**Microsoft Windows Server 2008**

**Fact Sheet**

**November 2007**

Microsoft® Windows Server® 2008 is the next-generation Windows Server operating system that will help IT professionals achieve more control, greater flexibility and increased protection. Windows Server 2008 reached its initial release candidate (RC0) milestone in September. The final version of the operating system is on track for release to manufacturing in the first quarter of 2008.

**Windows Server 2008**

Windows Server 2008 builds on the improved reliability and security of Windows Server 2003 SP2 to help organizations create an optimized, more dynamic IT infrastructure by addressing the automation of daily management tasks, tightening security, improving efficiency and increasing availability. Windows Server 2008 will help IT professionals achieve the following:

* Simplify administration tasks with a single Server Manager console, integrated task scheduling, enhanced remote management, and the powerful scripting capabilities of Windows PowerShell™
* Improve security and reliability by helping reduce the server footprint and potential attack surface with the new Server Core installation option and by providing ongoing health monitoring and compliance through improved event logging and auditing
* Maximize use of network resources while reducing costs with Hyper-V, which will help customers progress toward self-managing dynamic systems
* Provide ready access to business data from virtually anywhere with Terminal Services enhancements and new branch office management features to keep businesses productive and connected
* Increase the availability, reliability and performance of their infrastructure with simplified failover clustering, dynamic partitioning and auto-tuning networking features to automatically manage system resources

***New Technologies***

**Microsoft Windows PowerShell.** Windows PowerShell is the new command-line shell and scripting language designed to increase IT professionals’ productivity and control by allowing them to more easily automate system management tasks. Windows PowerShell does not require a background in programming, nor does it require that customers migrate their existing scripts; it will work with existing command-line tools. Windows PowerShell can be deployed in production in a customer’s current infrastructure because it runs on Windows® XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista™ and the upcoming Windows Server 2008. PowerShell also allows you to manage specific Windows Server 2008 roles, such as Internet Information Services (IIS) 7.0 and Terminal Server, as well as Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 and Microsoft Operations Manager 2007.

**Internet Information Services (IIS) 7.0.** IIS 7.0 provides a more secure, extensible platform for efficiently managing and reliably hosting Web applications and services. With the availability of the IIS 7.0 Go-Live License, customers can host Web applications and Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0 Web services on Windows Server 2008 in production environments today.

**Network Access Protection.** Built on network security standards such as IPsec and RADIUS, Network Access Protection provides a new framework allowing an IT administrator to establish health requirements for the network and restrict network access for connecting computers that do not meet those requirements, and to provide ongoing compliance checking to help ensure the network remains healthy.

**Server Core Installation Option.** Administrators can choose to install Windows Server 2008 by using the new Server Core installation option to deliver full server functionality for select server roles without extra overhead. This option can improve security and reduce management because fewer components are installed, requiring less maintenance and fewer updates, improving security, and reducing demands on management. Seven server roles are available in the server core installation option, including Active Directory® Domain Services, Active Directory, Lightweight Directory Services, file server and print services.

**Read-Only Domain Controller (RODC).** Windows Server 2008 RODC is designed to be installed in remote locations that may lack physical security such as branch offices. It enables local user authentication through unidirectional replication from the global Active Directory, while ensuring that sensitive information is not cached. It also allows administrative permissions to be delegated to local users to manage the RODC without allowing them any additional permissions on the domain.

**Server Manager.** Server Manager simplifies and centralizes server management through a single administrative console, allowing IT professionals to view and operate all the tools related to server productivity in one location. This includes the easy addition or removal of server roles and associated system tracking. The new Server Manager command line interface in RC0 also provides a means for scripting server configuration tasks across the server infrastructure.

**Hyper-V.** Hyper-V is Microsoft’s new hypervisor-based virtualization technology, and will be a feature of Windows Server 2008. Hyper-V is a thin software layer between the hardware and Windows Server 2008 operating system that allows multiple operating systems to run, unmodified, on a host computer at the same time. It provides simple partitioning functionality and is responsible for maintaining strong isolation between partitions to increase flexibility, reliability and manageability.

***Enhanced Technologies***

**Windows Firewall** with Advanced Security is now on by default for enhanced server protection, and greater integration with IPsec allows for easier definition of computer connection rules and isolation policies.

**Failover clustering, dynamic partitioning and auto-tuning networking features** automatically manage system resources that include memory and traffic to ensure that customers have uninterrupted and faster access to the company network.

**Terminal Services** now includes remote access features such as Terminal Services Gateway, Terminal Services Easy Print and Terminal Services RemoteApp to provide users with dramatically improved experiences and more scalable remote access to centralized applications and server resources.

*Below is a chart offering details on the new and updated features of Windows Server 2008, along with an edition comparison chart based on server role.*

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