



January-March 2003

Do You Do Windows?

Inside this issue

Windows Versions.....	1
Life Cycle.....	1
Windows 95.....	1
Windows 98.....	1
Windows NT 3.5, 3.4.....	2
Windows 2000 Pro.....	2
Windows Me.....	2
Windows XP Pro.....	2
XP Pro vs Home.....	3
Current Retail Costs.....	3
Microsoft's Update Policy...3	
Update Privacy Statement...3	
C h i c a g o	
Weather.....	4*

Published by
Roger Petersen of

Advanced Horizons

Elmhurst, IL 60126
630-941-9332
Fax: 630-941-9338
Email: Roger@AHInc.com
Visit our web sites at
www.AHInc.com
www.EZForYou.com

Copyright by
Advanced Horizons, Inc

Windows Versions

Are you confused about which version of Windows you should or should not be using? The decision was easier when we only had to choose between Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. Now there is 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP.

After several hours of research, we have developed the following summary. I believe this summary is fairly accurate and should help you define the differences.

Life Cycle

How long should an operating system last? Microsoft has issued guidelines for the life cycle on their operating systems. In a nutshell, at a minimum they expect everyone to upgrade every 3 to 5 years.

For the **first 3 years** licenses will be available with standard and online support.

In the **fourth year** licenses may no longer be available, only online and paid support.

In the **fifth year** only online support is available and may be terminated after providing 12 months advanced notice.

After **six years** you can continue to use the version, but there will probably be no support from Microsoft. In other words you are on your own.

Windows 95

Windows 95 was introduced in October 1995. New licenses are no

longer available and it has not been supported since 12/01.

Hardware requirements were 486-25Mhz or greater, 16 to 32MB of memory and 50MB-600MB of disk space.

The FAT32 file system was introduced with OSR2 (W95b).

Password protection was easy to over-ride.

Because it was still based on DOS, it allowed more backwards compatibility than NT at the time it was introduced.

95 can not be upgraded to any version of XP.

Windows 98

Windows 98 was released before June 99 and is **basically an updated 95 version**.

New licenses have not been available since July 2002 and it will not be supported after 7/03.

Hardware requirements were 486-66MHz or greater and 32 to 256MB of memory. It does provide support for DVD and USB

It is still based on DOS, but uses the FAT32 file system.

It allowed more backwards compatibility than NT versions.

Password protection is easy to over-ride.

