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# **Using BEX Exchange Mailbox Recovery (BEX EMBR) with BEX Instant Availability for Rapid Recovery of MS Exchange Items**

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# Using BEX EMBR with BEX Instant Availability for Rapid Recovery of Exchange Mailbox Items

## Introduction

BEX Exchange Mailbox Recovery (BEX EMBR) allows Backup Administrators to easily recover mailbox items from unmounted Exchange databases (EDB) and Information Store files. Additionally, BEX EMBR enables copying, searching and analyzing e-mail and e-mail attachments.

Backup Express can provide the backed up EDB file(s) to BEX EMBR through its BEX Advanced Recovery backup functionality. The key is the BEX Instant Availability (IA) feature, which easily and rapidly mounts Exchange recovery points to a Windows node. BEX EMBR on this node can then quickly extract or search required e-mail items. This simple process is described below.

## How BEX EMBR Works

BEX EMBR requires as input the backed up EDB files. These files should be local to a server (other than the Exchange Server) or workstation that has the BEX EMBR installed. BEX EMBR can then open these files and either extract the individual e-mail items to a .pst file or import them directly into an online Exchange database.

## How BEX EMBR Works with BEX Instant Availability

BEX Advanced Recovery backups of an Exchange server back up the logical volume (C:, D:, etc.) that contains the Exchange database files, which includes the EDB file(s). By virtue of the Advanced Recovery backup process, the database is backed up online once as a full backup; all subsequent backups are then block-level incremental backups, which greatly reduce CPU load, network traffic and storage requirements.

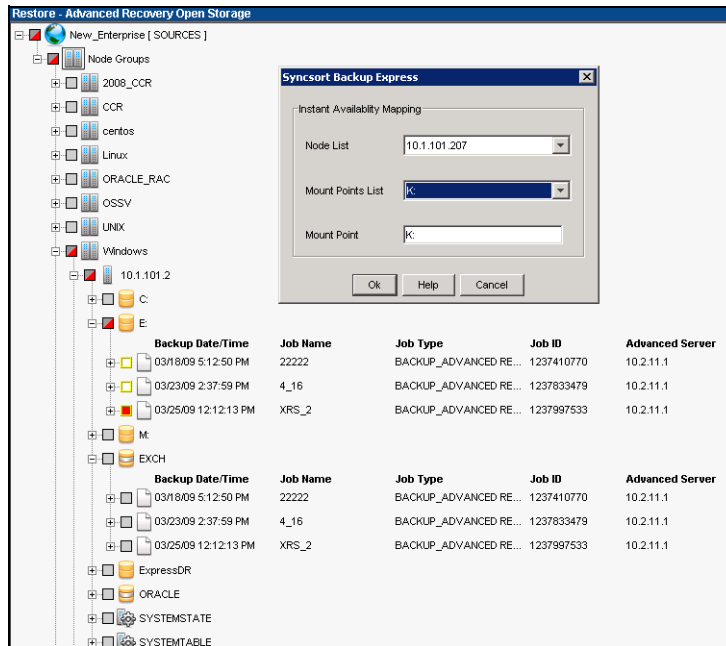
Any of the recovery points (one is created by each Advanced Recovery backup job) can then be mounted to a Windows node by using the Backup Express IA feature. If BEX EMBR is installed on this Windows node (the node should not be the Exchange Server), BEX EMBR can then be used to extract mailbox items from the IA map.

## Example Use of BEX EMBR with BEX Instant Availability

For the example described below, a Windows 2003 Exchange server (IP 10.1.101.2) was backed up three times using the Backup Express Advanced Recovery backup functionality. The backup ran once as a full and subsequently as a block-level incremental backup. This created three recovery points of the E: drive on the secondary storage device. The third recovery point



