

# Installing Lotus Notes without Changing the Default Email

By [Chuck Connell](#)

Consider the following scenario... You want to push a version upgrade of Lotus Notes to your organization's workstations, but your organization does not use Notes as an email platform. This is actually a fairly likely scenario, since many organizations have moved their email infrastructure to Microsoft, while continuing to run Domino and Notes as application middleware.

In theory, the Notes Smart Upgrade feature supports this upgrade situation, but there are two nasty bugs in the Notes installer that trip up the solution. To make things worse, one of the bugs occurs in an attempt to work around the other bug. This article describes the bugs and shows how to accomplish the objective by working around both. The resulting method is useful for other, more general, modification to the Notes installation script.

The default Notes installation options reset the user's default email program to Notes. (They reset the default contact and calendar programs to Notes also.) Since corporate administrators often like to push silent installation kits to their users, this is a problem. Users will run the Notes upgrade, and then discover that their default email program is no longer Outlook. While it is possible to use Windows Control Panel to fix the problem, this is a rather annoying consequence of a simple version upgrade to already-installed software.

The standard fix to this problem is to use InstallShield Tuner to write a transform file (.MST) that modifies the Notes Windows Installer (.MSI). In theory, it is then possible to add the transform file to the install kit, and the silent installation will no longer change the user's default programs for email/contact/calendar. But this is the first bug. The Notes installer software does not correctly process the changes that the transform file makes to the checkboxes for email/contact/calendar programs. (Lotus/IBM has acknowledged this bug as APAR# LO49483 and SPR# SHEZ838HYH.)

A reasonable workaround for this bug might be to skip the transform file and just modify the install options directly on the Notes SETUP command line. This solution would look like this:

```
setup.exe /s /v" /qb+ USENOTESFOREMAIL=\"\" "
```

The /s option tells SETUP to run silently. The /v option passes the remaining parameters to the Windows installer, MSIEXEC. The /qb+ option tells MSIEXEC to show a visual indicator of installation progress. And UseNotesForEmail is the specific Notes option we care about here. The backslashes are escape characters for the embedded double quotes,

so the meaning should be “OPTION equals null-string.” But attempting this reveals the second bug. The Notes SETUP program does not correctly process escaped quotation marks, and the default programs for email/calendar/contacts are still set to Notes.

The real solution is to bypass the Notes SETUP program completely and invoke the Windows installer directly, adding options to that command line. This workaround, which I have tested successfully, looks like this:

```
msiexec.exe /i "Lotus Notes.msi" /qb+
USENOTESFOREMAIL=""
```

If you are using the Notes Smart Upgrade database, specify “Full Path To Update Kit” as

```
C:\windows\system32\msiexec.exe
```

and “Optional Arguments For Network Kit” as

```
/i "\\network-share\Lotus Notes 8.N.N.msi" /qb+
USENOTESFOREMAIL="" USENOTESFORCALENDAR=""
USENOTESFORCONTACTS="" USENOTESFORICAL=""
```

Doing so will “uncheck” the normal install options that set Notes as the default program for email, contacts, calendar, and iCal files.

This approach also has the advantage that modifications to the install kit are transparent directly in the Smart Upgrade database. MSIEXEC transforms, on the other hand, hide install modifications within tricky and hard-to-read MST files.

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