Open-Xchange App Suite

Minor Release v7.10.1

Feature Overview

V1.0

1   OX App Suite v7.10.1

1.1   Intention of this Document

This document provides an overview of the new web frontend features, backend improvements and other changes coming with this minor release of OX App Suite, v7.10.1.

The purpose of this document is to inform Open-Xchange customers and partners about the major changes that have been made in this release.

1.2   Key Benefits of OX App Suite v7.10.1

Open-Xchange is pleased to announce the release of OX App Suite v7.10.1.

Keeping in line with Open-Xchange's end-user strategy OX App Suite 7.10.1 contains many enhancements designed specifically for the user and the user experience.

Major enhancements in OX App Suite 7.10.1 include:

- **Next Generation Calendar Improvements**
  OX App Suite v7.10.1 introduces usability improvements for OX Calendar such as cancel-reasons, improved folder selection, clickable links in appointment fields (e.g. title fields), changing appointment series with exceptions and automatically declining an appointment when deleting it.

- **Improved Notifications**
  OX Calendar also comes with improved push-behavior and the ability to send out email notifications. Users simply need to use the new "Mail" option in the reminder settings for an appointment. This then schedules a reminder email for the appointment. The email also contains information about the appointment.

- **Additional security options**
  With this new release Open-Xchange introduces an editable whitelist to the product. This allows specified domains, or senders, to be automatically authorized. Email content from domains listed on the whitelist, i.e. from trusted sources, are loaded without any additional confirmation.

- **Enhancements for Cloud Deployments**
  The OX App Suite 7.10.1 middleware has been enhanced, and endorsed, for being run in the Amazon Web Services environment. Open-Xchange has reviewed the service portfolio of Amazon Web Services and functionally tested it for better compatibility with certain AWS platform services.

2   OX Calendar Enhancements and Design Updates

2.1   Organizer can Add Reason for Cancellation

When deleting an appointment OX App Suite currently shows a confirmation dialog to the user. This dialog has been enhanced to now contain a new comment input field that lets a user enter information about the cancelation.

- The comment field is available for recurring and non-recurring appointments.

- The comment field is only present if there are at least 2 participants

- Email notifications must be turned on in the settings

Note for Administrators: Make sure 'io.ox/calendar//notifyNewModifiedDeleted' is set to true.
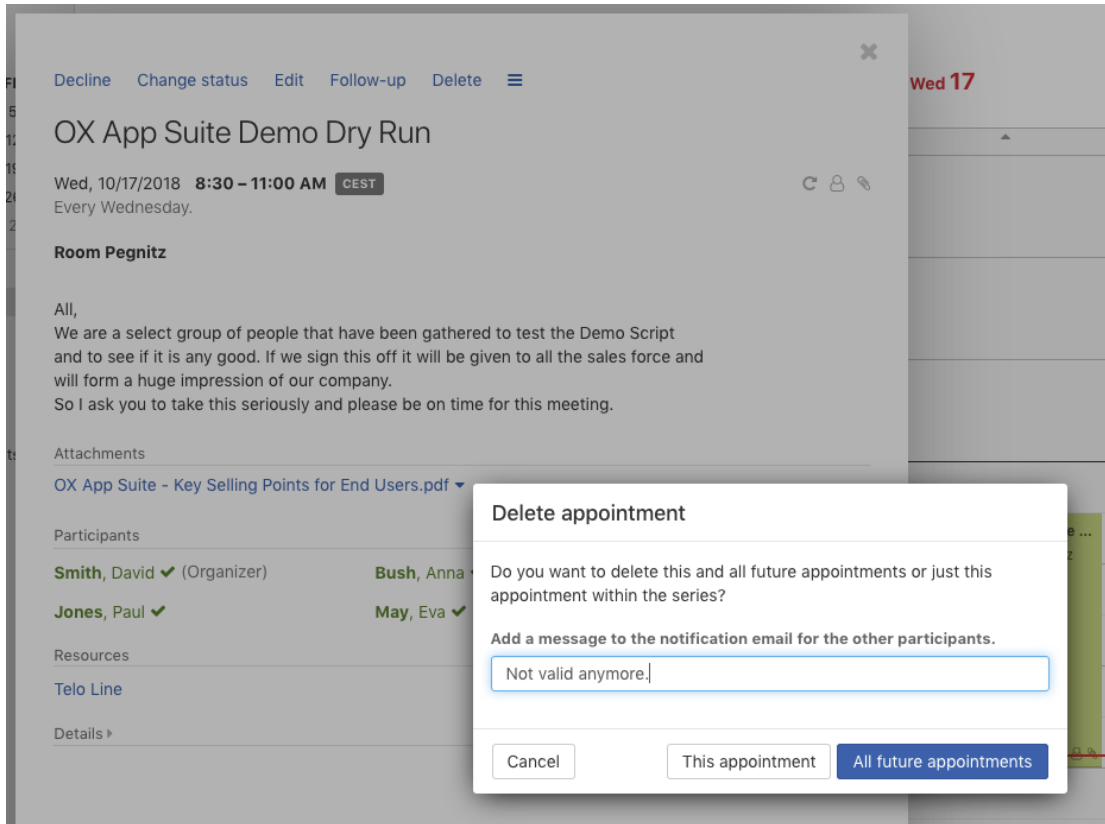
2.2 Email Reminder for Appointments

