to include:

GFI Archiver Import and Exp	ort Tool	-		×
	Import Options Import Destination Import to GFI Archiver Extract emails to given path	Browse		
	Cut-off time Only emails sent between the date range you select below will be extract be skipped. From: 28/03/2018 * 16:12:57 * To: 28/03/2020 * 16:12:57 * Note: FROM value must be earlier than TO value.	ted. Other en	ails will	
	Owner Select the owner of the emails to extract. Owner: nuno@vrlytech.com Select O	wner	iced Option	19
	Back	<u>N</u> ext	Canc	el

We can also import old data from within Exchange itself:



We simply select which protocol to use (MAPI/Outlook or EWS for example) and specify a user with enough rights to perform this operation:

GFI Archiver Import and Exp	ort Tool			-		×
	Microsoft Exchan	ge Server Connection Con	figuration			
	Select the version emails:	of the Microsoft® Exchange Server	from where you want to	import yo	ur	
	Microsoft® Excha	nge Server 2013 or 2016 (MAPI/Ou	tlook) 🗸 🗸			
	Protocol: MAPI 20)13				
	Login Credentials					
	Configure the crede	ntials that will be used to access the	e import source			
	Login as currer	it user (Using MAPI/Outlook)				
	Usemame:	VRFYTECH\admin	e.g. mydomain\user			
	Password:	•••••	Verify Credentials	ок		
	Exchange Server:		e.g. ExchangeServe	r1		
]			
	Use SSL					
	Extract emails fr	om Public Folders				
	_					
		-	Back 1	ext	Can	cel

Next, we choose if we want to import data from all mailboxes or from a single mailbox, plus which folder(s) we want to import:

GFI Archiver Import and Expor	t Tool	-	- 0	×
GFI Archiver Import and Export	t Tool Iniibox and Folder Selection Mailbox and Folder Selection Select the mailboxes and folders from where you want to extract emails All mailboxes and folders Note: Only Mailboxes which the suppled credentials have acce Helo: Grant access to mailboxes in Microsoft Exchange Select the mailboxes and folders from where to extract emails Mailbox name: Top of Infomation Store [nuno@vrfytech.com] Calendar - 0 Calendar - 0 Conversation Action Settings - 0 Conversation History - 0 Conversation Action Settings - 0 Conversation Action Setings - 0 Conversati	ss to will be	imported.	×
Z	Export rom all Folders Export calendar items 2			
	Back	Next	Ç	ancel

04 Restoring Data

Depending on what GFI Archiver is used for, there might be cases where end-users do not have access to an archive. For example, if GFI is only being used to archive everything out of Exchange for legal reasons. In this case, there is nothing else we need to do or configure.

However, it is likely that users will be given access to their own archive so they can restore any emails they might need, in which case GFI Archiver is effectively a great backup solution. In this case, GFI Archiver supports a number of tools and email clients to transfer archived email messages from the Archive Stores into the user's mailbox.

Remote Access

We've already seen how users can login to the GFI Archiver web console and search for and restore any archives items:

GFI Arch	iver ⁻		Welcome, nun	2
ARCHIVE	CLIENT ACCESS	Help		
		Archive Store: 2020 Mar - Apr 🔹 🥥 🔹 📗 🔹 🚨	Search: Archived items for user	۶
Browse conversation	is for:	Search Result Arranged By: Sent Date 😽	Newest on top 👻 CCSP - The	
Nuno		CCSP - Official (ISC)2 Practice Tests.pdf	28/03/2020 14:54 2.10 MB	9
		CCSP (ISC)2 Certified Cloud Security Professional Official Study Guide.pdf	28/03/2020 14:54 🔮 Download 5.25 MB 🖸	
		CCSP - The Ultimate Guide to the CCSP.pdf	16/03/2020 12:52 2.73 MB 🎦	
		Windsor Race Day is on the Horizon From Nuno To Nuno	16/03/2020 12:07 1.55 MB ≝	

Windows 8/10 App

GFI Archiver has also developed an app for Windows 8/10 operating systems, which can be found in the Microsoft Store:

rosoft Store		-		\times
Home Gaming Entertainment	Productivity Deals		٩,	
GFI °	GFI Archiver GFI Software Ltd • Business Share Connect to GFI Archiver (R) directly from your Windows 8 denice	Free Get Add to cart		
	More PEGI 3 Unrestricted Internet PEGI	♥ Wish list		
Available on	Overview System Requirements Reviews Related			
D PC				
Description				
Connect to GFI Archiver (R) directly fr	om your Windows 8 device.			
Find it easy to browse the archive and with you on the go and have the abili	search for your historic emails in simple steps. Take GFI Archiver ty to restore emails and access them with our simple touch interface.			

This app lets users easily and quickly explore their entire archive:



As well as search for any items within their own archive:



Restoring an item is as easy as finding the item and clicking on Restore Mail:





An archiving solution is simply no good if archived emails cannot be recovered in bulk. From an administrator perspective, GFI Archiver provides two tools in order to restore emails (excluding the GUI interface that can be used to recover individual emails as we have already seen). The first one, known as the **Mailbox Restore** tool, provides admins with the facility to restore emails archived within GFI Archiver Archive Stores into a mailbox in Exchange. These can be all emails from a particular mailbox or those within two given dates:



Assuming all the required permissions are in place, it is as simple as this to recover a vast number of emails <u>from a GFI Archiver</u> (the term Restore *from Mailbox* is a bit misleading here) into an Exchange mailbox.