It can automatically check and download system updates from the



<p>Internet.</p> <p>Windows 98 can be upgraded to XP.</p> <p>Windows NT 3.5</p> <p>Windows NT 3.5 has been replaced by Windows NT 4.0</p> <p>Windows NT 4.0</p> <p>Windows NT 4.0, using 32bit architecture, was introduced in July 1999 and is a combination of NT 3.5 technology with an interface based on 95.</p> <p>New licenses have not been available since 7/02 and support has been extended till 1/05.</p> <p>It is slightly more complicated to administer than 95, but gives you greater options for networking and greater machine security.</p> <p>Hardware requirements are Pentium-100Mhz, 32 to 64MB of memory and 110MB-1GB of disk space. Has poor or no support for laptop power management features.</p> <p>Uses the FAT32 or NT File System, which is more robust than standard DOS FAT file system.</p> <p>It allows file and directory level Access Control Lists (permissions) with inheritance and has a smaller sector size thereby using less disk space.</p> <p>The entire system is password protected with multiple user and group policy security configuration.</p> <p>Because it is not based on DOS it does not suffer from backwards compatibility problems but can cause trouble for some DOS-based legacy applications.</p> <p>Can be upgraded to XP Pro, but NOT XP Home.</p>	<p>Windows 2000 Pro</p> <p>Windows 2000 Pro (alias W2K, NT 5.0) was introduced in April 2000.</p> <p>New licenses will be available until 4/03 and not be supported after 4/04.</p> <p>Hardware requirements are Pentium 133Mhz, 64MB of memory and 650MB-2GB of disk space.</p> <p>It contains all of the features of NT 4.0 and supports up to two processors.</p> <p>It does not automatically check and download updates.</p> <p>SysPrep utility allows cloning of computer configurations, systems and applications and can also be installed remotely.</p> <p>Built in VPN, using IPSec and required at both ends of the connection, is available to encrypt data sent over the Internet.</p> <p>Can be upgraded to XP Pro, but NOT XP Home.</p> <p>Windows ME</p> <p>ME was introduced on September 2000. It looks like 2000 and is based on 9x and is intended for home users.</p> <p>New licenses will not be available after 9/03 and not supported after 9/04.</p> <p><i>We do not recommend for business use as it has more problems than all other versions except maybe XP Home.</i></p> <p>Hardware requirements are Pentium 150Mhz, 32 to 128MB of memory and 320MB to 2GB of disk space.</p> <p>Can automatically check and download system updates from the Internet.</p>	<p>Has poor network and hardware support and stability issues. <i>Most hardware manufactures ignore ME when writing new drivers.</i></p> <p>Can be upgraded to XP Pro or Home.</p> <p>Windows XP Pro</p> <p>Windows XP Pro (alias NT 5.1) was introduced on October 2001.</p> <p>New licenses will not be available after 10/04 and probably not supported after 10/05.</p> <p>This is Microsoft's first OS to combine the Windows 9x code with the NT code, finally removing the MS-DOS layer from under Windows 9x.</p> <p>It has a new visual design with visual cues and redesigned Start menu where the most frequently used applications are shown first.</p> <p>Hardware requirements are Pentium 300MHz or greater, 128MB of memory and 1.5GB of disk space.</p> <p>DualView Desktop feature allows display on 2 monitors. Supports up to two processors and up to 4GB of RAM.</p> <p>Has the latest standards for DVD, Infrared Data, USB and high speed bus IEEE1394. Integrated support is built-in for burning CD-R's and CD-RW's. Has improved power management for notebooks.</p> <p>Remote Desktop feature allows you to run your computer from another computer. <i>Remote clients must have 95 or later.</i></p> <p>Remote Assistance enables a user to share control of their computer with someone on the network or Internet. <i>This requires XP at each end.</i></p> <p>Offline files and folders allow a user to specify which network based files</p>
---	---	---



NEC

SONY

Panasonic USA



and/or folders are needed to run remotely.

Synchronization manager allows for comparison of offline files and folders with those on the network.

The Network Location Awareness determines when a machine has changed network locations.

Built in VPN, using IPsec and required at both ends of the connection, is available to encrypt data sent over the Internet.

It has the ability to restore a system to a previous state without losing data. *Although, this usually causes more problems than it prevents. Don't recommend using it.*

Has Integrated service that helps install, configure, track, upgrade and remove software programs correctly.

Provides for multiple versions of DLL's to allow different versions of applications to run side-by-side. You can specify compatibility mode for older applications to run in NT 4.0, 95, 98 or ME mode.

It prevents the core system from being overwritten by application install. Eliminates almost 99% of rebooting requirements when installing software applications. Maintains a copy of previously installed drivers, which can be reinstalled if problems occur.

It can automatically check and download system updates from the Internet.

SysPrep allows cloning of computer configurations, systems and applications and can be installed remotely.

Entire system is password protected with multiple user and group policy security configuration. File encryption is available to protect privacy.

XP Home vs XP Pro

We do not recommend XP Home for business use because it has more problems than all other versions except maybe ME.

What you can't do with XP Home...

- Restore system to a previous state without losing data.
- Use SysPrep to clone configurations Installed remotely.
- Use Safe mode start up to troubleshoot problems.
- Use offline files and folders
- Use Remote Desktop
- Use multiprocessors
- Use network location awareness
- Use file encryption
- Use Group Policy security capability.

XP Home does have a built in firewall however, it tends to cause more problems than it stops.