OX App Suite already provides audio and notification reminders for calendar appointments. Now this has been enhanced with the ability to send out email notifications too.

In the Reminder settings for an appointment a new "Mail" option is now available that if set causes an email to be sent from the system to the user's email address. This email is sent, containing information about the appointment, in a similar fashion to a standard notification.
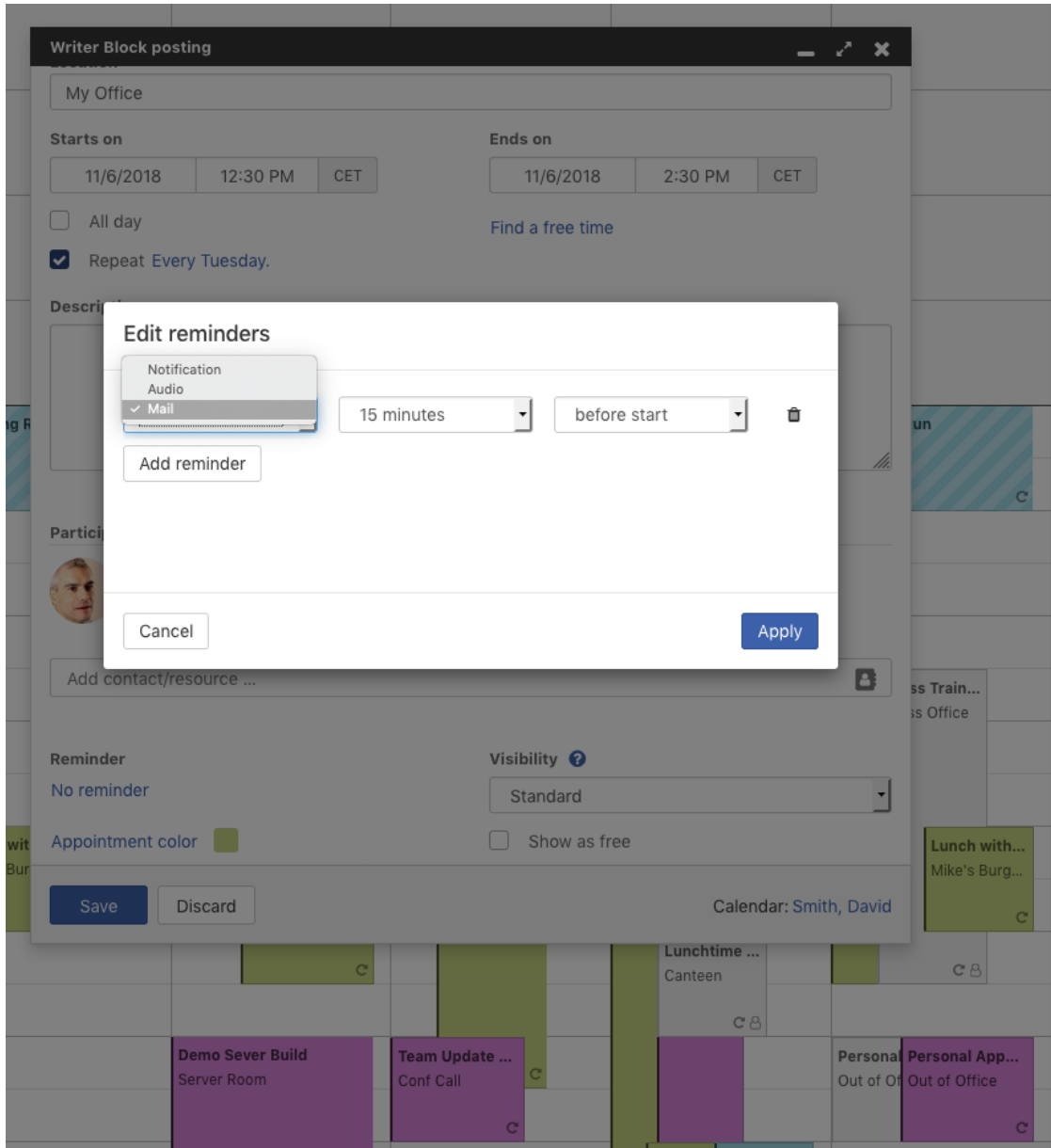
This also works for a user's birthday calendar.

