

Searching for a smarter way to do business?

SBS 2008 has some great features on offer...



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The latest in Smart IT Solutions by The Smart IT Company

May 2008

## Off The Press:

PC World publish their take on the 50 most important people in the recent history of technology...

"the most critical players (including a few forgotten heroes) who've been instrumental in crafting the last 50 years of technical innovation".

To check out their list, [click here](#).

## This month...

- SBS 2008 has been announced! Find out what benefits it can offer you.
- We follow on from last month and take a look at the last pair of Microsoft's "Four Ds" of inbox management.
- Did you say Downgrade?? Things to consider before you make your next hardware purchase.

**Questions? Comments? We value your feedback!**

**Call us (02) 8831 8200 to discuss any matter further...**

## SBS 2008 Announced!

Last week, Microsoft made some announcements about the upcoming Small Business Server 2008 which is due for release in the second half of this year.

Microsoft confirmed that SBS 2008 will ship in two versions, SBS 2008 Standard and SBS 2008 Premium. We could go on to tell you the technical names of the products in each version, but instead let's look at what each version can do for you.

**SBS 2008 Standard** includes:

- The ability to centrally manage the security of who accesses your network
- The ability to store all your company data on the server's hard drives
- The ability to share printers amongst your users.

It also gives you an email system with an unlimited number of email addresses existing in your own domain (ie;@yourcompany.com.au). Within the email system you can also have users with their own tasks list, and calendars.

You can elect to share calendars with other users, to

make it easier to manage appointments with multiple people. SBS 2008 Standard also has a central Intranet which is a web based system that you can use to more easily communicate loads of different information to your staff all with nothing more than a web browser.

The ability to keep all your computers up to date with patches thereby removing the risk of having a computer exploited by some malicious website.

The crème dela crème of SBS 2008 would have to be the improvements to the remote access capabilities where user can access their files, the company intranet and their desktop computer from anywhere in the world with nothing more than a web browser. That is real remote worker power right there!

**SBS 2008 Premium** includes all of the above features, plus the license to run a 2nd Windows Server 2008 server in the network and a large scale database (SQL 2008) that many accounting and business applications use.

SBS 2008 Premium also allows more flexibility for larger organisations, with the ability to run additional servers without the need for additional client licenses. The use of the Premium features will require licenses for just those users who need to use the SQL 2008 platform.

Finally – SBS 2008 supports up to 75 users and allows you to add users in single user increments rather than the previous 5 user increments that were standard with SBS 2003.

Pricing has been announced in the US only at this time, with Australian pricing coming soon.

*Talk to us about how SBS 2008 may be right for you and we can help plan how to get the best out of it now and into the future.*

## Contact Us!

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SBS 2008's remote capabilities;  
Access your desktop  
from anywhere in the world

## May Special Offer...

When you purchase any HP Notebook PC or HP 19" Monitor, mention this special offer and receive a MagiKLEEN Screen Cleaner valued at RRP \$29.95, absolutely FREE!

Offer expires 21st June 2008



## Did you say Downgrade?

Thing to think about before your next hardware purchase...



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### Managing your Inbox (cont)...

Last month we started looking at Microsoft's "Four D's" Model for quick decision making regarding e-mail messages. Here's a quick reminder:

*Delete it* – Not every message needs to be kept.

*Do it* – If you can deal with the e-mail in less than 2 minutes, get it out of the way.

This article deals with the last two "D's":

- **Delegate it**
- **Defer it**

*Delegate it* – Is this really something you need to deal with, or can you delegate it? The forward button is there for good reason and it shouldn't take more than two minutes to draft simple instructions. Be clear and concise about what you want the recipient to do with the forwarded e-mail.

You could also [turn the message into a task](#) and then [assign it](#) to someone else; this will help you if you need to follow up the delegation at a later date, as the task will appear in your list also.

*Defer it* – If it can't be deleted, dealt with in less than two minutes, or delegated to someone else, then it needs to be deferred. The action required is yours to make and you'll need to spend longer than a couple of minutes on it.

But you're still on e-mail time and if you get side tracked now, all is lost! Well, that's a little melodramatic but it is better to defer the issue and deal with it once you are done processing your e-mail.

Turning messages into tasks will give you a clearly defined list of actions that you can schedule and prioritise – a much more manageable to-do list than a bulging Inbox. If the task requires that a meeting be set to discuss further, you could also turn the message into a [meeting request](#). The time may have to be adjusted depending on the responses but at least the action is in play.

This sort of regime does not suit everybody, but a daily routine using this methodology can help to tame the out-of-control Inbox. There are exceptions to the rules of course. A phone call might result in an urgent e-mail that needs to

be looked at. It's not "e-mail time" but you'd probably elect not to let the message go unattended until your next scheduled session. All interruptions are unplanned and in many cases unavoidable, scheduled time sometimes needs to be rescheduled. These factors are part of the work terrain and just have to be duly navigated.

Keep an eye on new e-mails, but avoiding getting bogged down. Most users have their Outlook configured so that they [receive a notification](#) when new e-mails arrive. Displaying a desktop alert will give you a quick glimpse and is helpful to monitor incoming mail for potential urgent, important messages.

Using a [dual-monitor](#) setup can also assist as you can leave your Inbox displayed on one monitor whilst you are working on the other.

Stay tuned for next month's edition, where the series on inbox management continues!

### Did you say Downgrade??

It is inevitable that at some stage, you will need to start doing more than just thinking about Vista.

Currently though, many of you either want or need to stay with an XP Pro operating system (OS) on your network's desktop PCs.

Incompatibilities with Line of Business applications and various versions of third party software, as well as hardware driver issues still persist and it is important that you keep this in mind when considering the purchase of new computers for the company.

Our strong recommendation is this; if you haven't yet run a Vista machine in a test environment on the network to make sure everything works smoothly, then you should not yet be purchasing Vista desktops or notebooks to run on the network.

Further more, it is of upmost importance to be aware of the fact that you cannot connect Vista Home Editions to a domain. This means that if you duck down to Harvey Norman on the weekend and buy a Vista Home

Premium laptop, by virtue of its name, that is where it will have to stay – at home. You will not be able to connect it to the office network.

Nor is there a downgrade path offered for the Vista Home Editions to enable you to install XP Pro; you would need to upgrade to Vista Ultimate to connect to the domain. Again, unless you have tested Vista thoroughly this could still leave you with a headache trying to run your business applications successfully.

Some manufacturers offer XP recovery CDs with certain models of their Vista machines, but essentially it is best to chat with us about your requirements before you purchase your hardware. Even for those versions of Vista – ie Vista Business – for which downgrade rights may be available, you still need to consider that the hardware for that machine was specified for a Vista OS, and some compatibility issues may arise when you try downgrading to XP.

When purchasing new machines, it is much easier to start out with the operating system you intend to use long

term. Meaning, if you want an XP Pro OS, you are far better off purchasing the machine with XP installed then you are trying to downgrade from Vista. Similarly – if you want to run Vista, you will find that it works more efficiently on a machine that was built for it, rather than trying to retrofit an older computer.

Avoid buyer's remorse! For the right advice about your next computer purchase, or if you would like to start testing Vista in your network environment, please call us to discuss further.

Contact the editor for more information

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