



that's correct

The latest in Smart IT Solutions by The Smart IT Company

March 2008

Off The Press:

A look back;
Take a trip down
memory lane.

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For a Tech
Retrospective

This month...

- Did you know that if you have the right kind of licensing at work, you can use your Microsoft applications at home? Find out how.
- As promised last month, we begin to explore a simple methodology for addressing Outlook, to get you out of your Inbox and onto the rest of your day.
- Where's Colin? We catch up with our Senior Technician on his latest endeavours.

Questions? Comments? We value your feedback!
Call us (02) 8831 8200 to discuss any matter further...

What? Use Company Software at Home!!

Now, we'll freely admit, Software Licensing is not the sort of topic you'd spend your free time Googling. In fact you might choose to paint a wall for the simple pleasure of watching it dry over doing so!

But here are three little words that can make Licensing more exciting – *Home Use Rights*.

That's Correct has explored briefly (Jan '08) the different types of Licensing that Microsoft have on offer. OEM Licensing is probably the most common licensing, simply because for the most part people are prepared to pay for it and it serves its purpose; it is also dead easy to understand... OEM Licensing is a seemingly low cost solution enabling you to install a full version of Microsoft product on a single machine at the time of purchase.

It is not without its limitations though. Once it is time to update the machine, a new license has to be purchased. Essentially you need to keep purchasing OEM software over and over again each time you refresh your fleet. If you have few PCs in the office and you upgrade only when absolutely necessary, this is not such a problem.

If you have a larger fleet however and like to keep up to date, this continual purchasing cycle can quickly become costly. It is also difficult to track how many licenses you have and when software versions are upgraded it can leave you a little in the lurch.

So what are your options if this last category fits you?

Open Licensing is Microsoft's answer for companies who are looking to streamline their licensing purchases and consolidate all their licensing into one program.

There are plenty of different Open Programs on offer, but the two that we deal with most frequently are Open Business and Open Value. They fit the SMB market space really well and can offer advantages over simply rolling out OEM licenses on each PC in the fleet.

Why go Open? Very quickly here are some reasons you might consider moving to an Open Licensing program.



Everyone can benefit from
Home Use Rights.

Open licensing gives you the right to run previous software versions, for example access to downgrade rights for previous versions of Office. It also gives you access to free version upgrades if Software Assurance (Microsoft's maintenance program) is activated.

It makes it easy to manage licensing and confidently stay compliant, in addition to being able to transfer licenses from old to new machines when refreshing fleets. Being able to view licensing information online also helps with management and traceability, but by far the coolest thing about Open Licensing is that if you have an Open Value program with Software Assurance attached to it, you can take advantage of Microsoft's Home Use Rights.

What this means is that companies with active Software Assurance for qualifying desktop applications, such as the Office suite, can allow their employees who are using a license at work to acquire a license free for home use as well!

To find out more about Open Licensing or Home Use Rights, call us on 02 8831 8200.

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Getting a life outside of the Inbox



As promised last month, we'd like to start exploring a simple methodology for coping with your Inbox.

This is not the be all and end all, and you may find that only parts of it work for you, but as a whole this is a concept that has one main objective; to get you out of your Inbox and onto the rest of your day.

The concept of "Processing"

Inboxes are most out of control when there are hundreds of emails in them. The old saying "hard to see wood for the trees" becomes an applicable one.

The outcome of good Inbox management should be, first and foremost, to keep the number of e-mails stored in it down to a bare minimum; those that still require action, but have not as yet been processed.

So, what is involved in the concept of "processing"? Well, the first part of processing is setting aside scheduled time each day to do it.

This time will vary in frequency between each user and depend on the work role and number of e-mails that are received, but the most important factor is to make it uninterrupted time. You might find you only need to do this for an hour a day, you might find it better to have 10 minutes every few hours - the objective

here either way is to avoid living in your Inbox – by processing e-mails during scheduled time, you can free up the rest of your day for dealing with your key objectives and task your e-mails so that they complement those goals.

Set a [meeting](#) with yourself using your Outlook Calendar – a [recurring appointment](#) at the designated time(s). Mark it as busy. Do not take phone calls. This is "e-mail time" and over time, it will prove itself to be invaluable.

Find out more about e-mail time in the next edition of "That's Correct".

Resources: Microsoft At Work > Manage Information

Where's Colin?

Back in our May newsletter we reported on Colin's apparent disappearance from the local scene, due to works being carried out with a shipping company. Well he is still alive and well, busily rolling out SBS 2003 networks onto the cargo vessels. Here's his story...

Recently I had to roll out another SBS 2003 network onto a vessel, this rollout was a little different in that it was necessary to sail with her due to the minimal time she spent in port. I will explain; this vessel does a shuttle service transporting mainly containers between Melbourne and Bell Bay, Tasmania.

Once the vessel has arrived in Melbourne and is safely moored, the wharf becomes an orchestrated hive of activity, unloading and loading of containers, completed all within approximately 6 to 7 hours. Then the vessel is out an under way with an average of 16 hours of sailing time to Bell Bay, where the whole process of

unloading/loading is conducted again, before getting underway again back to Melbourne.

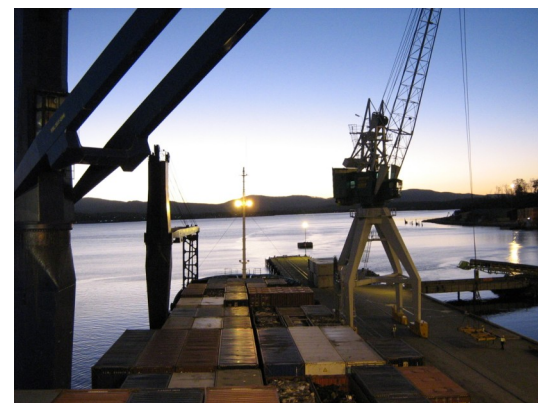
This is a constant day after day, week after week process...and they say that trucks are the back bone of cargo movement in Australia!

The trip was fairly smooth sailing, considering some of the weather that Bass Strait can throw up! The first night did have me rolling around a little in bed, and having a shower is a whole new experience.

The working hours were flexible and with the crew making me feel more than welcome, it seemed to make the trip 'fly' along and in no time we were back in Melbourne.

Watching the Master maneuver the vessel around and then reverse parking gently into the wharf was a sight to behold.

Colin Amos
Senior Technician



En-Route; from Bell Bay, Tasmania to Melbourne.

Contact the editor for more information

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We would love the opportunity to discuss your IT requirements further. Please call on (02) 8831 8200