2.3   Improve Folder Selection in Calendar Edit Dialog

OX App Suite v7.10 introduced a completely new version of OX Calendar. Together with UI updates, and more standardized behavior, the new calendar utilizes the backend capability of both iCalendar and CalDAV to provide outstanding interoperability.

OX App Suite v7.10.1 now also provides further improvements to the calendar such as an improved folder selection in a calendar appointment edit dialog.

A new 'Calendar' selection has been added to the appointment edit dialog. In this section it shows which calendar the appointment is stored in. It also lets the organizer click on the calendar name and change where the appointment is to be stored. This is much more natural for users.

As the calendar-tree is always a flagged list (i.e. not obvious where to store the appointment) this new dropdown shows only the calendars that the user has rights to store the appointment in, and their respective colors. This helps the user to better recognize the available calendars.

Finally, on mobiles, this will be the familiar dialog with the addition of colored stripes on the left.

2.4   Clickable Links in Appointment Location- and Title Field

OX App Suite v7.10.1 provides a new feature for appointments that improves the user experience. Now, if a URL is entered into either the location or title field (e.g. a conference line, video conference, WebEx etc.) it now becomes clickable.
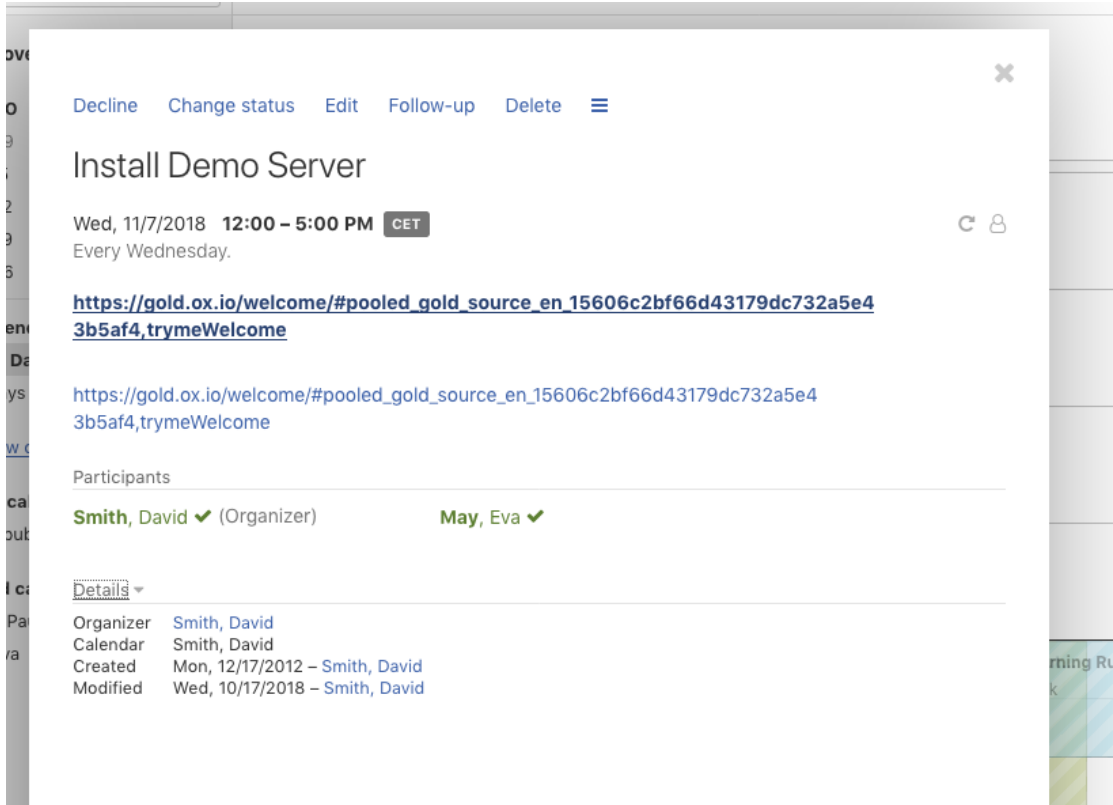
2.5   Show Appointment Colors Only to Organizers

