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complete **NETWORK** and **SOFTWARE** solutions

Windows Server 2008

The latest operating system from Microsoft is Windows Server 2008, launched at the beginning of the year and boasting a host of new features. Built-in Web and virtualisation technologies enable businesses to increase the reliability and flexibility of their server infrastructure and new virtualisation tools, Web resources, and security enhancements help save time and reduce costs. Advanced security and reliability enhancements, such as Network Access Protection and the Read-Only Domain Controller, harden the operating system and help protect the server environment to ensure a solid foundation on which to build businesses.

Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade to Windows Server 2008

Flexible Application Access for Remote Users—Terminal Services RemoteApp

Designed to make it easier to run applications over terminal services there is now no need for two desktops on your

PC/Laptop, you just have one! Gone are the days when you have one Window for local working and another Window for terminal services, with Server 2008 your desktop has shortcuts to the terminal services applications running, together with your local applications. A user can minimize, maximize, and resize the program window, and can easily start multiple programs at the same time.

No need to log in twice anymore with the new Single Sign On - users get a better experience by eliminating the need to enter credentials every time they initiate a remote session.

Terminal Services Printing - enables users to reliably print from a Terminal Services RemoteApp™ program or from a terminal server desktop session to the correct printer on their client computer. It also enables users to have a much more consistent printing experience between local and remote sessions and all the printing preferences of your local printer available on your terminal services session.

Preventing Unhealthy Devices from Connecting to the Network—NAP

With the increasing number of mobile users and corporate partners that must connect to an organisation's network, protecting the security of that network from outside threats is an ongoing challenge. Network Access Protection (NAP) in Windows Server 2008 is a new platform and solution that controls access to network resources based on a client computer's policy. NAP allows network administrators to define levels of network access based on who a client is, the groups to which the client belongs, and the degree to which that client is compliant with policy. If a client is not compliant, NAP provides a mechanism to automatically bring the client back into compliance and then dynamically increase its level of network access to verify the health of connecting computers and enforce compliance with the organisation's security standards. Such machines are most likely laptops that have been offsite for a while, or home computers connecting through a VPN.

This is a key issue at the moment as the need to address all threats to your network becomes a necessity. You can minimise virus attack by protecting the Internet connection with firewalls and scanning Email attachments, however what about the laptops and other mobile devices that itinerant associates bring to connect to your network. Thanks to Network Access Protection, virus attacks via laptops can be isolated, or if you specify a policy, the infected machines can be cleaned and then allowed onto your network.

The mission of NAP is to preserve the network by allowing access to only healthy machines. Visiting laptops which don't meet your policy standards, whether or not they are riddled with viruses, can be restricted to the repair area. There, NAP remediation servers may be able to add SMS packages containing antivirus signatures and thus cure their deficiencies. Another alternative would be to allow machines which don't meet all the criteria limited access, for example visiting consultants laptops' get internet access only.

Remember that NAP focuses on the computer, unfortunately, it cannot protect against malicious users.



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Belkin's Best

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Windows server cont'd

Server Consolidation and Resource Optimization—Hyper-V

Most servers operate at far below their capacities, with as much as 80 to 90 percent of their processing power unused, on average. With Hyper-V, the Windows Server 2008 virtualization solution, a single physical server can host the workloads of multiple Line of Business servers. Hyper-V helps organizations to achieve optimal use of their hardware resources and provides the agility needed to adapt to changing IT needs. New management tools simplify the deployment process and allow IT departments to manage virtual servers with the same familiar tools that they use to manage the physical servers in the network.

Easing Administration, Management, and Automation—Server Manager and PowerShell

The Server Manager Console provides a single, unified console for managing a server's configuration and system information, displaying server status, identifying problems with server role configuration, and managing all roles installed on the server. Built on the Service Modeling Language (SML) platform, Server Manager allows administrators to complete tasks with fewer clicks without having to navigate between multiple tools and interfaces. Server Manager also interfaces directly with PowerShell, the command-line shell and scripting language for automation. All Server Manager functions that can be used in the interface are available to PowerShell scripts. The interface even helps write those scripts, showing administrators exactly what commands are behind each button and control, and allowing administrators to record actions in the User Interface and save a script based off of those actions.

Enabling Top-Shelf Service and Support for Remote Sites

Remote sites, such as branch offices, can be an IT challenge. Often, there are no local IT staff, making the deployment of software and security updates expensive and time-consuming. It can also be difficult to enforce security and IP standards in a remote site. Windows Server 2008 enables remote management that's almost as good as being physically located onsite, allowing administrators to correct many problems using remote management. The new Read-Only Domain Controller provides a safer way to provide Active Domain administration in the remote infrastructure.

