Archiving in Google Vault

Google Vault’s high cost per user and lack of key archiving functionalities do not make it the best choice as an enterprise-level email archiving solution. Processes that should be simple, such as restoring emails, E-Discovery, and exporting data, require difficult workarounds or third-party applications. Google’s policy of only using a public cloud, without giving you control for your data, means a lack of security for your archive and completely prevents government agencies from using Vault as a solution.

Google Vault Archiving Drawbacks

1. Unified Archiving

Your organization’s electronic communication must be archived as required by regulations such as HIPAA, FINRA, Sarbanes-Oxley, FRCP and others.

**Google Vault Drawback**

Google Vault only archives Google Gmail messages and does not archive mixed environment or social media.

2. Cost

**Google Vault Drawback**

Google Vault costs $5.00 per month per user, in addition to the $5 per month per user for Google Apps. That is a combined cost of $120 dollars per user per year! If you have 500 employees, that is $60,000 per year...EVERY YEAR!

ArcMail provides more archiving capabilities at a lower price. It archives email, social media, one central archive, which provides a lower total cost.

3. Inactive User Fees

**Google Vault Drawback**

If an employee leaves the company, you must pay Google to archive her inactive user account data. If your archiving policies dictate that you keep everything for 2 years that means you have to continue to pay $120 each year to keep access to an account that is not in use. If you are saving an employee’s data for a legal hold, and the trial goes on for years, you will be paying for years.
ArcMail doesn’t charge for inactive users. All archived data is kept in the archive for as long as your policies dictate (one year, two years, 10 years, etc.). This applies to active or inactive users. The inactive user’s data is preserved and it can be searched, discovered, and exported as needed. Any and all legal holds remain intact.

4. Cloud-based Storage

**Google Vault Drawback**

Google Vault is only available in the cloud. For various reasons, organizations should keep their information in their control, especially because governmental regulations require it. But with Vault, an on-premise or private cloud solution is not available and your data access is limited.

ArcMail works whether installed on premise or in the GWAVA Cloud. With ArcMail, you choose how your archived data is stored. And if you have a hybrid system where your email is in the cloud and your data archive is on premise, ArcMail can manage all of the content with ease.

5. Archive Control

**Google Vault Drawback**

Google Vault offers no control over where data is stored, nor will Google identify the exact location of your data, or clarify who has access to your data. By this fact alone, it means that state and federal government organizations cannot use Gmail or Google Vault as a viable email solution or archiving system.

With ArcMail your data is yours. Whether on-premise or in the Cloud, you know where your message archive is encrypted and stored. You have direct access to the data. If you need to export or restore data, the means to do so is right at your fingertips.

6. Multiple User Alias Support

**Google Vault Drawback**

“An email alias is an alternative email address that points to a primary email address. Custom retention rules do not automatically include email aliases. If you want to include email aliases, you must add them to the Terms field.” 2 So in order to archive any alias a user makes, the user must notify their Google Admin to assure that any communication through that alias is archived.
ArcMail supports multiple email addresses, per user. No matter how many email addresses a user has, all of their email can be archived.

7. Export Options

**Google Vault Drawback**

Google Vault only export emails in an MBOX format. Google suggests that you use a text editor to sort through the file, use another third-party software or use a litigation support system to open the file.

ArcMail can export your archived data in PST and EML formats. Auditors, legal counsel, or other authorized parties can search, view, and forward messages from this local archive without needing continual access to main archive server.

8. Restore Messages to the Inbox

**Google Vault Drawback**

Vault cannot restore messages to the Inbox. Okay, it can, in a roundabout kind of way. As mentioned before, you can export the data from Vault (in MBOX format) and then use a third-party application to import the data back into Vault. Or you can export the files, and then use a third-party tool to change the MBOX file into a PST and then use Google Apps Migration for Exchange to import it. Yep, you read that right. You can’t restore a Vault message back to the Inbox unless you use a third-party tool or unless you get some help from Microsoft Exchange. How backwards is that?

ArcMail allows for quick and seamless email message restore. End users can restore their personal archived messages directly to their live mailbox. Administrators and other named users have the ability to restore email messages to any mailbox. ArcMail is the only all-in-one archiving solution that compiles your company’s messages into one easy-to-use archive. It also offers your company a means of custom integration whether you are archiving data from Exchange, Office 365, Gmail, GroupWise, Facebook, and Twitter. You choose what is archived, when it is archived, how long it is archived and then determine who has access to the archived data. Everything is logged for auditing purposes to ensure that the organization meets relevant compliance requirements.