OX App Suite lets users select a color for a calendar folder. They may, however, become confused if some appointments in that calendar folder appear with a different color. This happens because color of the appointment set by the organizer overrides the color of the calendar folder.

In OX App Suite v7.10.1, the color of an appointment is that of the folder, unless the current user is also the organizer.

Please note for users: The users cannot identify appointments in shared calendars via a specific appointment color.
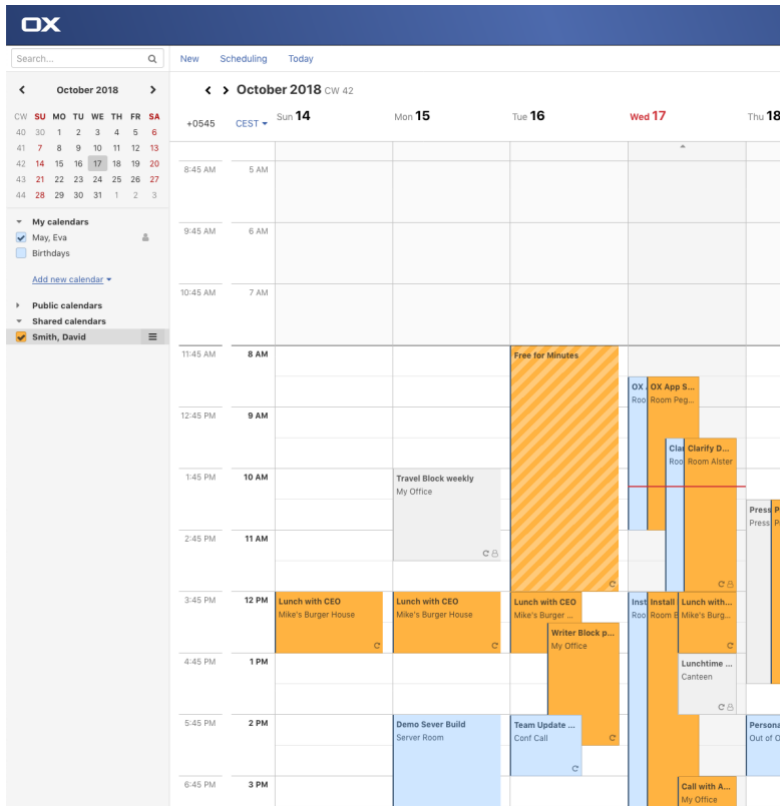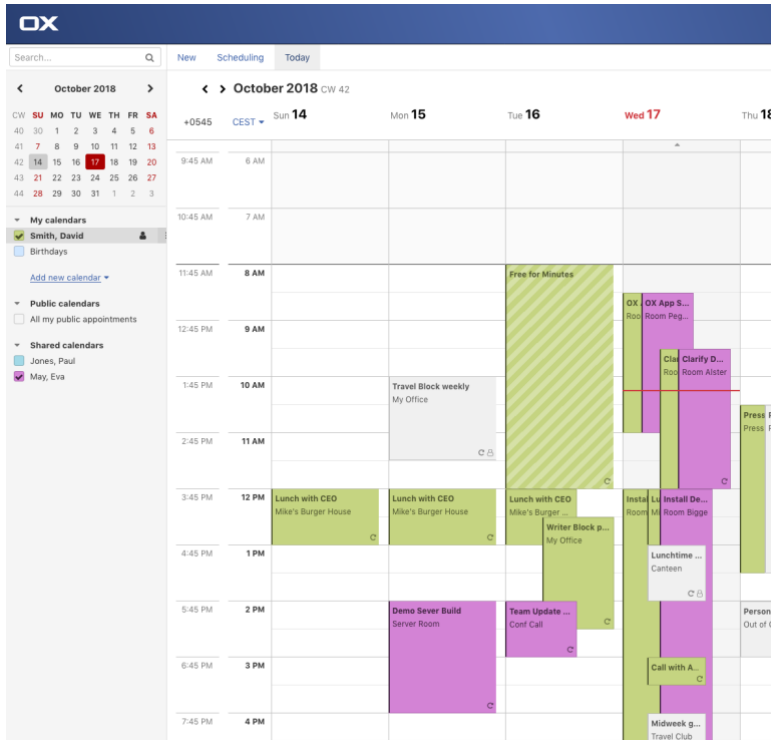
2.6 Improved Notifications for Calendar Updates