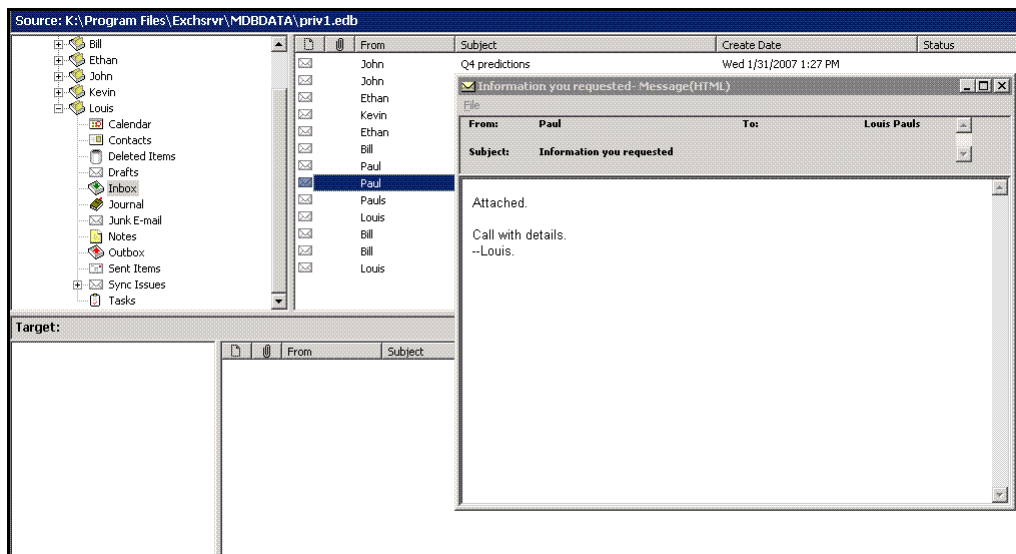
is then selected and IA mapped as the K: drive on a server that has BEX EMBR installed (IP address 10.1.101.207 in the example below):



The IA function results in the K: drive on the server 10.1.101.207 and this K: drive now houses the EDB file(s) from when the Advanced Recovery backup ran (in this example, 3/25/09 12:12:13 PM).

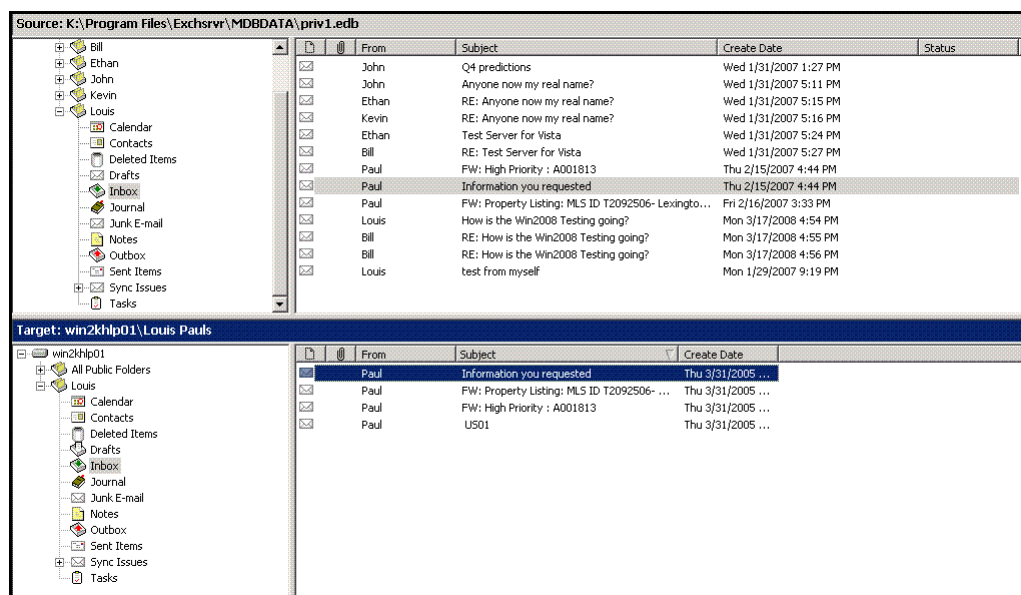
**Note:** There are two backup sets for Exchange: the data files (on the E: drive in the example) and the application itself on the EXCH volume. Only the data files can be IA-mapped.

BEX EMBR is then launched from the workstation and pointed to the location on the K: drive that contains the EDB files:



The screen shot above shows the opened source file (K:\Program Files\Exchsrvr\MDBDATA\priv.edb) with all the mailboxes displayed in the top-left panel. The mailbox for user Louis is opened and the Inbox of that mailbox is shown (top-right panel). You can now search for mail items, or read e-mails if needed (as shown in the open window above).

To recover one or multiple e-mails (or any of the objects shown above: Calendar, Contacts, Deleted Items, etc.) you can either save the items to be recovered to a .pst file, which can be sent to the user, who can read the items, or you can import the items to be recovered directly to an online Exchange server. To do the latter, point BEX EMBR to the Exchange server, which will then populate the bottom Target information with the contents on the “live” mailbox. A recovery is then done by drag-and-dropping the items from Source: (top panel) to the Target: (bottom panel) as shown below.



At the completion of the recovery BEX EMBR is shut down, and the IA map is unmapped. The recovery and search activities can be done with no impact to the online Exchange server.

BEX Instant Availability used with BEX EMBR is one example of the exceptional versatility and simplicity of IA access to recovery points generated by routine Advanced Recovery backups.



