

STAR Watch

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Windows Server 2008: Very nice.

In February of this year, Microsoft announced the availability of Windows Server 2008. As with the Vista operating system for computer workstations, this product is more than an evolution of the previous product offering. Its internal operation has been completely redesigned to make it easier to install and maintain, more secure, and less of a resource hog.

Key Changes

There are 2 changes that allow Server 2008 to achieve a majority of the touted improvements: Componentization and Virtualization. As done with Vista operating system, functions have been redesigned to operate from within separate modules instead of being part of one huge software module with lots of functions. This allows the Server 2008 to place “boundaries” around each of those discrete modules that protect it from corruption by one of its malfunctioning neighbors and protect the rest of the file server software should that function misbehave.

Virtualization allows users to create multiple “virtual servers” on a single file server. Instead of one monster file server that performs multiple roles (or several servers, each with its own role), multiple “single purpose” virtual servers can be configured within a single file server. The implementation of virtualization is accomplished by “Hyper-V”. This server virtualization tool by Microsoft will be included in the Server application suite, but right now, there is a problem: The final version of Hyper-V won’t be ready until the third quarter of this year. But don’t worry: Microsoft includes a beta version of Hyper-V with Windows



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Server 2008 editions. What could be more fun than helping Microsoft debug its code?

Making use of componentization and virtualization, Server 2008 becomes capable of all of the following:

- Persons installing Server 2008 can choose to install only the specific functions needed, and since each of the functions is a separate module, the result is a smaller piece of software running on the file server that contains only the needed functions. Microsoft has gone to great lengths to a fine granularity to the choices. For example, in IIS (web services), there are 40 separate functions that can be configured or de-configured as needed.
- Security is improved. Since each functional module runs in its own protected cocoon, it becomes much more difficult for viruses and other malicious code to successfully attack.
- Since all of these virtual servers are running on a single file server, only one copy of Server 2008 is needed – that could save organizations a lot of money if they currently have multiple file servers that need replacement.



What else?

According to most reviewers, Server 2008 is (almost) a pleasure to install. The total install time is shorter and the configuration dialogue screens are better organized. It's a small detail, but Server 2008 comes on a single DVD instead of multiple CD's. It's nice to have everything in one place.

Server 2008 has its own personal firewall that is enabled by default. As various server roles and features are enabled/disabled, the firewall auto-reconfigures. We were more than a little bothered by the possibility of a critical feature making its own decisions about when to reconfigure itself, but we found no howling chorus of complaints that condemned this function. In fact, we found no complaints about the operation

of the firewall when working with Microsoft products. Some reviewers reported issues when non-Microsoft products were installed on the server.

Network Access Protection (NAP) uses client-side "health certificates" to either allow or deny clients access to the network. An "unhealthy" client will have its network privileges reduced and attempts will be made to remediate its problems, such as necessary antivirus updates or security patches. This feature has some interesting implications. What if a hacker



breaks into a Server 2008 network? If the hacker's machine did not provide the server with proof of its health, would the reduction in privileges protect the network? No one is sure. There is one drawback: It only works with Windows XP and Vista clients and that could be its downfall. It won't let clients running any other brand of operating system (or earlier version of Windows operating system) have access to its protected resources. Many organizations will be disabling this feature because they have older computers that will be discriminated against.

Instead of one set of maintenance dialog screens for each server function, there is one single "Server Maintenance" function that contains everything.

Server 2008 fully implements Microsoft's BitLocker file encryption technology. If files on the server were encrypted and evil-doers broke into your offices and stole the server, the encrypted data would be unreadable to them.

Persons installing Server 2008 can opt to install a stripped-down version of the software that only contains a limited number of core components. In this version of the file server, there is no Graphic User Interface, only a DOS-like command line interface (CLI). There's no point-and-click or drag-and-drop. Also, the server is limited to 8 very basic types of services. If you are willing to learn all of the CLI commands (ugh), the file server software will be much smaller, much faster, and significantly less vulnerable to attack. And for those of quick enough to think of the possibility of

installing it as a full-featured system, configuring it via the GUI, then down-grade it to core operation: You can't. To switch between core and full operation, a complete reinstallation is required. Sorry.

Should everybody switch to Server 2008?

All of the reviews that we read were quite positive (for the initial release of a Microsoft product). Other than the occasional gripe about the operation of a specific feature, reviewers liked it – some actually praised it. Everything that we can find about it says that it's a good product.

Would we rush out and buy it today? No. While we would always like to be the first to implement a new product offering, the body of knowledge regarding this product is still rather limited. The Hyper-V virtualization module is not in completed form. Most importantly, the servers that we are currently operating are doing fine with the older versions of file server software. But as soon as any server shows the slightest capacity or functionality problem, we know what operating system will be on its replacement.