OX App Suite v7.10.1 has improved the push-behavior of appointments. In addition to the already available push notification in OX Mail the same behavior is now available in OX Calendar. This means that the web frontend is informed immediately whenever something is changed in the user's calendar.

2.7 Appointment Organizer is marked in Attendee List

In OX App Suite only the organizer of an appointment is able to change or modify the event. This can lead to situations where an attendee may need to quickly see who the organizer is and get in contact with them (e.g. to propose a change or update the appointment).

Previously, the organizer was "hidden" in the bottom of the details section in the appointment detail view.

With OX App Suite v7.10.1, Open-Xchange changes the position of this information and provides an "Organizer" label next to the organizer's name in the attendee list. Additionally, the organizer is always shown at the top of the attendee list.

- Added a label to the organizer as stated above.

- Label is only shown when there is more than one attendee.

- Organizer is now positioned at the top of the list.

- All other participants are still sorted alphabetically.

2.8 Appointment Series with Exceptions Change

If a user has an appointment series with lots of participants who all accept and decline instances, the series soon consists of countless exceptions. If the user wants to edit the series, they can just edit the exception.

With OX App Suite v7.10.1, Open-Xchange provides a special treatment for the edit dialog of such a series.

If the user wants to edit the first appointment of the series, they have the possibility to "edit this appointment" and "the entire series".
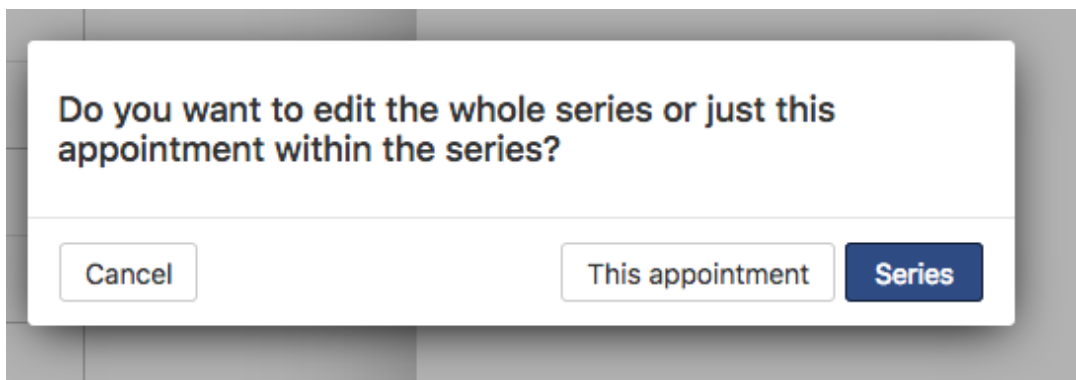
If the user wants to edit a later appointment during the series, the user can choose "edit this appointment" and "this and future appointments"
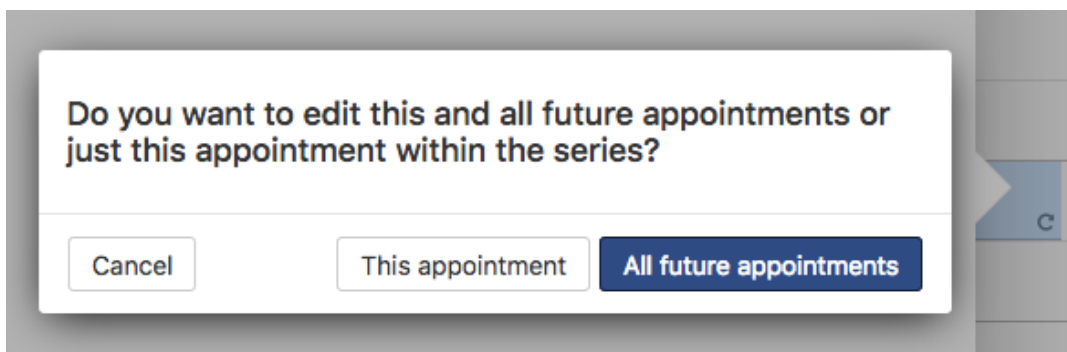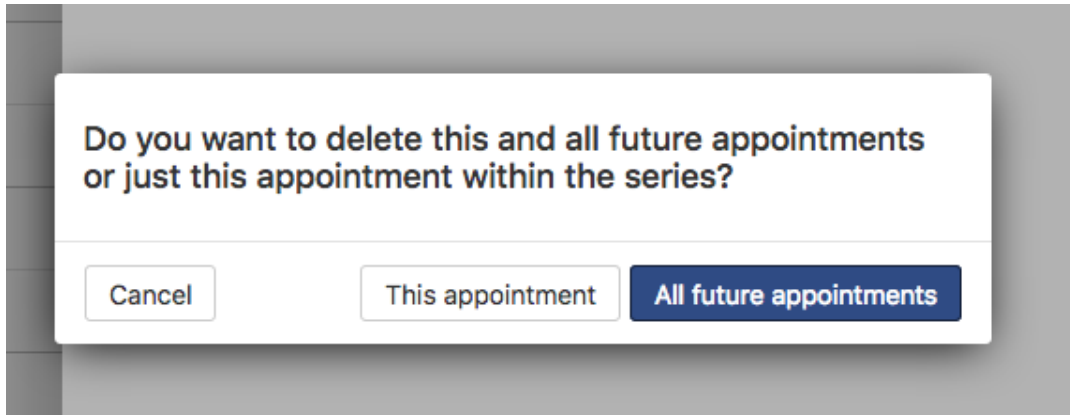
The third case is, to edit the last appointment in a series. In this situation, the edit dialog provides only "edit this appointment".

