

simultaneous Outlook reminders on multiple devices

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago Modified 11 years, 9 months ago

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Disclaimer: This is not actually a programming question, but I feel the audience on stackoverflow is more likely to have an answer than most question/answer sites out there.

Please forgive me, Joel, for stealing your question. Joel asked this question on a podcast a while back but I don't think it ever got resolved. I'm in the same situation, so I'm also looking for the answer.

I have multiple devices that all sync with MS-Outlook. PCs, Laptops, Smartphones, PDAs, etc. all have the capability to synchronize their data (calendars, emails, contacts, etc.) with the Exchange server. I like to use the Outlook meeting notice or appointment reminders to remind me of an upcoming meeting or doctors appointment or whatever. The problem lies in the fact that all the devices pop up the same reminder and I have to go to every single device individually in order to snooze or dismiss all of the identical the reminder popups.

Since this is a sync'ing technology, why doesn't the fact that I snooze or dismiss on one device sync up the other

devices automatically. I've even tried to force a sync after dismissing a reminder and it still shows up on my other devices after a forced sync. This is utterly annoying to me.

Is there a setting that I'm overlooking or is there a 3rd party reminder utility that I should be using instead of the built-in stuff?

Thanks, Kurt

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edited Aug 21, 2008 at 0:47

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asked Aug 17, 2008 at 3:25



Kurt W. Leucht

4,735 ● 8 ● 35 ● 45

4 Answers

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2

At least for PCs, the fact that you dismiss an item does get sync'd, and fairly quickly for me. I'm not sure why phones don't seem to do it, though. Maybe the ActiveSync protocol doesn't offer that option.



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answered Aug 17, 2008 at 4:05



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Brad Wilson

70.4k ● 9 ● 77 ● 85

I don't have multiple PCs syncing. Are you saying that the pop up reminder shows up on all your machines, but if you dismiss the pop up on one PC it disappears from all the other PCs? – [Kurt W. Leucht](#) Aug 27, 2009 at 21:25

Yes, that is exactly what I'm saying. – [Brad Wilson](#) Aug 28, 2009 at 16:09



2

I don't have an answer, but I feel your (and Joel's) pain every time my cell phone and my computer both buzz me within minutes of each other.



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answered Aug 17, 2008 at 4:05

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jeremcc

8,733 ● 12 ● 46 ● 55



1

Thanks from me, too :)

Maybe it's because all your devices clocks are synchronized to a time server, so they all have the exactly correct atomic-clock time, and all the devices notify you within a couple of seconds of each other, so the "dismiss" synchronization just doesn't happen fast enough.





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answered Aug 20, 2008 at 21:54

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Joel Spolsky

33.6k ● 17 ● 90 ● 105

In my experience, the devices notify me almost one minute apart from each other, so I'm doubtful of your answer. I'm not downvoting your answer, though. – [Kurt W. Leucht](#) Aug 27, 2009 at 21:09

Just to verify, I performed a test. Set a reminder, sync'd up devices. The reminder popped up on my phone 5 seconds after the reminder time, I dismissed it and immediately sync'd my devices. sync was done about 30 seconds after the reminder time. Then about 15 seconds later, the reminder popped up on my PC. Devices are time sync'd, so this test proves that the dismissal is not being sync'd. Maybe MS doesn't think it's worth implementing for mobile devices.

– [Kurt W. Leucht](#) Aug 27, 2009 at 21:24



1



I'm assuming that the "client side" implementation is not standardized. For example, if your phone is already showing you a reminder-pop-up, the Outlook synch mechanism can't enforce removing that pop-up since it's device specific. The fact that it does so on "computers" leads me to assume that the protocol DOES support this, but some phone vendors just don't implement it.

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answered Oct 31, 2008 at 19:39

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Jilles

748 ● 4 ● 11

It's apparently not related to removing pop-ups since I can dismiss the reminder on my cell phone and re-sync, then wait

10 or 15 seconds and the reminder pops up on my PC. If the sync of the dismissal were actually occurring, the PC's pop up would never even display at that point. – [Kurt W. Leucht](#)
Aug 27, 2009 at 21:28