For more information on Windows Server 2008 and how to plan your upgrade please call Sales on 01244 288281 or email sales@samarind.co.uk



Blade at the cutting edge

A company with a clear plan for expansion asked Samarind for an IT system that would be adaptable enough to grow with them. The answer was a Blade Server from Hewlett Packard.

Jones Environmental Forensics (JEF) was established on Deeside Industrial Park last year by Jim and Janet Jones. JEF provides specialist environmental forensic testing services for situations such as land surveys and lawsuits involving soil contamination. When Samarind met with the company last December, they were shown a business plan with precise dated goals for increasing staff numbers. Clearly, what JEF needed was a network and server that would support all their IT requirements for the next three to five years. In response, Samarind installed a HP Blade Server.

The Blade is not only very adaptable it is also a cost-effective and space-saving solution. A single chassis houses several servers, with shared storage, back-up and redundancy. The Blade uses comparatively low power but assures

maximum cooling thanks to the fans residing within the chassis rather than the actual servers. A cleverly designed rack enclosure results in a unit that is both compact and accessible.

Because each Blade chassis can hold several servers, increased capacity can be easily achieved by adding new servers when required. The server can comfortably grow as JEF grows. Thanks to the chassis' comprehensive design, this is also a cost-saving solution because there's no need to reconsider the power supply or storage with each upgrade.

Jonathan Tranter, IT manager at JEF, is delighted with the HP Blade Server. He said: 'This is cutting edge technology and I'm very pleased to have it here. I have every confidence it puts in place the robustness and growth capability needed for the future. It's a complete package that won't need to be replaced as we expand.'



Jones Environmental
Forensics Ltd

Can Ian Yeshe

Network engineer Ian Stubbs is a hands-on kind of guy. Whether it's building servers or rebuilding houses, Ian likes to get stuck in. Right now he's spending most of his spare time doing up a three-bedroom semi in Pensby, on the Wirral.

Ian has spent most of his 26 years in Wirral (he's from Neston originally), although he did live for a while in Chester, where he also restored a house.

'I don't do up houses to make money or anything like that,' says Ian, 'it's just that I'd rather buy a run-down house and try and make it perfect. Sometimes, though, I wish I wasn't so fussy: it takes up a lot of my time!' Ian is happy with the Pensby project. He's gutted and redecorated the property and will also be rewiring it. Now he's waiting for planning permission to come through for an extension that will create a garage and enlarge the kitchen.

He says: 'The extension will make a big difference to the house but I'm a bit anxious about it. I do know my limits and I know I'm not much of a builder. Fortunately, I know lots of people who can help: my sister's fiancé is a plasterer, for example. And, of course, things like the wiring have to be checked by a qualified professional afterwards.'

As if the house wasn't enough work, Ian is also clearing the garden: removing rubble, digging trenches and

Jonathan is also pleased that all JEF's IT requirements are handled together, with just one phone call to ring for advice. In fact, he's full of praise for Samarind's level of support.

'I've found the company very professional and helpful,' he said, 'and the engineers are sensitive to a layman's point of view – they don't talk in jargon but explain everything clearly.'

'It's a personal service and it's great to put faces to names. It's a much closer working relationship than one gets with a big corporation. I would thoroughly recommend Samarind to anyone considering employing outside assistance for their IT services!'



fix it?
can!

replacing fences. He's rotivated the ground, reseeded the lawn and laid out the flowerbeds. Phew! Once his new home is completed, Ian will move in with his girlfriend of two years, Carolyne, who is also from the Wirral. In the meantime, it's no wonder Ian daydreams about a more peaceful pursuit: sailing his Dads' boat.

Says Ian: 'My dad's been sailing for a long time; in fact, he courted my mother by taking her out on a boat trip to the Isle of Man. Now he has a boat in a marina in a quiet bit of Majorca. I'd like to learn to sail it myself but since I only get out to Majorca once or twice a year, I never get the chance to be really proficient.'

Sailing it about is OK, apparently. Mooring is the difficult bit.

'It's like parking a car,' says Ian. 'You have to back it in to the marina, alongside the other boats, but there's a point in the procedure when you effectively have to stop moving, and that leaves you vulnerable to side winds – you can find yourself blown out of position and into other people's boats very easily!'

It's a challenge he intends to overcome, though, just like all the challenges he sets himself.

'I wouldn't call myself a perfectionist but I am always looking for something better,' says Ian. 'I guess that explains the work I'm prepared to put in to building a home but it also explains my enthusiasm for new technology. I love keeping on top of new developments in IT, finding out how they work, what they can do.'