Our second option is the **Import and Export Tool** we already had a look at. This time, however, we use the *Export Data from GFI Archiver* option instead:



Using this tool, we can connect to a GFI Archiver and export an entire mailbox or search for specific emails (useful to export a set of emails that match specific search criteria to satisfy an eDiscovery case):

GFI Archiver Import and Ex	(port Tool	_		\times
	Search Options Options What do you want to export? (a) Entrie Mailbox(es) (b) Emails containing specific words (c) Emails with specific search criteria			
R	Back	<u>N</u> ext	<u>C</u> an	cel

GFI Archiver Import and Ex	port Tool					×
	Mailbox Search Search	eu(ee). ¹ Ni-me'i				
	Retrieve only	the first 5000 emails	(recommended for pe	fomance)	Find]
	Subject	Sender	Recipients	Date	Size	
	e-mails	c0207016@alun	nuno-mota@mail	23/03/2006 19:50	3 KB	
	Adesão Cartão R	Cartão Rumos	nuno-mota@mail	14/12/2005 11:56	3 KB	
	Confirmação de r	Sónia Cláudia Ro	nuno-mota@mail	13/12/2005 18:44	15 KB	- 11
	Cursos Cisco	Nuno Mota	mfa@rumos.pt	08/12/2005 19:15	3 KB	- 11
	Ciclo GSE	Virgínia Santos	nuno-mota@mail	06/12/2005 09:24	398 KB	- 11
	Your search resulted	in 12805 emails.		<< < Page	129 of 129 >	>>
				Back <u>N</u> ex	t <u>C</u> ano	el

From this result list we can also review particular emails to check that they actually contain what we are looking for by double-clicking on the email to open them. Once we are ready to proceed, we can export all of them in one go to a specific email address, or by downloading them into disk or to a PST file:

GFI Archiver Import and Export Tool	-		\times
Control of the provided export root Export and Download Options Options Select an export option for your email results Restore to the following email address: nuno@vrfytech.com Send emails as Separate Attachments Send emails as Original Download to path:			
Download to path: Download emails in EML format Download emails in MSG format Download to PST: Retain Folder Structure 		Browse	
Back	<u>N</u> ext	Car	ncel

A final window will provide us with some statistics regarding the export process:

GFI Archiver Import and Ex	kport Tool			-		×
	Export Progress Progress:				3%	
	Statistics Exported: Total emails: Successful: Failed:	395 12805 395 0				
			Pause		Cance	el

Simple as that!

05 **Reports**

GFI Archiver provides several amazing reports through its MailInsights reporting feature. These reports, which can be created on demand or scheduled, can help organizations identify business issues, potential security breaches or legal risks by extracting data from archived emails. There are many reports available and, unfortunately, I simply cannot cover them all so here is an overview of some of them:

GFI Archiver	
HOME ARCHIVE	MAILINSIGHTS COMPRIARATION CLENTACCESS AUDITING HELP
Scheduled Reports No Scheduled Reports	MailInsights Reports 🗸
	Communication Row WebMail Usage Final Responsive ness in appropriate World Usage Final Responsive ness in appropriate World Internal Spanners for the second
	0 Reports 0 Repo
	Outside Office Hours Description
	Large Enable Large Tenable Definition D

Storage Use shows what is being stored in the archive by everyone or particular users. We can use this report to alert users and to create appropriate retention policies:

storage	e Use Re	port For:					Jent And Rec	erveu Linai
Ever	yone					Emails	between 21/03/202	0 and 28/03/20
Summa	ary							
lost Ofte	- 56.55 MB		Least Other -	Stored 1.57 MB		Mos 28/03	t Active Storage Date /2020 - 64.46 MB	e
35 30 25 20 15 10 5			5.06	32		0.08 9.61 6.35		
0 -	Enormous > 15MB	Huge 10-15MB	Very large 5-10MB	Large 1-5MB	Medium 0.5MB-1MB	Small 0-0.5MB	Videos: 0%	Images: 9.8 % Documents: 87.7 %
		Videos 🗾 Image	es 📃 Music 📃	Documer	nts 📕 Other	į	Other: 2.4 %	
orage U	lse:							
Date	9	Total Size (MB)	Videos Size (I	MB) In	nages Size (MB)	Music Size (MB)	Document Size (MB)	Other Size (MB
28/03/2	2020	64.46	0		6.34	0	56.55	1.57
26/03/2	2020	0.00	0		0.00	0	0	0
25/02/	2020	0.00	0		0.00	0	0	0

The **User Traffic** graph provides an overview of the number of emails exchanged in the environment and for each individual user:



Communication Flow monitors user/group communication patterns inside and outside the organization:



But there are many other useful reports, such as:

- WebMail Use identifies top users exchanging emails with free web-based email providers such as Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo!;
- Email Responsiveness shows the average time it takes users to reply to internal and external email:
- Inappropriate Words tracks inappropriate language in email that violates company policy;
- Data Leakage Detection identifies emails with major credit card numbers and US Social Security numbers, or other confidential documents and information.

06 Final Thoughts

GFI Archiver is without a doubt a great product. Not only does it provide everything most organizations need in terms of archiving capabilities for a variety of systems, as it goes beyond and provides additional features such as useful reports and a multitude of methods for users to manage their archives.



GFI Archiver		
NPCHIVE		
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