



iChat Server

Secure instant messaging for communication and collaboration within your organization.

Features

Cross-platform instant messaging

- Support for Jabber/XMPP protocol
- Compatibility with iChat AV and iChat Theater in Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard
- Support for Jabber clients on Windows and Linux systems, PDAs, and cell phones
- File transfer support
- Store-and-forward capability
- Persistent chat rooms

Secure communications

- Encrypted messaging using TLS
- Kerberos authentication
- Server-to-server encryption

Superior manageability

- Chat transcript archiving
- Service monitoring
- Automatic buddy lists

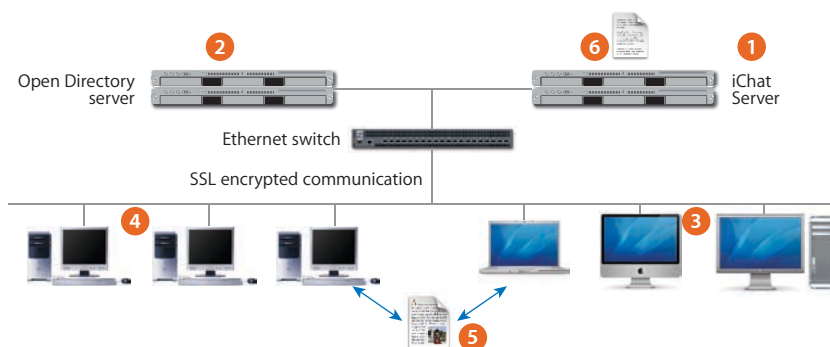
Integration with existing infrastructure

- Support for user accounts stored in Open Directory, LDAP, and Active Directory
- IM Federation with Google Talk and other Jabber/XMPP services

iChat Server in Mac OS X Server v10.5 Leopard brings the collaborative power of instant messaging to your organization. Now your workgroups can choose any number of ways to communicate among themselves or with others outside the group. They can transfer files securely, share a persistent chat room, conduct an audio conference, or—with the iChat Theater feature in Leopard—even broadcast a presentation, movie, or photo slideshow to other iChat users.

iChat Server provides secure instant messaging for users on the network and can integrate with your organization's directory service for user account information. The directory also handles authentication, ensuring that whoever is logging in under an iChat name is really that person. And since all text messages and file transfers are encrypted, there's no risk of third-party access to the information that circulates within your iChat Server.

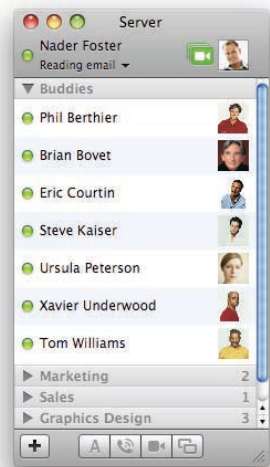
iChat Server at a Glance



- 1 iChat Server is configured to provide services to the organization's domain.
- 2 Users are authenticated using the Open Directory server.
- 3 iChat Server provides secure IM for Mac OS X iChat clients.
- 4 iChat Server also works with Jabber-based clients on Windows and Linux systems, as well as on PDAs and cell phones.
- 5 Files and URLs can be exchanged.
- 6 Transcripts of chats can be saved for later use.

Technology Brief

Mac OS X Server: iChat Server



Jabber

An open source instant messaging platform, Jabber is a secure, ad-free alternative to other IM services. Its use of streaming XML-based protocols and technologies enables any two Internet users to exchange messages, text, files, voice, and video in real time. More information is available at www.jabber.org.

A robust solution for the IM needs of all organizations, iChat Server is based on Jabber, the industry-standard IM protocol also known as XMPP. This enables support for Mac computers using iChat, as well as clients running Jabber services on Windows and Linux systems, as well as on PDAs and even cell phones. With IM Federation, your users can engage in encrypted server-to-server chats with individuals using Google Talk or other Jabber/XMPP services.