You can upgrade to XP Pro

Current Retail Costs

XP Home
Upgrade: \$99
Full Version: \$199

XP Pro
Upgrade: \$199
Full Version: \$299

Microsoft's Auto Update Policy

There has been concern over the terms in Microsoft's new Service Pack 3 for Windows 2000.

The licenses of these updates say, "You acknowledge and agree that Microsoft may automatically check the version of the OS Product and/or its components that you are utilizing and **may provide upgrades or fixes to the OS Product that will be automatically downloaded to your com-**

puter." These terms are similar to end-user license agreement for Windows XP, but they're new for Windows 2000.

What this means is that updates can be installed without you knowing it. For example, XP's Media Player pulls down upgrades and then alerts you. You have the option to click OK to install the newer version. However, if you ever clicked the "always trust Microsoft" box while browsing the Web, it will also install mods for media codecs without any notice,

To disable such downloading, see the white paper at <http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsXP/pro/techinfo/administration/manageautoupdate>

One thing you can't get around is Microsoft's DRM (digital rights management) scheme. This built-in XP feature silently downloads and installs "revocation lists." These lists prevent "revoked" programs from playing DRM-encoded content.

Getting silent upgrades like this is alarming because Microsoft has pumped out many buggy patches that themselves needed patching. Last June, Microsoft shipped the Nimda worm in its Korean edition of Visual Studio.Net.

Windows Update Privacy Statement

The following was copied from Microsoft's web pages.

Windows Update is committed to protecting your privacy. To provide you with the appropriate list of updates, Windows Update must collect a certain amount of configuration information from your computer. None of this configuration information can be used to identify you. This information includes:



Operating-system version number
Internet Explorer version number
Version numbers of other software for which Windows Update provides updates
Plug and Play ID numbers of hardware devices
Region and Language setting
The configuration information collected is used only to determine the appropriate updates and to generate aggregate statistics. Windows Update does not collect your name, address, e-mail address, or any other form of personally identifiable information.

Windows Update also collects the Product ID and Product Key to confirm that you are running a validly licensed copy of Windows. A validly licensed copy of Windows ensures that you will receive on-going updates from Windows Update. The Product ID and Product Key are not retained beyond the end of the Windows Update session.

To provide you with the best possible service, Windows Update also tracks and records how many unique machines visit its site and whether the download and installation of specific updates succeeded or failed. In order to do this, the Windows operating system generates a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID) that is stored on your computer to uniquely identify it. The GUID does not contain any personally identifiable information and cannot be used to identify you.

Windows Update records the GUID of the computer that attempted the download, the ID of the item that you attempted to download and install, and the configuration information listed above.

Other than using this information to determine needed updates, the bigger fear is what else will Microsoft do with this information in the future. There is nothing stated that they won't change their minds in the future.

Chicago Weather

After all of this serious stuff, time to lighten up. For those of you who live in Chicago, thought you would enjoy this. For those of you who don't, too bad, but maybe this will help you to understand us better.

60 above - Floridians wear coats, gloves, and wooly hats. Chicago people sunbathe.

50 above - New Yorkers try to turn on the heat. Chicago people plant gardens.

40 above - Italian cars won't start. Chicago people drive with the windows down.

32 above - Distilled water freezes. Lake Michigan's water gets thicker.

20 above - Californians shiver uncon-

trollably. Chicago people have the last cookout before it gets cold.

15 above - New York landlords finally turn up the heat. Chicago people throw on a sweatshirt.

0 degrees - Californians fly away to Mexico. Chicago people lick the flagpole and throw on a light jacket over the sweatshirt.

20 below - People in Miami cease to exist. Chicago people get out their winter coats.

40 below - Hollywood disintegrates. Chicago's Girl Scouts begin selling cookies door to door.

50 below - Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Chicago people get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

60 below - Microbial life survives on dairy products. Illinois cows complain of farmers with cold hands.

460 below - ALL atomic motion stops. Chicago people start saying. . ."Cold 'nuff for ya??"

500 below - Hell freezes over. The Chicago Cubs win the World Series.

(Thanks to Bob Heller for supplying.)



322 Ferndale Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126