In all situations, it does not matter whether an individual occurrence is an exception or not.

2.9 Delete Appointment Sets Status to Declined

Originally, in OX App Suite, if a user deleted an appointment then that user was removed from the attendee list. With OX App Suite v7.10.1, the attendee will not be removed from the attendee list, but their status is changed to "declined". This is for the deletion of non-recurring events, event series or a single instance of a series.

3 OX Mail Enhancements and Design Updates

3.1 Reduce Image Size for Attachments

When sending pictures via the OX Mail web frontend, sometimes it is not necessary to send the original image, in terms of picture size. A reduced in size image is often sufficient. One significant benefit is that it will speed up the sending of the email a lot.

The OX App Suite v7.10.1 mail compose now offers the option to automatically reduce file size for attached images (jpg, png, gif). It offers three options Small, Medium and Large, as well as the original size. OX App Suite will then reduce the

image size by decreasing width and height of the image as well as increase the jpg compression rate (for jpg).

When the user hits Send, a popup provides the possible attachment sizes. The user can choose one of them. The new feature is also available in the web frontend on mobile devices.

Default Sizes (can be changed by settings):

- Small: 320px x 240px

- Medium: 640px x 480px

- Large: 1024px x 768px

- Original

4 OX Drive Enhancements and Design Updates

4.1 New Quota Check for Upload Actions in OX Drive

The OX App Suite web frontend tries to determine if a list of files can be successfully uploaded to OX Drive by using static information supplied during login. Unfortunately, it has been found that this approach does not cover every upload eventuality and there is a need to perform a check on a per folder base. For this reason, Open-Xchange has created a new API, for the UI, which provides more accurate information to the user before attempting to upload any large files.

5 General Improvements and Design Changes

5.1 OX App Suite Accessibility Improvement

OX App Suite already comes with many accessibility functionalities such as WAI-ARIA Meta Tags. OX App Suite v7.10.1 Open-Xchange enhances this set of features and functions.

OX App Suite v7.10.1 provides a new behavior to skip navigation links. With the keyboard, it is easier to reach the most important landmarks with a "skip to x" menu that appears when the user first tab into the window.

Additionally, OX App Suite provides some improvements to the reminder dialog of appointments to be more accessible.

For information on this and a detailed list of supported features please go here: https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/ui/accessibility.html

6 Security Enhancements and Design Updates

6.1 Whitelist for Senders and Domains

OX App Suite v7.10.1 now provides a new security setting inside user settings. It is now possible to create a Whitelist of addresses or domains that allows email content, from trusted sources, to be loaded without confirmation.

