



END OF SUPPORT FOR WINDOWS SERVER 2000 AND XP SP2

FAQ'S – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Microsoft Assessment and planning toolkit**

Determining if your environment is Windows 7 ready can be quite a challenge, depending on the number of computers and locations you manage. Microsoft has created a tool, the Microsoft Assessment and Planning (MAP) toolkit, to help organizations determine what is needed to move their environments forward, not only for Windows 7 but also to other Microsoft products. It runs without any agents in any IT environment.

2. **What does the map toolkit do?**

MAP takes an inventory of the systems found on the network and uses templates of recommended settings to determine if the systems inventoried will meet the requirements for the application you are working to deploy.

3. **Do I need to buy new hardware?**

Many people equate upgrading the operating system to the need to buy a new computer or, at the very least, add RAM and perhaps a bigger hard drive to their present systems. That's because traditionally, each new version of Windows has needed more disk space and memory than its predecessor.

Microsoft's recommended hardware specifications for Windows 7 include a 1 GHz processor, at least 1 GB of RAM, DirectX 9.0 support, 16 GB of free disk space, and 128 MB of graphics memory (for Aero).

Rule of thumb: If your computer is powerful enough to run Vista acceptably, it will probably run Windows 7 as well or better. If you're currently using XP on a computer with less than 512 MB of RAM or a processor that's slower than 800 MHz, you'll need to upgrade your hardware.

4. **Can I upgrade directly from XP?**

Microsoft is not providing a direct upgrade path from Windows XP to Windows 7. An in-place upgrade is available only if you're running Vista SP1 or later. If you're running XP, even if your hardware is sufficient, you'll have to do a clean installation of Windows 7.

5. **Can I do a Vista in-place upgrade?**

If you're running Windows Vista, note that you must install SP1 or SP2 before you can do an in-place upgrade to Windows 7.

6. Will there be driver compatibility issues?

Windows 7 uses the same driver models as Vista, the vast majority of hardware devices that work with Vista will work with Windows 7. For Vista drivers that won't install on Windows 7, you can usually solve the problem by installing in Compatibility Mode.

7. Will there be application compatibility issues?

As with drivers, most applications that run on Windows Vista will run on Windows 7. You may need to enable Compatibility Mode on some applications, as described above. Interestingly, some applications that ran on XP and would not run on Vista *will* run on Windows 7.

8. What are the main reasons to upgrade to Windows 7?

Why upgrade to Windows 7 rather than stay with Windows XP or Vista? If you're still running XP, an important consideration is the fact that Microsoft ended mainstream support for XP on April 14. Although critical security updates will still be provided at no cost until 2014, additional support is provided only to customers who pay for a support contract with Microsoft.

Windows 7 also provides the improved graphical user interface (Aero) you get with Vista. Search is improved, and consumers with children will appreciate the parental controls feature. The most important reason to upgrade from XP is security; both Vista and Windows 7 provide much better security.