Beginners Guide to Sametime 8.5

By [Chuck Connell](#)

IBM/Lotus Sametime is easy to install and configure, at least for its basic features. It is much simpler than the official documentation states. Here is how to get it up and running quickly.

The IBM/Lotus Sametime product has grown significantly since its first release 12 years ago. Sametime now includes online presence awareness, instant messaging, web meetings, audio/video chat, telephone integration, mobile applications, integration with third-party products such as Microsoft Outlook, and other items. These features are packaged into three versions -- Entry, Standard, and Advanced -- each with increasing capabilities.

The installation architecture and administration chores for a Sametime server infrastructure have also grown significantly. A full installation now includes five Sametime servers (Community, Meeting, Media, Proxy, and System Console) and two supporting servers (DB2 and LDAP). Some of those servers run on top of other products (Domino and WebSphere) requiring prior installation of that middleware. To be fair, some of the logically separate server components can be placed on the same physical machine, but doing a full installation of Sametime is still a daunting task.

The Sametime documentation does not help simply things. It states, falsely, that the minimum possible server infrastructure includes five of the above components (Sametime Community, Sametime System Console, Domino, DB2, and LDAP). In fact, a basic installation of Sametime Entry is much simpler than this, and can be accomplished with just one machine and two software components – Domino and Sametime Community. This article explains how.

The resulting Sametime Entry server provides presence awareness (who is online) and instant messaging. These services can be used by the embedded Sametime feature of Lotus Notes, and from the standalone Sametime Connect client.

1. See my [previous article](#) for information about installing Domino 8.5.x on Windows Server 2008.

2. Add the HTTP task to the Domino server, if it is not already there. See the line named ServerTasks in the file NOTES.INI in the Domino software directory.

3. Set Domino web authentication to "Single Server". See NAMES.NSF / Configuration / Servers / All Server Documents / <this-server> / Internet Protocols / Domino Web Engine / Session Authentication. (You can change to more robust authentication later.)

4. Restart Domino if you made either of the above changes.

5. Create at least two users on Domino, to test the Sametime features.
   a. Make sure each user is given a Notes ID file and an Internet password.
   b. In the Person documents, make sure each account has a convenient logon alias, such as "jsmith" for John Smith/Acme.
   c. Also in the Person documents, make sure each user does NOT have anything in the Instant Messaging Server field.

6. Make sure each user account has access to the server. See NAMES.NSF / Configuration / Servers / All Server Documents / <this-server> / Security / Access Server. If there is nothing in this field, all users have access to a server.

7. Verify that you can connect to the Domino server with each Notes ID, from a Notes client. Test this by opening the database NAMES.NSF on the server.

8. Verify that you can connect to the Domino server with each Internet account, from a web browser. Point the browser to http://server-ip-address, or http://server-dns-name. You should see Domino's standard web welcome screen.

9. Open port 1533 on the Windows Server 2008 firewall, following the instructions in my previous article. Name the firewall rule something like "Lotus Sametime IM".

10. Stop Domino on the server.

11. Run the Sametime Entry Server 8.5.x installation program on the server.

12. During the Sametime installation, choose Domino (rather than LDAP) as the authentication directory.

13. During the Sametime installation, do not choose HTTP tunneling.

14. After the Sametime server installation is done, restart Domino. You should see about a dozen HTTP JVM messages related to Sametime. After these messages, you should see "HTTP Server Started" and then "Sametime Server Running". Be patient; the Sametime tasks can take a couple minutes to start completely.

15. Verify that the server is configured as a Sametime server. Check this from a Notes client in the server's Domino directory, at NAMES.NSF / Configuration / Servers / All Server Documents / <this-server> / Basics / Is This A Sametime Server = YES.

16. Verify the Sametime installation. Point your browser to http://server-ip-address, or http://server-dns-name. You should see the "Welcome to Sametime" screen.

This completes the installation of Sametime Entry server. Now test the Sametime client services from Notes and Sametime Connect.

From Lotus Notes 8.5… (This should work with other versions of Notes also; I tested with 8.5.2.)

1. Pull down File / Sametime / Log In.
2. Host Server = <server-dns-name> or <server-ip-address> (Not the Domino name of the server, such as Server1/Acme.)
3. Username = Internet alias you created for the user.
4. Password = Internet password you set up.
5. Press the Log In button

From the Sametime Connect 8.5 client… (This should work with other versions of Sametime Connect also; I tested with 8.5.1.)

1. Pull down File / Log In.
2. Follow the same instructions above.

Log in with two different users on different workstations. You should be able to send instant messages back and forth. (You may have to type the other person's name into the "find" box to add him/her to the contact list.)

For further information…

Sametime information center:
http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/sametime/v8r5/index.jsp

Sametime wiki:
http://www.lotus.com/ldd/stwiki.nsf

Sametime Reviewers Guide, which contains a good overview of product features:
ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/common/ssi/ecm/en/lob14033usen/LOB14033USEN.PDF

Comparison chart of the features in each Sametime version:
http://www.ibm.com/software/lotus/products/sametime/versioncompare/

Additional TCP port numbers used by Sametime. Depending on which other product features you install later, this can be a substantial list. Some ports are used internally by the server components for inter-process communication; some must be open through the firewall, for communication to clients and other servers. Port conflicts or blocking are frequently a source of problems during a new Sametime server setup.
http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/sametime/v8r5/index.jsp?topic=/com.ibm.help.sametime.v851.doc/plan/plan_ports.html

Chuck Connell is president of CHC-3 Consulting, which helps organizations with all aspects of Domino, Notes and Sametime.