By default, OX App Suite would either block or load all external images globally. With this new release Open-Xchange introduces an editable whitelist to allow specified domains or senders to be authorized automatically. There is a new text field in user settings "Security" section (that can be pre-filled by the admin). The list is comma separated and uses a simple "endswith" matching rule for domains. Single email addresses can also be added.

- Please use a comma-separated list of mail addresses and specific domains as value (string).

7 Administration, Technical Extensions, Plug-ins, etc.

7.1 Enhancements for Cloud Deployments

The OX App Suite 7.10.1 Middleware has been enhanced and endorsed for being operated in the Amazon Web Services environment.

7.1.1 Amazon Web Services

Open-Xchange has reviewed the service portfolio of Amazon Web Services and extended and functionally tested especially the OX App Suite Middleware for better compatibility with certain AWS platform services. Functional enhancements are as follows. Since usage of AWS can differ in configuration and load, Open-Xchange cannot provide general advice on AWS specific configurations or sizing recommendations.

7.1.1.1 Support for Amazon Linux 2

Starting with this release, OX App Suite Core Middleware and Web Frontend Linux packages have been verified to work with Amazon Linux 2. This support is limited to Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7 packages, i.e. no dedicated packages are required for this platform.

7.1.1.2 Usage of AWS RDS

This release of the OX App Suite Middleware has been extensively tested to verify that the database layer can be provided by AWS RDS for MySQL (version 5.7) and AWS RDS for MariaDB (version 10.2).

It is still required that the database instances get configured as required by using AWS RDS Parameter Groups.

7.1.1.3 S3 Server-Side Encryption

The S3 implementation for file stores now supports SSE-S3. If enabled, operations that perform write operations on objects apply the required request headers to instruct S3 to transparently encrypt the affected objects at rest. In addition, if the middleware is meant to create buckets of newly registered file stores, it would, in addition, apply a bucket policy that enforces SSE-S3 for all objects of that bucket.

7.1.1.4 Usage of Application Load Balancers

It has been verified through testing and software changes, that AWS ALBs can be used for load balancing and reverse proxying to middleware instances.

ALBs support sticky sessions based on cookies, which is required in such a setup. With that, ALBs can be used to substitute the generally recommended Apache 2 instances. Still Apache 2 instances are required as plain web servers to serve the App Suite web frontend.

7.1.2 Transport Encryption

To add additional security in public cloud environments, where network infrastructure might be shared among different parties, the OX App Suite Middleware was equipped with additional transport encryption features.

7.1.2.1 Database Connections

Connections to MySQL/MariaDB instances may now use TLS by supporting the useSSL and requireSSL connection parameters of the underlying JDBC driver. In addition, two-way authentication is supported where clients – i.e. the middleware instances – need to authenticate with the database server through a client-side key pair.

The technical implementation uses a generic approach with an additional, optional, configuration file dbconnector.yaml. This can be used to set any supported parameter of the JDBC driver for MySQL for all database connections.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/database/connection_encryption.html

7.1.2.2 Hazelcast Connections

Hazelcast offers transport encryption for customers with their Hazelcast Enterprise Edition. Customers of Open-Xchange that are also Hazelcast Enterprise Customers can now request access to an additional Open-Xchange package repository that contains the package 'open-xchange-hazelcast-enterprise'. With that, the default community edition is replaced by Hazelcast Enterprise at installation time.

From the advanced Hazelcast Enterprise feature set, the symmetric and TLS-based transport encryption features are now supported. To use Hazelcast Enterprise it is necessary to request a license key from Hazelcast directly.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at
https://documentation.open-
xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/hazelcast/hazelcast_encryption.ht
ml

7.1.3 Service Health Check

In elastic cloud environments, where broken nodes can be replaced
automatically, and scaling may happen automatically based on environmental
metrics, it is common to have HTTP-based checks that signal service readiness
and health status.

The OX App Suite Middleware now implements a slightly extended version of the
MicroProfile Health specification (GET /health). Under the hood this has been
realized as an extensible framework, so that customized installations can
contribute to the health result with custom checks.