With Mac OS X v10.5, iChat users can request iChat Server to create and host a persistent chat room. Perfect for virtual team scenarios, project-specific discussions, and real-time “blow-by-blow” updates, individuals can join at any time, leave when they need to—even log out and shut down—and still come back to review all communications since the chat room opened.

IT departments on a limited budget will appreciate the affordability and flexibility of iChat Server. With no client access license fees, it scales easily as your organization expands. New users are simple to add, and a single server can easily sustain the communication of up to several thousand users with over a million messages a day. And with support for server-to-server encryption in IM Federation, it’s both easy and secure to add new servers to your network.

Standards-Based Instant Messaging

iChat Server enables users and groups to communicate securely. It provides person-to-person IM and chat room services using the standard Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) used by many messaging systems, including Google Talk, Wildfire, and Jabber. By leveraging the XMPP platform and the breadth of Jabber clients, iChat Server supports a wide variety of clients running on Mac OS X, Windows, and Linux systems, as well as on PDAs and cell phones.

The core of iChat Server is based on the open source Jabber 2 project, which provides user presence information—such as status, availability, icons, and basic text message exchange between individual users and groups of users. In addition, iChat Server handles peer file transfer between users who are unable to establish a direct connection, for example, when a network firewall blocks such connections. iChat Server also allows users to send messages to people who are offline. This store-and-forward functionality holds the messages and delivers them the next time the recipient connects to the server, combining the advantages of IM with the advantages of email.

Secure communication

To protect the confidential nature of IM communications, iChat Server includes single sign-on authentication with Kerberos, as well as support for encryption of multiuser chats and file transfers through Transport Layer Security (TLS). Also supported are certain iChat client features that use point-to-point connections, such as audio and video, iChat Theater, and multiway audio and video chats—although in these instances, traffic is not sent through the server.*

IM Federation

iChat Server federates with other iChat Server systems and XMPP-compliant systems, such as Google Talk, using the server-to-server capabilities of the XMPP protocol. This allows users on an iChat Server to exchange secure IMs with users on another network as long as both servers are accessible via the Internet. These server-to-server communication sessions can be encrypted using SSL/TLS with public key certificates, and you can configure iChat Server to block communication with servers that don’t support encryption.

Open Directory

Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server feature the standards-based Open Directory architecture, enabling centralized management of users, groups, and computers using any LDAP directory server—or even proprietary systems such as Active Directory. For organizations that have not deployed directory services, Mac OS X Server includes the Open Directory server, a robust, scalable LDAP solution with integrated Kerberos authentication.

Superior Manageability

iChat Server supplies administrators with a host of easy-to-use features that streamline manageability. Because iChat Server works seamlessly with Open Directory, you can use your organization's existing user account names rather than creating separate account names just for IM. In addition, users can authenticate with single sign-on authentication in both Open Directory and Active Directory environments.

For organizations with strict compliance and regulatory requirements, iChat Server can be configured to keep a transcript of all IM logins, authentication, and chats. To protect user confidentiality, the default setting disables chat transcriptions, but you can easily turn on the function.

Apple Server Solutions

iChat Server is a secure, affordable, efficient IM system built into Mac OS X Server, Apple's UNIX® server operating system. Combining the latest open source technologies with Mac ease of use, Mac OS X Server unleashes the power of Xserve, Apple's rack-optimized server hardware. With phenomenal performance, massive storage capacity, high-bandwidth I/O, and integrated remote management tools, Xserve running Mac OS X Server is the ideal solution for education, small businesses, and enterprises alike.

For More Information

For more information about Mac OS X Server, Xserve, and other Apple Server solutions, visit www.apple.com/server.

*Chat traffic routed through point-to-point connections is not encrypted.

© 2007 Apple Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, iChat, Mac, Mac OS, and Xserve are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Leopard is a trademark of Apple Inc. UNIX is a registered trademark of The Open Group in the U.S. and other countries. Mac OS X Server version 10.5 Leopard is an Open Brand UNIX 03 Registered Product. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective companies. Product specifications are subject to change without notice. This material is provided for information purposes only; Apple assumes no liability related to its use. November 2007 L355769B