New Online Trainings and Presentations CLE Credit Available

Two new trainings and two new presentations available for viewing over the web by attorneys and staff. In most cases, there is no charge for viewing these trainings, but everyone who wishes to view these trainings must register. There may be a processing fee for CLE credit. All of these sessions will be available for viewing by July 22, 2008.

To view a training or presentation...

- Start up your web browser and go to this location: <http://onlineresources.wnyc.net>
- On the left side of the screen, click on "Online Training"
- Click on the desired training; a registration form will be displayed
- Fill out the registration form; then click on "Submit form"
- A link to the presentation will be sent to the email address provided in the registration form

If you are an attorney and wish to receive CLE credit, you must fill out the course evaluation and attorney affirmation forms and mail it to the address on the form along with payment for processing of the CLE credit request. New York State Bar Association rules require that the forms be mailed. They cannot be submitted electronically.

Financial Hardship Policy available upon request. Contact Michelle Peterson, Training Coordinator

Newly admitted attorneys in New York State can not receive CLE credit for online training.

If you are an attorney who is not licensed in New York State and want CLE credit, please check to see if your state allows New York State CLE credits to be applied to your state's CLE requirements.

Kinship Care: Rights, Authority, Assistance and Resources

This course will cover kinship caregiver legal issues. Originally presented in partnership with the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties (a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York), featured speakers GERARD WAL-LACE, ESQ., Director Kin Care Support Project at Albany Law School Government Law Center, SUSAN ANTOS of the Empire Justice Center, and TANYA BRIENDLE of Pace Women's Justice Center, will offer extensive practical information about legal issues facing grandparents and relatives raising children:

- Grandparents Rights
- Distinctions Between Legal Custody & Guardianship
- Third Party Custody Disputes
- Becoming A Kinship Foster Parent
- Standby Guardianship
- Recent Legal Developments
- Informal Care: Parental Delegations, School Enrollment And Medical Decisions
- Eligibility For Public Assistance, Social Security and Other Assistance Programs

Date of original presentation: 05/14/2008

Viewing Time: 2 hours 38 minutes

CLE Credits: 3.0 Professional Practice

There is no charge for viewing this presentation.

Cost for CLE credit: \$90.00 Not-for-Profit Agencies; \$150.00 Private Practice Attorneys



Practical Ethics: When Can You Interview the Employees of Your Adversary?

This course will discuss both the Model Code of Professional Responsibility, currently followed in New York, and the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, currently followed in other 47 states. Attorneys and advocates must gather a wide range of information as they pursue appeals and other legal remedies against either private entities or public agencies, like a Medicaid agency, another social services agency, or a public school district. When can this fact gathering include interviews of your adversary's employees? This presentation will discuss what the ethical rules say about what is and is not permitted by attorneys, advocates, and other employees of a law office. Through the use of case scenarios, this session will illustrate how the rules could play out in a real case.

This training contains a transcript for the deaf or hearing-impaired.

Date of original presentation: 06/18/2008

Presenters: Diana M. Straube, Esq., Staff Attorney & James R. Sheldon, Jr., Esq., Supervising Attorney, National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project, Neighborhood Legal Services, Buffalo, NY

Viewing Time: 2 hours

CLE Credits: 2.0 Ethics

Cost for this viewing this training including CLE credit: There is no charge for upstate recipients of New York State IOLA funding; Members of Protection and Advocacy groups - \$25; All others - \$50.

Happy Birthday CRA – Celebrating 30 Years of the Community Reinvestment Act

On January 24, 2008, the Greater Rochester Community Reinvestment Coalition and Empire Justice Center presented a forum celebrating 30 years of the Community Reinvest-

ment Act. This forum can be viewed online in four parts:

Part 1 – Panel discussion: Celebrating 30 Years of the Community Reinvestment Act
Viewing Time: 1 hour 53 minutes

Part 2 – Panel discussion: Planning for the Future of CRA
Viewing Time: 1 hour 25 minutes

Part 3 – Keynote Address by Diane Thompson, National Consumer Law Center
Viewing Time: 33 minutes

Part 4 – Panel discussion: CRA and the Current Mortgage Meltdown and Forum Wrap-up

Viewing Time: 1 hour 12 minutes

CLE credit is not available for this presentation.

There is no charge for viewing this presentation.

New Approaches to Stabilizing Home Owners and Communities in Western New York

Co-sponsored by the New York State Coalition for Excellence in Homeownership Education and the Empire Justice Center, this taped broadcast is geared towards housing counselors, legal services organizations, lenders, public officials, community-based organizations, and anyone who is concerned with the impact of the foreclosure crisis on homeowners and neighborhoods in the western part of the State. Discussion topics include information about housing counseling standards, specialized foreclosure trainings, State programs addressing the foreclosure issue, and successful approaches to reducing foreclosures, among other topics.

Date of original presentation: 05/19/2008

Viewing Time: 2 hours 50 minutes

CLE credit is not available for this presentation.

There is no charge for viewing this presentation.



We've Moved!

Our new address is:

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