

# Introducing Groupmax Version 7: a tool to support versatile work styles and provide a flexible and faster environment for sharing and using information

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Hitachi, Ltd. Information & Telecommunication Systems (hereafter referred to as Hitachi), led by Group President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Furukawa, announced their release of Groupmax Version 7 on February 17. Groupmax Version 7 helps to share and utilize information and know-how transcending the existing organizational structure in response to the versatile work styles that are popular these days, and provides a flexible and faster environment for sharing and using information in corporations and organizations.

Groupmax has been providing groupware features, such as e-mail and workflows, that have been used in corporations and organizations to exchange information and handle jobs. In addition to these features, Groupmax Version 7 offers a portal environment on the Web that can be shared and used by a project team whose members are selected from different departments in an organization to start new business ventures or for other reasons. Groupmax Version 7 also provides a file sharing feature that allows the users to access required files via the Internet any time anywhere. They can access files they need during a business trip or while working at home.

Today, work is not bound by constraints of time and place. Work styles such as field sales and teleworking are becoming popular in corporations thanks to highly developed IT including broadband and mobile devices. In addition, to introduce new products and new services into the market more quickly, people from different departments often gather to form a project team, and share and use varied know-how and ideas to resolve problems more quickly and achieve their goals. This type of project team is increasingly popular. These changes in work styles require many different things in the environment for sharing and using information in corporations and organizations.

Since its first release in 1995, Groupmax has been used in many corporations as integrated groupware, and has provided e-mail and schedule management features as communications tools and the workflow features for electronically handling routine work such as requests for approval and ordering in corporations. Now, in addition to these features, Groupmax Version 7 offers the information sharing feature based on the Web portal in response to the needs, triggered by new work styles, for a new environment for sharing and using information.

The major features of Groupmax Version 7 are as follows:

1. Information sharing feature based on the Web portal for faster and flexible sharing and use of information  
With the introduction of Groupmax Collaboration Suite, which is a portal for sharing and using information, the following features are now available:

(1) Sharing and using information across the organization

A dedicated Web portal can be immediately set up to share and use information among a project team consisting of members from different departments unlike a conventional project team who all belong to the same department. The Web portal helps to achieve smooth team work. In addition, the Web portal can ease handling information provided by different features of Groupmax such as e-mail, schedule management, file sharing, and electronic forums. The Web portal automatically selects the information for a specific team or topic, separates the applicable information from the routine work of other unrelated users, and displays only the related information in a compact and easy-to-understand manner. This way, the users of the Web portal can quickly access the information they need.

(2) Sharing and using information any time, anywhere

With the file sharing feature conforming to the WebDAV\*<sup>1</sup> standard, users can access desired data files on an intranet in a corporation using a mobile device during a business trip or while working at home as if they were operating a PC in the workplace. This feature enables users to share and use information more flexibly. In addition, the members of a project team can be given different access permissions.

(3) Switching display languages

Depending on the environment of business branches, the display of menus and help on the Web portal can be switched between English and Japanese. You do not need to install different servers for the Japanese Web portal and the English Web portal, or install new dedicated servers in business branches. You can use the Web portal anywhere in the world as you would in your workplace.

\*1 WebDAV (World Wide Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning)

Extended HTTP standard that enables reference and update of files and folders on Web servers from Web browsers.

2. Improved usability

Groupmax Version 7 has an integrated feel in display design and operability. Its usability is much improved from the previous version. For example, button names are changed to more intuitive ones that indicate what the user wants to do. Groupmax Groupware Client, which provides the e-mail and schedule management features for clients, now has a full-text search feature based on keywords of e-mail contents and a filtering feature that displays only e-mail that is received after specified times and dates. These features are now offered in addition to the previous conditional search feature for finding specified mail subjects, recipients, senders, or times and dates. A thread display feature is also added to display the return and transfer status of specific e-mail and the e-mail history in a tree format. These new features greatly reduce the time you need to organize and find e-mail, which helps you in exchanging more information more easily.

Shipping dates for major new releases

Product name	Operating environment	Shipping Date
Groupmax Collaboration Suite	Windows® 2000/Windows Server™ 2003	June 30
Groupmax Groupware Client	Windows® XP/Windows® 98 Second Edition/Windows® Me/ Windows NT® 4.0/Windows® 2000/ Windows Server™ 2003	April 28

About non-Hitachi product names:

- Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and other countries.
- Windows NT is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and other countries.
- All other company names and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Abbreviations:

- Windows is a general term for the Microsoft® Windows® Operating System.
- Windows NT is a general term for the Microsoft® Windows NT® Operating System.

Hitachi Ltd. Software Division

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For more information on Groupmax, please visit us at <http://www.hitachi.co.jp/groupmax-e/>

If you have an inquiry, please send your inquiry to us by email at [WWW-mdc@itg.hitachi.co.jp](mailto:WWW-mdc@itg.hitachi.co.jp).

Alternatively, please send

your inquiry from the Inquiry page at <http://www.hitachi.co.jp/soft-e/>.

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