



Mercurion Systems, Inc.

Information Technology Consulting and Support Services

Phone: 919.266.5957 Fax: 919.217.5769
<http://www.mercurionsystems.com>

Business Benefits of Windows Server 2003

Why should I upgrade?

Organizations currently running Windows 2000 Server and Windows NT Server 4.0 will find that Windows Server 2003 offers a number of reasons to upgrade. Those organizations that are still running Windows NT will find these reasons particularly compelling.

Improved Security

As the first product released by Microsoft after the announcement of the Trustworthy Computing Initiative, Windows Server 2003 follows Microsoft's mantra of "Secure by Design, Secure by Default, and Secure in Deployment." Unnecessary services aren't installed automatically, default out-of-the-box settings aren't wide open, and the OS itself has undergone significant and extensive code review for potential security problems.

Active Directory Enhancements

Already running Windows 2000 and Active Directory? Windows Server 2003 adds numerous enhancements to Active Directory, including cross-forest trusts, the ability to rename domains, and drag-and-drop administration of users, groups, and computers. Still running Windows NT 4.0? Active Directory is more secure, more scalable, more reliable, and more manageable than your current domain model.

Improved Performance

Windows Server 2003 offers up to 140% faster file-system performance, as well as improved performance for Active Directory, Terminal Services, and networking. The printing subsystem has been enhanced for improved performance as well. These performance gains vs. Windows NT 4.0 and Windows 2000 can be seen on identical hardware—meaning you don't necessarily need to upgrade your hardware to take advantage of Windows Server 2003's new features and enhancements.

Better Remote Manageability

Windows Server 2003 continues to support graphical remote administration through Remote Desktops for Administration (similar to Terminal Services in Remote Administration mode for Windows 2000). In addition, Windows Server 2003 contains command-line utilities that provide an extensive range of functionality that can be scripted or executed remotely via the built-in Telnet service.

Improved Hardware Support

Windows Server 2003 includes improved support for storage area networks (SANs), hot-plug RAM, IEEE 1394, and 64-bit processors (Itanium, Itanium 2, and soon AMD Opteron). In addition, new technologies such as IP v6 and iSCSI are already supported or will soon be natively supported.

Shadow Copy Restore

Windows Server 2003 has the ability to automatically create "snapshots" of your server's volumes. With Shadow Copy Restore, users can use these snapshots to easily view, copy, or restore previous versions of files from their desktop computer.

Integrated Wireless Networking Support

Wi-Fi (wireless) networks are more and more common. Building on the same great wireless support included in Windows XP, Windows Server 2003 offers built-in support for wireless LAN standards such as 802.11b, 802.1x, EAP/TLS, and PEAP—making wireless networking virtually Plug-and-Play and more secure against unauthorized intrusion or data compromise.

Mercurion Systems Can Help

Looking for someone with experience and expertise in Windows Server 2003? Mercurion Systems is your answer. Call us at (919) 266-5957 or e-mail us at info@mercurionsystems.com.