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Which version of Windows should I have?

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Ideally you should be staying away from XP Home edition or any of the Vista home versions if you are planning to use your PC in a corporate environment. One of the main reasons is because it's easier to administer an XP pro or Vista Business machine. There are a number of reasons for this.

- The machine can be added to a domain if you are running a server in a domain environment.
- There are more options available when sharing files and managing permissions for file sharing.
- You can remotely connect to the machine which is a big help if you plan to log into it remotely from home. Its also is a very useful feature when trying to troubleshoot a problem and you need a technician to logon remotely.
- In addition to logging in from home you can use Remote Web Workplace to login to your PC from home. This is covered in more detail on this month's article

So what does this all mean? Basically at the end of the day having a business version of an operating system in a corporate environment means more

remote access possibilities and more effective administration which would translate to less time spent on maintenance. If you're looking to save money and are considering buying a home version of an operating system then don't. You'll save yourself the money and hassle later on. Here are the versions of windows you should be using on your corporate workstations.

Windows 2000 Professional - Getting old now, no remote access but still works well on a domain.

Windows XP Professional - Designed for business.

Windows Vista Business - Designed for small business

Windows Vista Enterprise - Only available through volume licensing and has a few more features than Vista Business

Windows Vista Ultimate - If you want to have it all



Access your computer remotely with ease

The answer to this question is simple if on your server you are using Microsoft's Small Business Server 2003 (SBS 2003). Microsoft's SBS 2003 allows users to connect to a specially made webpage from the Internet called Remote Web Workplace. Remote Web Workplace allows a user to view the mailbox that is on the server but also allow them to connect to their PC in the office and use it as if they were sitting in front of it. The only consideration you need to think of is that your PC in the office must be Windows XP Professional. If you have a broadband connection, Microsoft SBS 2003 and Windows XP Professional you are set to make your remote access needs easier and more simplified than traditional methods. When you are using



Remote Web Workplace to connect to your PC you will be presented with the usual desktop that you would see in the office, with the exception of your wallpaper, and then be able to access any items that you made need to and print them out to printers attached to

the network for others if need be. Setting up Remote Web Workplace is a simple exercise, and can be made to go rather quickly. So if you are frustrated with current dial up and VPN connections the Remote Web Workplace could be the answer you are looking for.

Feature Product

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Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack 2007

Microsoft has added new file formats to Microsoft Office Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 to reduce file size, improve security and reliability, and enhance integration with external sources. To help ensure that you can exchange documents between Microsoft Office releases, Microsoft has developed a Compatibility Pack for the Office Word, Office Excel, and Office PowerPoint 2007 File Formats.

The Open XML Formats lead in a new era of openness and transparency for Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Solution developers can take advantage of a host of new integration opportunities to connect documents to important sources of information.

By installing the compatibility pack along with Microsoft Office XP or Office 2003, you should be able to open, edit and save files in office 2007 format. If someone sends you a file which was initially saved in office 2007, all you have to do is download and install this pack and it's absolutely free.

Now you can download the pack by simple clicking on the link below.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>



This compatibility pack requires some Microsoft Windows updates depending on the operating system. Please make sure your computer is up to date with all the critical updates, or else the compatibility pack cannot be installed.

Buy a SupportPak and save with discounted rates on telephone and remote support

Taking the hassle out of managing your IT needs

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Remote Automatic Data Backups

Backups are the single most important, costly and time consuming aspect of maintaining small to medium size networks. Whether it's tape, removable disk or optical media, when the time comes to restore data from backups the weakness of a particular backup system will become immediately evident. Common problems include speed, media not available, lack of user know-how and the all too often backups that have not worked and no one has known even though the daily ritual of media swapping and off site storage has been carried out.

Networks with dedicated IT staff or managed IT support services overcome many of these problems, however the focus is predominately on disaster recovery. The simple recovery of a deleted or corrupt file or database is often still a time consuming and expensive process.

Remote offsite backups that allow data to be backed up to, and restored, from a remote backup server are the answer. A simple web browser interface allows users to select files to restore to local systems, without the need for local media, restore programs or specific knowledge of the backup systems in place.

A remote offsite backup service will soon be available to all clients

participating in SupportPak services. A SupportPak, the simplest and most cost effective way to receive telephone, remote access and on site technical support will soon feature a remote off site backup service.

For details on how remote offsite backups can be implemented in your business email: dave.bizant@syncretize.net with subject Remote Backups, or phone 02 6280 6998.