'That's one of the things I like about working for Samarind. At Samarind we're always seeking to understand a wide range of applications, as well as keeping abreast of any innovations. I've really broadened my horizons working here.'

microsoft outlook 2007 whats new



To-Do Bar

The new To-Do Bar integrates your tasks, e-mail messages flagged for follow up, upcoming appointments, and calendar information in one convenient place and gives you a consolidated view of all your priorities for the day. It can also include tasks from the Microsoft Office OneNote 2007 note-taking program, Microsoft Office Project 2007, and Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 Web sites.

Week view changed in Calendar

Office Outlook 2007 features a new week view. The former week view was a two-column layout of days, similar to a day planner. The new week view is similar to the work week views in previous versions.

Flagging mail for follow-up

Flags are now more useful throughout Outlook. You can use a flag to quickly create a follow-up item that can be tracked in the To-Do Bar, in your Inbox, and even in Calendar. They are also still handy for setting reminders for yourself and other people.

Minimized Navigation Pane

The Navigation Pane can now be minimized into a vertical button bar, to provide you with a larger work area while allowing quick access to Favourite Folders and other views.

Instant Search

Office Outlook 2007 provides a new fast way to find your information, no matter which folder it is in. Outlook now uses the same search technology that Microsoft Windows does, to deliver fast results regardless of mailbox size. In addition, an improved visual design displays each individual result of your search immediately, as soon as it is available, while the search is still running. Search now appears in the same place no matter where you are in Outlook. You can also forward your search query to Windows Desktop Search for a broader search of your entire computer.

Colour Categories

New Colour Categories give you a quick, visual way to customise items and to distinguish items from one another, making it easy to locate information. Suppose, for instance, that you want to assign a Colour category to all items related to a certain project. You can add the same Colour category to e-mail, calendar, and task items so that you can easily locate all items from that project at a glance. When you need to find the information later, you can search and sort by Colour Categories to quickly and visually identify what you are looking for.

Colour Category roaming

Colour Categories are now saved in your default data file, instead of in the Windows registry. If you use a Microsoft Exchange account, your categories are now available on all of the computers that you work on.

Attachment previewing

Using the new Attachment Previewer, you can view your attachments from within the Reading Pane by making only a single click. This improvement saves you time and allows you to view attachments in context with the e-mail message.

Targus Privacy Screens - Mind your own business!

Helping to keep your business your own, protect the "data" on your visible screen in the office or on the move.

There are some things in life that are great to share. Important personal or company documents are not amongst them. You would not pass your personal photo album or business documents to the person sitting next to you in an airport or on a plane!

The digital age has replaced traditional paper documents and photographs with electronic files and digital pictures. So protect whatever information is on your screen from wandering eyes with a Targus Privacy Screen. The Privacy Screen is a micro slim film that covers the notebook/LCD screen and uses the same principles as vertical blinds – you can see what's going on when positioned directly in front of the screen, but beyond a 45-degree angle, prying eyes won't be able to snoop successfully. In addition to privacy, the Defcon Privacy Filter also blocks glare and reduces eye strain and protects your screen from damage.

It's a great little gadget for frequent flyers, coffee-shop laptoppers and for your top-secret work while on public transit.



Belkin's Best!



Messenger Bag for Notebooks

- Unique, tapered design provides the comfort of a slim, lightweight laptop case with the organisation features and storage capacity of a much larger model
- Plush-lined, KeepSafe notebook compartment keeps your computer secure and protected from scratching
- Made-for-You organization stows your commonly used items
- Removable pouch holds your power adapter and cables
- Thin-design strap contours to your shoulder's curves to maximize comfort without the bulk and weight of traditional straps

Messenger Bag for Notebooks available in up to 15.4" and 17" and in two colours

Sling Bag for Notebooks

- Unique, tapered design provides the comfort of a slim, lightweight laptop case with the organization features and storage capacity of a much larger model
- Plush-lined, KeepSafe notebook compartment keeps your computer secure and protected from scratching
- Made-for-You organization stows your commonly used items
- Removable pouch holds your power adapter and cables
- Quick Release shoulder strap comfortably holds the bag in place and makes taking the bag off quick and easy. Phone compartment is built within shoulder strap for convenient access.

- Sturdy metallic zipper pulls with molded, grip material
- Headphone cord grommet
- Adjustable strap length
- Unobtrusive, easy-grab handle
- Breathable fabric on strap and back panel

Sling Bag available for notebooks up to 15.4" in two colours



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