



Technology Tracks with Matrix Business Solutions

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Windows Server 2008 Is Coming

Microsoft's next generation of Windows server, named Windows Server 2008, is now planned for the first quarter of 2008. It will be the next server operating system beyond Windows 2003, and likely trigger the retirement of Windows 2000 server. Planned features include new administration tools, an automated file system recovery, standardization of error reporting and better support of virtual users.

Updates on Updates

Microsoft provided target dates for new service packs for their Windows clients. Windows Vista Service Pack 1 is planned for the first quarter of 2008 and Windows XP Service Pack 3 is planned for the first half of 2008. The service pack for Vista will be significantly smaller than the historical releases for Windows XP Service Packs, running about 50 megabytes in size and focusing on fixes, with very few features. A beta version of the Vista Service Pack was released this week.

Caching In

System speed is driven not only by the CPU, but the speed and amount of memory and the speed of the hard drive. Windows XP typically requires 512 megabytes, and perhaps more depending on the size and number of other programs that are open. When Windows XP first came out, the recommended memory size was 256 megabytes, but after Windows service packs and automatic updates, Windows XP has grown. If the software exceeds the amount of memory in the system, Windows will swap some of the programs to disk. This will cause the system to run significantly slower.

Generally, there are three different types of hard drives in systems today. SCSI, SATA and IDE. SCSI is a faster speed (and more expensive), usually found in servers. SATA is the newer type connection for workstation systems and IDE is the older style found in many systems currently installed. In workstations, there are two IDE speeds often found – 5400 RPM and 7200 RPM. In laptops, there are three speeds – 4200, 5400 and 7200 RPM. Hard drives may also contain cache, which will allow them to buffer information before it is written to disk. This will enhance the read and write performance with the disk, particularly if the system is reading or writing a lot of information to and from the same files. De-fragmentation of the disk helps the system to take advantage of the hard drive cache.

Web Winner

Want a place to go to check on health? Check out www.webmd.com. It can be used as a reference to read about medications and symptoms. It doesn't double as a doctor, though!

Another Quick Route

Want to get to "My Computer" or "My Documents" quickly? Press the Windows key and then the "E" key. Windows will launch a copy of Windows Explorer and send it to My Computer.

Need A Dell?

For the convenience of ordering for our customers, we have signed up as a Dell Small Business dealer. Through our channel, we can get better pricing than through the catalog. If you need computers and may be interested in a Dell system, please contact us for a quote.

The Next Act

Sage has released Act 2008, which continues providing support for Windows Vista and adds support of Microsoft Office 2007. Act 2008 introduces a dashboard for initial, high level presentation of information. It provides a way to edit contact information from lists without having to open the contact, and also contains a way to check for duplicate first and last names.

System Checkups

Would you like a check up on your systems to see if there are any pending surprises? Please call us at 438-5897 and ask for Mark Schneider. We'll arrange a visit to see how we can help.