

Is Smart Upgrade the Smartest Choice for Your Next Notes Upgrade?



This document was prepared to highlight some of the advantages of ADT for Lotus Notes over Notes Smart Upgrade.

- Smart Upgrade requires that your Lotus Notes clients are already at version 6.0 or higher. If your organization is not yet on Notes and Domino 6 or higher, you will not be able to leverage Smart Upgrade.

ADT can upgrade your Notes clients from any existing release of Notes or deploy Notes to users from just about any other messaging system.

- Smart Upgrade lacks the ability to reconfigure the Notes client. Many organizations have deployed the Notes client in a variety of unsupported configurations, such as networked based data directories or allowing multiple users to share a single Notes instance. Organizations typically want to standardize their environment on a consistent, supported configuration of Notes. Smart Upgrade lacks the ability to do anything other than an “in-place” upgrade. This means that the sins of the past will continue uncorrected and the total cost of ownership resulting from administering and supporting numerous different client configurations will remain high.

ADT contains numerous value-add options to help organizations standardize their Notes configurations, such as the Notes Mover component which can relocate Notes program and/or data directories to consistent locations and patch and repair all incorrect registry and notes.ini settings. ADT also includes a component to migrate an existing single user installation to the new Notes 6/7 multiuser configuration.

- Smart Upgrade lacks the flexibility to handle contingencies such as incorrect registry settings and redundant notes.ini files that may adversely affect the success of the installation.

ADT has robust logic built in to address unexpected scenarios and the ability to dynamically repair installations to yield consistently high success rates on unattended installs. ADT also detects and terminates any other programs that interface with Lotus Notes prior to upgrading the client to ensure optimal success.

- Smart Upgrade lacks the ability to designate a CD-based install/upgrade for remote users. Most organizations typically have some subset of users that work remotely or are bandwidth constrained. Therefore, network based upgrade kits are impractical for these users.

ADT provides the ability to designate either CD and/or network based installations that are fully managed (i.e. silent) and reported to ADT. ADT even includes a ‘CD then Network’ option that will default to a CD for best performance and provide the option to failover to a network location in the event the CD is unavailable.

- Smart Upgrade lacks robust reporting capabilities. In any deployment or upgrade project of any size greater than 100 users, the ability to effectively track and manage users through the migration process is critical to the accurate, timely, and successful completion of the project. Although Smart Upgrade has the ability to send an email notification to an administrator or mail-in database following a successful or failed upgrade, it lacks built-in reporting tools. Domino administrators must manually design and create their own reporting interfaces. In the event a user lacks adequate disk space to complete an upgrade, no one is notified besides the end user in order to resolve the problem.

ADT's central theme is managing and reporting on the entire migration process. A convenient and powerful dashboard interface captures the current status of each step of the entire migration process. Additional views provide more granular detail and organized reporting. Each ADT User Document also contains volumes of useful data to assist in client troubleshooting, including PC hardware data collected by ADT's discovery module, and an audit history documenting each action performed on the user's machine.

- Smart Upgrade does not address the full scope of upgrading an existing Notes client installation. A successful "Best Practices" approach to upgrading Notes clients includes other equally important process steps, such as Discovery to collect details information on current machine configurations, Training to educate users on new productivity features, and finally Mail Template Upgrade to complete the end user upgrade process.

ADT is a flexible and comprehensive suite of tools to automate all aspects of Notes client upgrades, as well as to automate all of the components needed to deploy Notes to new users or migrate users to Notes from other messaging systems. ADT can also be used to install up to 10 other programs during the Notes client upgrade process.