7.2 Proxy Support for External Mail Accounts

Access to the Internet may be restricted in certain server environments, so that
external mail accounts cannot be supported. With OX App Suite v7.10.1 it is
possible to use a proxy/tunnel based on HTTP CONNECT between OX App
Suite middleware nodes and external IMAP and SMTP endpoints.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at
https://documentation.open-
xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/http_proxy-support.html

7.3 Control Default for Loading of Remote Content in Emails

To prevent tracking mail clients usually do not load content from remote servers
when displaying HTML mails, unless explicitly requested. Such an option is
already available inside the user mail settings, whose default value gets applied
during provisioning of a new user account. The default for the corresponding
parameter was "true" in the previous OX App Suite releases.

With OX App Suite v7.10.1 Open-Xchange introduces a new configuration
parameter that defaults to "false". This provides more flexibility so that individual
defaults can be configured using the Config Cascade.

It is now also allowed to overwrite the actual user setting via the "change user" call, i.e. an admin may assign a new value explicitly, even if in the meantime the user has changed the value on their own.

7.4 Geo-Location based IP-Check

For increased security the Open-Xchange server can check the originating IP address of requests associated with a user session. Previously, it was only possible to have a strict policy where each change of the IP address resulted in the session being invalidated, which is why the check was deactivated in most setups.

In this version of OX App Suite, a new option is available, which is backed by a Geolocation service, to determine whether a change of the IP address remains within the borders of the same country. This means that the common case of a reassigned IP address by the Internet Provider can be covered.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at

https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/geolocation_deployment_guide.html

7.5 Multiple Cache-Event Topics

The Open-Xchange server utilizes a Hazelcast topic to distribute cached invalidation events among middleware nodes in a cluster. During bursts this message bus could become a bottleneck, in very large installations, where more messages were generated than being handled on the receiving side. With this new release the Open-Xchange server now distributes the messages over different topics. This allows the parallel processing with multiple worker threads and significantly increases the event throughput within a cluster.

7.6 Folder Tree for Share Links

When opening a share link the shared file, or folder, is displayed within the regular folder tree for the anonymous guest user. Previously this folder tree showed all subfolders in the hierarchy, which implicitly included all subfolders, from the root folder down the path to the shared folders. This, however, may not

be obvious to the sharing user. With this new release this functionality will be adjusted in a way so that a (anonymous) guest user will only see the root or the default folders, as well as the shared folder itself, i.e. the intermediate folders on the path to shared folders will now be hidden for the guest user.

Note that this will only apply to "anonymous" share links; the handling of invited guest users remains unchanged. More information can be found at https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/sharing_guest_mode.html#anonymous-guest-users

7.7   Permissions in public Calendar Folders

In contrast to personal calendar folders, public folders are not associated with a dedicated calendar owner. This means that whenever a new event is created in a public folder the creator automatically becomes the organizer of the event. This means that the clear association of the acting user's role within the folder that exists for personal folders does not apply here. Also, the purpose of the assignable folder permissions may even be misleading.

In order to improve the situation and better reflect the 'public' nature of such calendars the permission and role handling is slightly adjusted: After an event is created in a public folder, and the creator has been stored as organizer, each consecutive modification of the event data by other users, outside the allowed attendee changes, is implicitly performed on behalf of the organizer. This means that all other users can edit events in public folders by implicitly impersonating the organizer of the event, given that the underlying folder access rights are sufficient.

However, it is not possible to act as another attendee in public folders so that the current session user is always interacting with their "own" attendee property. For example, they cannot change the participation status of another attendee. Further details are available https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/components/calendar/implementation_details.html#permissions

7.8   Auto-Deletion for old File Versions

By default, when updating a file in OX Drive a new version of that file is created automatically and old versions of the file is kept as a backup. However, for files

that are updated frequently, this can end up with many unused versions of a file that need to be cleaned up manually.

In order to have more control a new auto-delete feature has been introduced. This allows an administrator to configure how many file versions should be preserved and their maximum age.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at

https://documentation.open-xchange.com/components/middleware/config/7.10.1/index.html#mode=search&term=com.openexchange.infostore.autodelete

7.9   New Rate Limit option for Login Attempts

Besides the existing rate limiting option for login requests based on low level characteristics like the User-Agent header originating IP address, a new mode is now available that is solely based on the unique username. This enables administrators to add another layer of protection against brute-force attacks for their server. The rate limiter operates per node and can be configured independently of the other rate limiting options. More details are available in the documentation.

Note for Administrators: Further information can be found at

https://documentation.open-xchange.com/7.10.1/middleware/login/04_ratelimit/login_rate_limit.html#rate-limiting-by-login-user-name